

Councillors Commission: Call for Evidence

Would you be willing to stand for election?

The Department for Communities and Local Government Commission on Local Councillors have commenced their inquiry into the barriers and incentives to becoming a councillor.

The inquiry, lead by Dame Jane Roberts, will seek to address a number of issues relating to what motivates people to become councillors, the support councillors need to enable them to carry out their role more effectively and what can be done to attract more interested and able people into the role.

Some of the issues and ideas the Commission will seek to look at are:

- Working with local business to promote more part-time and flexible working and encouraging employers to value people serving as councillors by providing time off for their duties and recognising their experiences
- Reviewing the time commitments needed to be a councillor and timetables of local meetings
- Encouraging councils to look at better childcare support
- Providing better information on how to become a councillor and what the job entails such as work shadowing schemes, information and awareness campaigns in black and minority ethnic communities
- More support for councillors to develop the necessary skills for the role and ensure they are retained
- The extent to which perceptions of local government hinder well qualified people from standing