STAND UP AND BE COUNTED: BE A COUNCILLOR

CLLR ABENA OPPONG-ASARE
CLLR ABIGAIL WOOD
SARA HYDE

FABIAN WOMEN’S NETWORK
Welcome

Thank you for picking up this booklet. Wherever you live, whatever your life experience, whether you’re a first-time voter or wondering how to spend your retirement, we hope that this booklet, you wonderful woman you, will encourage you to stand up and be counted: be a councillor.

All over the country selection processes are underway and interested parties are attending information events, talking to friends and family then filling in panel forms. The overwhelming majority of these interested parties are men. Labour lead the way on gender equality in politics and are the closest to achieving this with 44% of our MPs being female. In local government, we do better than the other parties but still lag well behind where we should be, especially given the wealth of talented and diverse women in the Labour movement.

Although women make up 40% of Labour councillors, only 20% of Labour council leaders are women. Those statistics, and the stories we’ve heard that bear them out, are the driving force behind this booklet: a practical, easy to navigate guide to help answer your questions, explain the process and to encourage you to use your gifts and talents to serve your community. Everyone misses out when our democracy doesn’t reflect the communities it seeks to represent. So stop hiding your light under a bushel, ignore the naysayers and stand up and be counted: be a councillor.

IN SISTERHOOD...
The perfect way to encourage women to run as Labour councillors is through the power of role models. All too often women do not have role models to look up to. We are thrilled that Norwich City Council, and in particular Abi, have been at the forefront of providing support to women in their council. This booklet is the perfect way to encourage women to stand and run for council.

Abena, Abi, Sara and the FWN Executive Committee

Cllr Abena Oppong-Asare Bexley Council
Cllr Abigail Wood Camden Council
Sara Hyde Vice Chair FWN

To feedback on this booklet specifically, please email: fabianwomen@fabians.org.uk and put “Be a councillor” in the subject header.

Booklet design: www.amostyndesign.com
Being a councillor is one of the most rewarding roles in politics: you can make a real difference to people’s everyday lives and give back to your community. Council services reach everyone, whether through adult social care, housing, youth centres and libraries, planning and licensing decisions, local parks and events, even down to your regular bin collections, and as a local councillor you have an opportunity to shape those services and make sure that they are working for local people.

It has been a tough time for local government in recent years with severe cuts to local budgets following cuts from the Tory government, but the Labour party is blessed with some fantastic councillors. They work hard to be community champions, to engage with local residents and voluntary groups, to be a positive voice for Labour in their local community and make a tangible difference to everyday lives. As a councillor you can make a significant difference shaping your neighbourhood and supporting your community’s most vulnerable, and I would urge you to run.

I have been a councillor for almost 19 years in the same ward. It’s been a rewarding and fulfilling experience. I’m encouraging women to become role models for their community, to fulfil their potentials and make a positive impact to the community at large.

Teresa Pearce MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

I have been a councillor for almost 19 years in the same ward. It’s been a rewarding and fulfilling experience. I’m encouraging women to become role models for their community, to fulfil their potentials and make a positive impact to the community at large.

Cllr Joy Laguda MBE,
Chair, Civic Lead, Mayoral Adviser Safeguarding Adults, Associate Cabinet Member, Newham Council
“There has never been a more important time for women to get involved in standing for election as a councillor.

We face emergencies in adult care services, housing, health and children’s services. We need to fight to protect those things we value and cherish. Our great skills in partnership working, strategic thinking, long term planning and - put simply - getting things done, are vital to transforming our local areas and the radical re-invention of public services that we need for the future.

It is your light we need to show the way forward, so make today the day you say ‘it’s up to me.”

Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE
Leader, Stevenage Borough Council,
Vice Chair, Local Government Association

Councils must ensure that they are representative of our diverse communities. As a councillor in Sandwell and the cabinet member for Public Health and Protection, I see it as our collective responsibility to address the age, gender, socio-economic, class and ethnic imbalance when selecting councillors and MPs. We only get real change if political parties attract a wider range of candidates.

