

## **WHAT IS A LOCAL COUNCILLOR?**

Local (Parish, Village, Town or Community Councils are made up of a number of Councillors who meet regularly to make decisions on the work and direction of the Council. They are local people who have stood for election to their Council.

### **Who can be a Councillor?**

Anyone who is 18 years or older, a British subject or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union, who lives or works in the area is eligible to stand. Persons who have received a prison sentence in the last five years and those who are subject to a bankruptcy restriction order are disqualified from standing.

### **What do Councillors do? Decision Making:**

Through attending Council Meetings and Committee Meetings with other elected members, Councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, which services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.

### **Monitoring:**

Councillors ensure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.

### **Getting involved locally:**

As local representatives, Councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. This often depends on what the Councillor wants to achieve and how much time they have available.

### **Activities are varied and may include:**

Attending meetings of local organisations such as tenants associations.

Attending meetings of bodies that affect the wider community, such as the Police, Highways Authority, schools and colleges.

Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public, such as making representations to the District or Borough Council.

Holding a surgery for residents to voice their issues.

Consulting with residents about what the Council should be doing on their behalf.