



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

LAW & DEMOCRACY
Democratic Services

www.stockton.gov.uk

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My Ref: Be a Councillor 2010
Your Ref: New Enquiry
Please ask for: Stuart Levin
Tel: (01642) 526185
Email: stuart.levin@stockton.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Invitation to 'Be a Councillor' event at Stockton Town Hall

Last October, the Council launched a campaign called 'Make a difference - Be a Councillor'. Since then a number of people have contacted the Council for more information.

In response to this, the Council will be hosting a 'Be a Councillor' event at the Town Hall, (High Street, Stockton-on-Tees) on **Wednesday 17th November 2010**. Refreshments will be available from 5pm and the formal part of the event will begin at 5.10pm.

The event is also open to anyone who is interested in finding out about what councillors do and how to become a councillor. The following page has an outline to show the proposed format for the event.

This will be an ideal opportunity to meet local councillors and ask lots of questions about the realities of carrying out the role. Council officers will also be on hand throughout the event to provide advice and information about the support and training available to councillors when they are first elected, and then on an ongoing basis. You will also receive an information pack to take away with you.

The event should be of interest to a range of people, from those who just want to find out more about what councillors do, to others who may be thinking about standing as a candidate in future elections. It is particularly relevant as the next Local Elections are due in May 2011.

Please can you contact me if you are planning to attend the event and if you are bringing any guests. You can contact me by phone on 526185 or send an e-mail to stuart.levin@stockton.gov.uk. I would also appreciate it if you could pass the information on to anyone else that may be interested in coming.

Kind regards,

Stuart

Stuart Levin
Democratic Services Officer

Make a Difference - Be a Councillor Event

Town Hall, Stockton on Tees

Wednesday 17th November 2010

- 5:00 pm **Coffee, tea and biscuits**
- 5:10 pm **Welcome and introduction**
Leader of the Council
Chief Executive of the Council
- 5:20 pm **The 'Be a Councillor' Campaign**
A short presentation from the Cabinet member for Corporate Management and Finance – Councillor Terry Laing
- Distribution of Information packs**
- 5:30 pm **Workshops**
An opportunity to meet each political party individually to find out how they recruit candidates to stand for election and any other relevant information
- Conservative Councillor
 - Independent Councillor
 - Labour Councillor
 - Liberal Democrat Councillor
- 6:45 pm **Closing remarks and evaluation**
- 7:00 pm **Event ends**

Throughout the event Council advisors will be available to provide information about issues such as terms and conditions, how to be nominated, councillor allowances, training opportunities, data protection and Freedom of Information.

Benefits of attending

- > Meet existing councillors and hear their stories first hand;
- > Ask the councillors questions about their role and how it affects their 'home' or 'work' life;
- > Get practical advice and guidance about standing as a candidate in an election;
- > Also find out about things like:
 - the individual training available to help you carry out the role once you are elected;
 - the allowances available for the different duties that you may become involved in as a councillor;
 - the support available to you for things like an extra phone line, internet access, IT and office equipment;

Would should attend?

- > Anyone thinking of standing as a candidate in a local election;
- > People who are already active in their local community (e.g. part of a resident or community group; campaigner; volunteer; school governor);
- > People who want to find out more about the role of a councillor;
- > Individuals who want to find out how being a councillor will help them to make a difference in their community;
- > Community workers;