



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Description of Office: Town Councillor
Member of the Town & General Purposes Committee

COMPETENCY	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Relevant knowledge, Education & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound knowledge and understanding of local affairs and the local community including the ward in which there is a vacancy which interests the prospective candidate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A levels/Degree level and/or • Specific knowledge, training and/or experience that could contribute towards the role.
Experience, Skills, Knowledge & Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid interest in local matters. • Ability and willingness to represent the Council and their community. • Good interpersonal skills. • Ability to communicate clearly both orally and in writing. • Ability and willingness to work closely with other members and to maintain good working relationships with all members and staff. • Good reading and analytical skills. • Ability and willingness to work with the council's partners (e.g. voluntary groups, other parish councils, principal authority, charities). • Ability and willingness to undertake relevant training. • Ability to work under pressure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of HR, procurement, contract management, financial control or risk management and compliance, public relations. • Experience of working in another public body or not for profit organisation. • Experience of working with voluntary and or local community/ interest groups. • Basic knowledge of legal issues relating to town and parish councils or local authorities. • Experience of delivering presentations. • Experience of working with the media. • Experience in financial control/budgeting. • Experience of staff management. • Event organisation.
Other requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability and willingness to attend meetings of the council (or the meetings of other local authorities and local bodies) in the evenings and events in the evening and at weekends. • Flexible, enthusiastic and committed. 	

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Town Clerk's Office
Church Lane, Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 7AD



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Tel: 01258 454500 • Fax: 01258 45444
Email: admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk
www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

Please write to the Town Council by 12:00 noon on **Friday 17th September 2021** explaining why you would like to be a Town Councillor and why you think you are suitable for the role, including any information you think the Councillors would be interested in, along with a copy of your CV.

To ensure that councils consider for co-option only those candidates who are eligible to be councillors, Blandford Forum Town Council requires candidate(s) for co-option to declare or certify in writing that they:

- meet the criteria for eligibility, set out in s. 79 of the 1972 Act (see Eligibility section below), to be a member of the council and
- are not disqualified, pursuant to s.80 of the 1972 Act (see Eligibility section below), to be a member of the council.

Please could you therefore confirm in your application letter that you are eligible in accordance with the above regulations.

Eligibility

Section 79 of the 1972 Act

Qualifications for election and holding office as member of local authority:

To be able to stand as a candidate at a local government election in England and Wales you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union, and
- meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
 - a. You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the local authority area in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
 - b. You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the local authority area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
 - c. Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the local authority area.
 - d. You have lived in the local authority area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

Section 80 of the 1972 Act

Disqualifications

Apart from meeting the qualifications for standing for election, you must also not be disqualified. There are certain people who are disqualified from being elected to a local authority in England and Wales. You cannot be a candidate if at the time of your nomination and on polling day:

- a. You are employed by the local authority or hold a paid office under the authority (including joint boards or committees).
- b. You hold a politically restricted post.
- c. You are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order.
- d. You have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence), without the option of a fine, during the five years before polling day.
- e. You have been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices and offences relating to donations). The disqualification for an illegal practice begins from the date a person has been reported guilty by an election court or convicted and lasts for three years. The disqualification for a corrupt practice begins from the date a person has been reported guilty by an election court or convicted and lasts for five years.

A person may also be disqualified from election if they have been disqualified from standing for election to a local authority following a decision of the First-tier Tribunal (formerly the Adjudication Panel for England), or the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

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