

SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Candidates should complete the nomination form by 8 November 2019 and send it to NALC at nalcccommittees@nalc.gov.uk.

Title	Ms
First name	Lydia
Surname	Smithson
Home address	
Contact number	
Email address	
County association	Lincolnshire
Council name	Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council
Precept	£185,400
Electorate	3331

Explain why you are standing for this position (250 words max)

I have extensive experience in local government at all levels and am keen to utilise this knowledge to support smaller councils, as part of the Smaller Councils Committee. I have an interest in facilitating the development of councillors, clerks and other officers so they have the skills and knowledge required to effectively serve their communities. Therefore, I am keen to ensure resources and training continues to be relevant for smaller councils.

The local councils I have worked for have always been members of NALC and I have found their support, including the resources they provide, invaluable in enabling the council to operate within the bounds of the law, accessing specialist knowledge and undertaking training.

I value the role NALC plays in promoting the work of local councils and lobbying and would support the Committee in ensuring the voice of smaller councils are heard at a national level.

Please outline three key achievements, skills or experiences that are relevant to the position applied for (250 words max each)

Experience in the Sector

I am a CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualified Clerk with 12 years' experience working across all tiers of local government, including 9 years working for smaller parish councils. I have lived in the parishes I have worked for and actively participate in community life including volunteering.

This has provided me with extensive experience which I will draw upon to represent the interests of smaller councils within and beyond the sector.

Communication Skills

I am an approachable, yet confident person, who regularly speaks at formal meetings and I will utilise these skills to contribute ideas and feedback on rural issues, policies and programmes for the benefit of our smaller councils.

I am passionate about the value of councils and will represent and promote the important and active role that smaller parish councils play in day-to-day community life.

Research, Consultation and Project Background

I have a strong research, consultation and policy background and will use this experience to act as a critical friend when examining best practice documents to assist local councils.

Our Council has recently won a national commendation for community engagement for a regeneration project, which I am the lead officer on. This reflects the value which I place on public participation and am keen to engage smaller local councils and give a voice to their views at a national level.

I am involved in all aspects of council life from developing policies and procedures; managing the council's finances; securing grants; being the lead officer on our made Neighbourhood Development Plan and previously a Parish Plan; community events including a Waterfront Festival and a 5k/2k race and; projects including new play areas, cycle tracks and a regeneration project for our Conservation Area. I will draw on this knowledge to fulfil the requirements of the role and serve smaller local councils.

Declaration

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information given on this form is correct and can be copied and distributed to other NALC members.

Signature	Lydia Smithson
Date	07 th November 2019