That’s why I’ve organised ‘women in politics’ events for women of BAME backgrounds, engaging women and raising awareness of selection processes and the governance of local government. Many young people, especially those from BAME backgrounds, are also disenfranchised by politics. 23% of my ward is Sikh and people often raise the issue of parliamentary representation with me – there are no Sikh MPs. I am one of four female BAME councillors in Sandwell, out of 72 councillors. 60% of the Asian population in Sandwell is Sikh and I am the only Sikh female representative.

Change starts with us all and in the current economic climate it’s so vital that we enable everyone to fulfil their potential by creating a culture that promotes equality of opportunity. We must build relationships with those that are under-represented, whoever they may be. I offer mentoring and support to young people so that we leave a legacy of advancing our diversity, not just in local government, but in every political legislature.

Cllr Preet Kaur Gill
Cabinet Member Public Health and Protection, Sandwell Council

I would encourage any woman thinking of becoming a councillor to jump in with both feet and make the most of every opportunity that presents itself. Your community needs you!

Cllr Joy Allen
Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Durham County Council
WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO GET SELECTED TO STAND TO BE A LABOUR COUNCILLOR?

A) FIND OUT WHEN THE SELECTIONS ARE TAKING PLACE

The Labour party Local Campaign Forum (LCF) in your area will invite Labour members to express an interest in becoming candidates. Some training may also be offered. Go on it to learn more about local government in the area, along with local councillors and potential candidates.

B) THE APPLICATION FORM

The LCF will invite Labour members to formally complete an application form. It will ask about your knowledge of local government, the political situation in your area, and your campaigning experience. It will also ask you to accept the Labour whip (i.e., to maintain collective responsibility and discipline if elected), as well as probity questions.

C) THE INTERVIEW

Following your application, you will be invited to interview by the Labour party so they can decide whether you are suitable and ready to be a Labour candidate. Most interviewing panels will be made up of three Labour party members. The first question is likely to be around ‘Why do you want to be a Labour councillor?’

KEY QUESTIONS YOU WILL BE ASKED:

a) about your campaigning activity
b) about your knowledge of local government and party policy around it
c) about political and probity issues.

TIP: Make sure you remember what you wrote in your application as the interview will follow much the same lines.

D) PANEL OF CANDIDATES

If you are successful, your name and a short biography will be added to the local Panel of Candidates. This is a list of anyone whose application has been accepted, from which the branches choose candidates.

E) SHORTLISTING MEETING

The branch holds a meeting open to all its members to draw up a shortlist of people from the Panel of Candidates: the ‘shortlisting meeting’.

In some shortlisting meetings there may be special requirements to select female candidates; this is part of the Labour party’s long-established commitment to increasing the percentage of women councillors.

The meeting will choose a shortlist of candidates to attend the selection meeting. Check with your LCF for information about the shortlisting meeting and selection procedures (these may vary between regions).

TIP: If you are interested in a specific ward then you need to ensure that members in the branch know you are interested, otherwise nobody will nominate you.

F) SPEAKING AT THE SELECTION MEETING

Anyone shortlisted is invited to a selection meeting.

Each candidate will be asked to speak and then asked questions for a set time period. These periods are not flexible or negotiable. When invited to the meeting, you’ll be told what the times are.

When you have finished speaking the chair will take questions from the members.

IF YOU ARE SELECTED

If you win the selection, you may be asked to say a few words. Make sure you thank the ward for selecting you and commiserate those who have not been selected. Say a few words about looking forward to the campaign and working hard for the ward.

IF YOU ARE NOT SELECTED

If you are not selected by your first choice ward, you still have a chance at another ward. If you are on the shortlist for other wards, try to talk to members in the first ward to find out why they did not select you. There may be lessons you can learn.

FINALLY

If you are not successful in this round of selections, make sure you ask for feedback from the Interview and Assessment team, LCF officers and the wards so that you can prepare for the next round. Take up training opportunities and participate in campaigning and community events.

