

## **Be a Councillor - Frequently asked questions (FAQs)**

### **Ward boundaries**

The Borough is made up of 16 wards, 6 wards are in the town and 10 are rural wards. The size and boundary of each ward is determined by the size of the electorate it covers so that each Councillor has a similar number of people to represent (electorate). The geographical size of the ward can vary according to the spread of population. The wards are shown on the map (in red lettering) :

[Borough ward map](#)

### **Ward Councillors**

There are 28 Melton Borough Councillors representing the 16 wards. 7 out of the 10 rural wards have 1 Councillor and the other rural wards have 2. The town wards, which are more densely populated, have 2 or 3 Councillors per ward.

The allocation of Councillors to wards is shown at this link :

[Councillors by ward](#)

### **Criteria for standing for election**

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

- 18 or over and a UK, EU or commonwealth citizen
- registered to vote in the borough of Melton **or**
- for the preceding 12 months you must have occupied as owner or tenant, any land or premises in the district or resided in the district or had your principal place of work in the district

You cannot stand if you :

- work for Melton Borough Council
- hold a politically restricted post for another authority
- are bankrupt
- have served a prison sentence, including suspended sentences, of three months or more within five years prior to the election
- have been disqualified under any legislation relating to corrupt or illegal practices

Candidates do not need any specific qualifications. However life experience and knowledge of your area is essential.

More detailed information is available on the Electoral Commission website :

[Electoral Commission - standing for election](#)

## Standing as an independent

You do not have to belong to a political party to run for election. You can stand as an independent and have no affiliation with any party. To find out what its like to be an independent contact a current independent Councillor.

More detailed information is available on the Electoral Commission website :  
[Electoral Commission - independent candidate](#)

## Standing for a political party

If you are standing as a candidate for a particular party then you will need to be a member of that party's local organisation.

More detailed information is available on the Electoral Commission website :  
[Electoral Commission - political party candidate](#)

## Role of election agent

The role of agent is to support the candidate and their campaign and there are specific rules to follow for both the candidate and the agent on how much they can spend, who they can accept donations from, what they must report after the election. Failure to follow these rules could lead to committing an offence and the candidate losing their seat, if elected.

Candidates and agents also have a right to attend key electoral events ie. the opening of postal votes; the poll; and the count. Others can also be appointed to attend these electoral events.

More detailed information is available on the Electoral Commission website :  
[Electoral Commission - candidates and agents](#)

## Election expenses which can be spent on a campaign

The table below explains how to calculate your spending limit :

Fixed amount	plus variable amounts
£740	6p per local government elector in the ward registered to vote on the last date for publication of notice of the election

The number of registered electors in a particular ward is based on the electoral register as it stands on the last date for publication of the notice of election. The Elections Office will be able tell you how many registered electors are in your ward.

Please note that expenses are not claimable and in the interests of equality and fairness they must be recorded and accounted for to show that there has been no

breach of the spending limit. It is important to read the Electoral Commission's guide as to what must be recorded and included in the expenses return.

More detailed information is available on the Electoral Commission website :  
(Electoral Commission – election expenses)  
[Electoral Commission - election expenses](#)

### **Further queries**

For any further queries, please contact [democracy@melton.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@melton.gov.uk)