

## What Councillors Can Do

Being an effective councillor requires both commitment and hard work. Councillors have to balance the needs and interests of residents and the council. These will all make legitimate demands on a councillor's time, on top of the demands and needs of their personal and professional lives. Before you consider becoming a councillor you may want to discuss it with your family and friends to make sure they understand what you are taking on. You will need their support as you'll have to spend some of your spare time on council business.

Councillors are elected for a four year term or next election, or may be co-opted by a casual vacancy to the local council to represent their local community. They must either live or work in the area, aged 18+, qualified to be elected and support/represent the views of the local electorate. Becoming a councillor is both a rewarding and privileged form of public service. You will be in a position to make a difference to the quality of other people's daily lives and prospects. Councillors must sign a 'Declaration of Office', sign a 'Register of Interests' and must agree to observe the 'Code of Conduct 2011', a statutory instrument led by and abide by the ethical framework. Failure to do so, may lead to disqualification. Failure to attend any meeting of the council for a six month period will also result in disqualification.

A Town Councillor for Barton-Upon-Humber Town Council is a voluntary post. Councillors are summonsed, having a legal duty to attend meetings. It is a responsibility/best practice to give apologies/reason for non-attendance, and voting at meetings not abstaining. They can be on committees/sub-committees providing interest/expertise on a particular subject. They are part of a corporate body and must abide by majority/democratic decision. Councillors can act for the council if authorised to do so on a committee, but they cannot act for themselves. They should influence council policies to improve the local quality of life. Councillors may represent the council on outside bodies i.e. neighbourhood action team, school forum etc.

The councillor's role and responsibilities include:

- decision-making
- developing and reviewing council policy
- regulatory, quasi-judicial and statutory duties
- community leadership and engagement.