PLEASE DON’T GIVE UP!

IN FACT, TRY AGAIN!
MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND PARTY RULES BEFORE YOUR INTERVIEW

There are a few key rules and laws council candidates should be aware of:

CANDIDATE CONTRACTS
Your LCF may have a candidate’s contract or councillor’s contract outlining what is expected. This includes things like meeting attendance and minimum levels of campaigning. Make sure you understand these commitments.

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY
Councillors are expected to vote with the group whip. Policies can be debated in private but once a Labour group collectively decided something, all Labour councillors will be expected to support this. While MPs frequently vote against the whip, this is far less common in local government and could result in disciplinary action. It is also against Labour party rules to vote for illegal budgets.

STANDING FOR ELECTION
Understand the rules for eligibility to stand. For example, you must be registered to vote and should not be in debt to the council. You must live in the authority where you are standing. Once elected it may be possible to move outside the authority but this may prevent you from restanding. (Councillors found guilty of electoral fraud have been put in prison for lying about where they live.)

QUESTIONS
If you have any questions speak with your LCF Secretary or other relevant members of your local party. They are there to help you. Best of luck!

Cllr Alice Perry
Chief Whip, Islington Council
NEC Member

GET SELECTED FOR A WINNABLE SEAT

1. TELL A STORY
It could be your own experiences or something meaningful that really inspired you to go forward for selection. Lots of people will be giving similar answers to questions, so find a way to really make the answers your own.

2. BE YOURSELF
The panel are looking for authenticity, shared values, understanding of local issues and a connection to your borough – with the story of why you are standing, spoken with sincerity, you will cover all of this and more.

3. FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES
Make sure you show you have a good understanding of the local government issues in your area. Go to the council website to understand the basics of the council’s budgetary position.

4. CONNECT TO DEMONSTRATE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Politics is about making a difference. But first, you have to connect with hearts and minds to be given a chance to make that difference. It’s that ability to connect with local residents that the panel looks for.

Uma Kumaran
Political Adviser, Local Government Association Labour Group

Being a councillor is the A&E of politics. It’s exciting right at the front line helping people directly, as well as being hard work. I think it’s one of the toughest, most rewarding roles in politics.

Cllr Emma Daniel
Chair Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee, Brighton and Hove City Council
I started out my involvement in politics thorough community organising in Oxfam and the Trade Union movement, so I naturally looked to my community engagement experience to be the core reason that members would want to select me as their candidate. I had worked on a variety of successful campaigns including setting up a city centre greening charity, workplace organising in hospitals across Greater Manchester and stopping forests being sold off in Cheshire. Whatever the issue, the key element they all needed for success was working with a variety of people from different backgrounds around a common cause.

The branch members saw the value of this applying this skill set not only to my campaign, but also to how I would operate as a community-led politician. I was asked questions on how I had worked with union members to save 500 jobs in Bolton and what my priorities would be for city centre residents, not just how many doors I had knocked on or photos I had had taken on the Labour doorstep. I had not done these things to enable me to become selected as a Labour candidate; the most important thing to me was that I had done all of this for reasons led by the people I worked with.

Cllr Beth Knowles
Manchester City Council

Being one of three female ethnic minority councillors in local government leadership, I know we’re making a difference, just simply by being here. So many residents count on us to be their voice. Join us now and make a difference.

Cllr Sabia Hussain
Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Children and Adult Social Care & Wellbeing, Slough Borough Council

- Drumming up support is daunting and, occasionally, excruciating. But it’s your only chance to show what sort of candidate and councillor you’d be
- Knowing school performance and demographics was helpful, but checking out shops, cafes and community events gave me a feel for what the ward was really like. It also gave me lots to talk about with some members who weren’t particularly interested in politics
- Knowing who was who was important for prioritising conversations, like those who are respected opinion formers. They’re likely to go to the selection meeting and may be asked for their advice by the undecided majority
- Members’ priorities can be surprising. I noticed that my early keenness to demonstrate knowledge made it harder to hear what was being said. Every conversation is a chance to hone your pitch but also to establish trust through shared experiences and passions
- However you engage, it has to feel comfortable, so trust your instinct on the type and tone of approach. Play to your strengths. No need to spend hours crafting emails if you’d rather pick up the phone
- Ward members are a source of support and advice and have made being a councillor much easier. And if you don’t get selected, lots of people in your constituency already know you’d make a great councillor next time.

