



South Northamptonshire Conservative Association

Councillor Time Commitments

Before volunteering to stand as a Conservative Councillor for West Northamptonshire District Council it is worth understanding the time commitments that you would need to make.

Council and Committee Meetings

When elected to the Council you will be allocated to a number of Committees that you are expected to attend in addition to the full Council meetings.

At this stage we do not know how the new Authority will work in detail but meetings may be held during the working day and in the evening.

Time commitments vary from Committee to Committee, some meet regularly, others as required. The Planning Committee, for example, may well meet 12 times a year in the afternoon and in addition site visits would be required. You also need to factor in the time taken to read the papers which in some cases can be long and complex.

Whilst it may not be possible to attend every meeting it is expected that you attend the vast majority of the meetings of the Council and your Committees. A figure of 80% + would be acceptable.

You need to be aware that your attendance record at meetings is in the public domain and published on the Council's web site. It reflects badly on the Party if you have a low attendance record.

Group Meetings

The Conservative Group is likely to meet regularly each month (except August). Meetings will normally take place in the evenings. There may be additional meetings held if required.

The meetings are designed to allow Councillors to discuss issues and papers going to Cabinet and Council, in private, as well as receiving updates on issues affecting the Districts and County as well as wider political issues. They also



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provide an opportunity for individual Members to bring items to the attention of the Group.

You are expected to attend these meetings.

Other Meetings

In addition to the above there are other meetings that you will need to attend, especially when matters affecting your area are discussed. These may be briefing sessions delivered by Council Officers which enable Councillors to question proposals and gain greater understanding of the plans. Training sessions, in particular areas, are given on important issues such as safeguarding as well as legally required training for Councillors who wish to sit on Committees such as Planning and Licencing.

There are other meetings that you will need to make time for such as Parish Council meetings and holding residents' surgeries.

SNCA (South Northamptonshire Conservative Association)

As a Conservative Councillor you will need to be a member of your Local Constituency Association and should support it.

Support is needed in a variety of ways:

- Attendance at fund-raising and social events, held regularly
- Attendance at the Annual General Meeting
- Campaigning for Parliamentary, European, PCC, County and District Council elections
- Supporting campaigns between elections
- Helping to attract new members and grow the association

There are a number of activities that are crucial to the effectiveness of the Association's campaigning:

- Canvassing door to door
- Delivering leaflets and other election material
- Donations
- Phoning round electors
- Envelope stuffing