Cllr Ellie Southwood
Lead Member for Environment, Brent Council

Being a councillor brings you face to face with every possible scenario and personality. You get to work with so many inspiring unsung heroes in the community.

Cllr Roxanne Mashari
Brent Council
The panel usually consists of around three people from the LCF and/or external people from outside of your borough. They will want to hear why you want to become a councillor, what Labour values mean to you, what experience you have of campaigning and being involved in your local community and your knowledge of the issues currently facing your local council. You might be asked about your weaknesses or areas where you have less experience - these aren’t trick questions!

It’s worth spending some time thinking about what you’ll say and you might want to do a practice run with a friend. You don’t have to have years of experience but the panel will want to hear about what you’ve done that demonstrates that you’ll make a good councillor, both by representing your ward and contributing to the work of the Labour group. Specific examples of local campaigns or projects you’ve been involved in are really helpful here.

The panel interview is a chance to bring to life everything you’ve written in your application form and to show your passion and enthusiasm for making a difference in your local area. So, go for it!

Cllr Sarah Hayward
Leader, Camden Council

I became a Haringey councillor in 2014. It became evident to me that, as women, we have a far harder time during the councillor selection process. Women tend to undersell themselves and the harsh reality is that the system is geared towards men. Lots of meetings, campaigning, networking and socialising. Not always easy for women with childcare and caring responsibilities, but also not impossible.

Reflect on why you may want to be a councillor. I became a councillor because I have always been passionate about my local area and I saw it is a way to make a difference to where I live. If you want to go down this route it’s worth remembering that everyone has something different to offer. Do not compare yourself to others. Think about your own strengths and take it from there. Do not forget all your transferable skills and experience. There are things we all do in everyday life that translate well into the role of councillor. Humility is a good trait but never be ashamed to talk about your achievements. Our male colleagues rarely are!

Councillors should represent the community they serve. The community is not homogenous and neither should their representatives be.

Good luck!

Cllr Peray Ahmet
Cabinet Member for Environment, Haringey Council

We need to hear from all the voices in our community and that includes women! Standing for the council means standing up for everyone.

Cllr Bryony Rudkin
Deputy Leader, Ipswich Borough Council

If you want the opportunity to be a community champion and help your local area come together, be a councillor.
PREPARE, PRACTICE AND PERFORM YOUR SPEECH WITH CONFIDENCE!

7 TIPS FOR HAVING THE WINNING SPEECH AT THE SELECTION MEETING

It’s important you prepare and practice your speech. This will be the opportunity to reach out to members and to get your message across.

1. CONTENT IS IMPORTANT: spend time thinking about what you want to put in the speech. Make sure you demonstrate an understanding of key issues on the council and in the ward; emphasise that you will work hard, in partnership with council colleagues, the party and the community.

2. MAKE SURE YOUR SPEECH IS STRUCTURED: have a good opening and closing line. A good opening line will help capture the audience’s attention and a strong closing line is likely to be remembered.

3. TIMING IS IMPORTANT: practice timing the speech, so you don’t rush or get cut off before you finish.

4. PRACTICE MAKING THE SPEECH TO OTHERS: to family or friends, or ideally a group of Labour colleagues and ask for feedback.

5. TRY NOT TO READ YOUR SPEECH: either have a copy with you as a reminder or use ‘prompt’ cards or brief notes to remind you of the main points.

6. STAND IF POSSIBLE: your voice will carry better if you do.

7. DON’T FORGET TO SMILE!

Being a councillor means I can be a voice for my community, stand up for what is right and make a positive difference.

Cllr Stephanie Cryan
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Southwark Council

DON'T LET YOUR GENDER DEFINE YOU

As a sassy and determined 20 something mother of three, welfare rights and adult literacy tutor back in the 1970’s I suddenly got it onto my head that the combination of my experience and my deep attachment to the Labour party would be handy as a local councillor: and that whilst I was at it, I could probably change the world forever and for better!

I don’t think I’ve managed that, but until I was first interviewed by party colleagues it never even occurred to me that anyone would define me by my gender. I honestly thought that the suffragettes, Joan Baez and Germaine Greer had sorted all that. But no, I was immediately asked how I could possibly look after my children properly as well as being a councillor.

Really? How many men have ever been asked that question? It clearly affected me otherwise I wouldn’t still be going on about it nearly 40 years later. As a young councillor I was sometimes patronised and sometimes disregarded – like when I tried to institute some more family friendly working practices. But I can honestly say I never let my gender define me, and even in this dreadful post-truth, populist and reactionary world we are currently screaming about, neither must you.

Cllr Judi Billing
North Hertfordshire District Council

The difference councillors can make to their local communities is massively underestimated – don’t hesitate to put yourself forward if you think you can make that difference.

Cllr Léonie Cooper
Wandsworth Council
**BEING A YOUNG COUNCILLOR**

I was elected to Leeds City Council at the age of 21 making me the youngest ever councillor in Leeds. If I was to say that it’s been plain sailing ever since... then that wouldn’t be true. It’s been incredible, but certainly not easy.

I think having young councillors is profoundly important. There’s definitely a stereotype that the majority of councillors are old white men. This isn’t the case in Leeds where we have councillors from a wide range of different backgrounds and the majority of our Labour group is women, but many councils struggle to reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.

I’ve never felt that my age was a huge barrier to being a councillor. When I first came onto the council, there were lots of comments about my age but they were always in good humour.

Being a councillor is one of the most rewarding and humbling things you can do. There will be challenges but you’ll be surrounded by a network of like-minded people who can offer you support. Whatever your age, background or experience, don’t be put off. We need a diverse range of women to represent and serve the public.

Cllr Alice Smart  
Lead Member for Child Friendly Leeds, Leeds City Council

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**BEING A CABINET MEMBER**

I’ve been a councillor for Bunhill Ward, Islington since 2010 and have been the executive member (cabinet lead) for Environment and Transport since 2014 covering major transport infrastructure and road safety; energy and fuel poverty; sustainability and air pollution; parks and open spaces; waste and recycling; highways and cemeteries. This role has directly led to several other appointments: I’m the current chair and lead on recycling at North London Waste Authority. Working with my counterparts across London, I’m a member of the London Council’s Transport and Environment Committee and am a commissioner on the Mayor of London’s Sustainable Development Commission.

I’d encourage women not just to apply to become councillors but to aim to become cabinet level or beyond: you have so much to give! As executive member, I’m able to provide leadership and direction on strategy, policy and significant decision making on Environment and Transport. I pioneered the council’s Bunhill Energy Centre which provides locally produced energy, slicing a cool 10% off energy bills. We are now working on taking waste heat from a defunct tube station and channelling this to heat more homes and a nearby school. Improving road safety, tackling air pollution, through tangible policy innovations like making more space for walking and cycling are priorities for me; as is ensuring as many services as possible are delivered in-house, by a strong Labour administration.

Cllr Claudia Webbe  
Executive Member Environment and Transport, Islington Council  
NEC member

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Cllr Dr Aysha Raza  
Ealing Council

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Cllr Marie Pye  
Waltham Forest Council

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It’s a rewarding job being able to help people in my community, by actually making a difference at the coal face.

Cllr Dr Aysha Raza  
Ealing Council

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Being a councillor is about real stuff and one of the best things I have ever done.

Cllr Marie Pye  
Waltham Forest Council
**BEING A BY-ELECTION CANDIDATE**

In December 2015, I had no idea that in a month’s time I would be a Labour councillor in Southwark but that’s the whirlwind of winning a by-election. One month you’re an activist, the next an elected representative!

It all started with Florence Eshalomi whispering in my ear at a London Labour event about a by-election where I lived and saying I should go for it. Like nearly every woman that decides to stand for election, it took a few nudges before I decided to go for it. I wondered if I would be good enough or if I was old enough? Finally, I threw my hat in the ring. I reasoned that the worst case scenario was not being selected and that life would be exactly the same.

The selection was quick, it took a few weeks and suddenly, I was the Labour candidate for Faraday. Being a by-election candidate is extraordinary: all resources are concentrated on winning that seat, rather than across the whole borough. It results in very intense campaigning - I was out nearly every night in between my selection and polling day.

Winning the election was fantastic, and having my life completely turned upside down within the space of a month was an experience! But being a councillor has been one of the most incredible things I have ever done.

**Cllr Samantha Jury-Dada**

Southwark Council

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**BEING AN OPPOSITION COUNCILLOR**

Being a councillor in a Conservative-led council can be very challenging, especially as the resources available can be difficult to access or are limited. There are 63 councillors in my borough: 15 Labour, 45 Conservative and 3 UKIP. It is therefore very difficult for my Labour colleagues and I to get issues voted through.

Despite being in opposition however, it is still possible to get the voices of the residents I represent heard. I frequently attend the local community forum meetings to discuss local matters in my ward. I meet regularly with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team that has intervened in anti-social behaviour or local crime concerns when I have approached them.

With residents, I organised a community clean up to address fly tipping concerns. I also persuaded the Planning Committee, which is dominated by Tory councillors, to reject a planning application that was causing a parking and noise nuisance to residents in my ward.

Don’t be put off standing for council in a borough where you know Labour is not in control. It’s important to be aware that you can still make changes to residents’ lives and you never know you might find over time that it becomes a Labour authority. Just look at Redbridge and Croydon councils, who became Labour councils in 2014.

If you care about the local community you live in, then you should stand to be a councillor regardless of whether Labour is in control.

**Cllr Abena Oppong-Asare**

Bexley Council

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**Being a councillor has enabled me to help people make a difference in their communities and given them a voice. I would urge women to empower other women to reach their full potential and make a difference.**

请加入我们。

**Cllr Kim Groves**

Leeds City Council
**USEFUL ORGANISATIONS AND WEBSITES**

**FABIAN WOMEN’S NETWORK**
FWN run a mentoring scheme, policy and events programmes to support, promote and connect women.
www.fabianwomen.org.uk @fabianwomen

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION LABOUR GROUP**
The LG Labour Group exists to provide a strong voice for Labour in local government. They represent and support Labour groups in England and Wales and the Labour councillors within them.
020 7664 3263 http://lglabour.local.gov.uk

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**
An invaluable source of help and advice for all those in local government. LGA website with information on the process and FAQs
www.local.gov.uk

**LABOUR PARTY CONTACTS**
The Labour Party: www.labour.org.uk
Labour Party Regional Offices:
East Midlands: www.eastmidlabour.org.uk
Eastern: www.easternlabour.org
London: www.labourinlondon.org.uk
North: www.labournorth.com
North West: www.labournorth-west.org.uk
South East: www.labour-southeast.org.uk
South West: www.labour-southwest.org.uk
Wales: www.welshlabour.wales
West Midlands: www.westmidlandslabour.org.uk
Yorkshire & Humber: www.yorkshireandhumberlabour.org.uk

**ASSOCIATION OF LABOUR COUNCILLORS**
Contact councillors@labour.org.uk for more information.

**BAME LABOUR**
BAME Labour seeks to empower ethnic minority members within the Labour party and campaigns for greater representation of ethnic minority communities in public life.
www.bamelabour.org.uk

**DISABILITY LABOUR**
Disability Labour were set up to advocate for, support and connect disabled Labour party members.
www.disabilitylabour.org.uk

**LGBT LABOUR**
The Labour Campaign for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Rights is a socialist society affiliated to the Labour party.
www.lgbtlabour.org.uk

**LABOUR WOMEN’S NETWORK**
LWN run training and events aiming to increase women’s participation at every level of the Labour party.
www.lwn.org.uk

**MEMBERSNET**
Membership is a tool that helps Labour members and supporters to organise, share and connect.
www.members.labour.org.uk

**THE COOPERATIVE PARTY**
The Cooperative party is an affiliate of the Labour party–councillors in some areas can stand as Labour Cooperative councillors.
www.party.coop

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Thank you to all our contributors, your wit and wisdom has made this a joy to compile. Thanks also to the main Fabian Society and the wider sisterhood of the Fabian Women’s Network and their mentoring scheme: a dynamic group of inspiring women who give us hope for the future. Thanks also to Cllr Leonie Cooper AM, Cllr Forhad Hussain, Cllr Peter Mason, Cllr Arjun Mittra, Cllr Alice Perry and Cllr Mik Sabiers for your feedback and support.

Fabian Women’s Network Executive Committee are:
Chair: Ivana Bartoletti | Vice Chair: Sara Hyde | Secretary: Paulina Jakubiec | Treasurer: Jayne Almond
Abena Oppong-Assare | Abigail Wood | Alexandra Sanderson | Anna Kere | Beth Knowles | Christine Megson | Claire Leigh
Jessie Joe Jacobs | Jos Bell | Kate Talbot | Megan Corton Scott | Reema Patel | Sanchia Alasia | Sarah Sackman | Vicki Butler

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**ACRONYMS AND JARGON**

Below is a short list of common acronyms or terms that you may come across during councillor selection. We hope this helps with navigating the process.

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<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>ABBREVIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
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<tr>
<td>Campaigning</td>
<td></td>
<td>Door-knocking, leafleting, running street stalls and much more!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collective responsibility</td>
<td></td>
<td>Debating and discussing council matters privately within the Labour group, then deciding together the Labour line on any particular issue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constituency Labour Party</td>
<td>CLP</td>
<td>Division of the Labour party based on the electoral district for the MP, comprises Labour party branches and local affiliates.</td>
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<td>Department for Communities and Local Government</td>
<td>DCLG</td>
<td>Government department with responsibility for local authorities.</td>
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<td>Get Out The Vote</td>
<td>GOTV</td>
<td>A campaign to identify Labour party supporters and encourage them to turn out to vote, using canvassing and mailings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour group</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grouping of all the Labour councillors in a local authority.</td>
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<td>Local Campaign Forum</td>
<td>LCF</td>
<td>The Local Campaign Forum will help write the manifesto locally and play a core part in the selection of candidates for council elections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members Code of Conduct</td>
<td></td>
<td>A set of rules and expectations that all candidates must adhere to during the selection process.</td>
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<td>National Executive Committee</td>
<td>NEC</td>
<td>The governing body of the Labour party, with representatives from councils, CLPs, the PLP, socialist societies and trade unions.</td>
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<td>Probity</td>
<td></td>
<td>You will be expected to be open and honest about your financial dealings. You will be asked to complete forms declaring your financial and property issues both when you are selected.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection</td>
<td></td>
<td>Process of choosing candidates to stand in local elections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td>A meeting held by the membership of the ward to decide who will be their candidate from those shortlisted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shortlisting meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td>A meeting held by the membership of the ward to decide who, from the approved panel of candidates, would like to shortlist and hear from at the selection meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing Orders</td>
<td></td>
<td>Set of rules governing local Labour party structures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Panel</td>
<td></td>
<td>If you are deemed to be a good potential candidate by the assessment centre, you will be placed on the panel. The panel is a list of all members who have been approved by the LCF following the assessment centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward or Branch</td>
<td></td>
<td>Labour party branches are based on ward boundaries for local council elections. Every member has a Labour party branch, but you can stand for election in any part of the borough not only in your branch.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>