

Nominations received for Larger councils' committee (Assembly)

Largers (Assembly)
4 vacancies
Elected
Mike Drew
Richard Parry
Paul Harvey

LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

To be eligible for a seat on the Larger Councils Committee you need to be a councillor on a council with an electorate of over 6,000 and/or annual budgeted income of £600,000.

Title	Cllr
First name	Mike
Surname	Drew
County association	Avon
Council name	Yate Town council
Precept	£1.3M
Electorate	18,500

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

I have been a member of Yate Town Council since 1983 and held many positions as Chair of Cmtte and Town Mayor. I have also been a member of South Gloucestershire Council and it's predecessors councils since 1983.

I have been a member of the Avon Calc during most of that time - NALC rep since 2011 - member of the Management Board since December 2017, Member of Larger Councils' Cmtte since May 2015 directed elected 2015 & 2917.

Yate Town Council is largest member Council in Avon with Budget of £1.3M. We have taken over Youth Services within the Town; we run all play areas and tow larger Parks which we run with support from User Groups. Kingsgate Park has won regional awards from Britain in Bloom and

During my time on the Yate TC we have grown from having a Part Time Clerk based in a Portacabin to having a staff of 30 providing Sports, Parks, Play and Youth Work. We bought an about to be demolished Victoria's Mansion and turned it into a Town Hall and Council Chamber providing a Wedding Venue and offices for Community Groups

I believe that NALC is important to represent the Town/Parish Council sector to Government and the public. Larger Councils can demonstrate what is possible with local and democratically accountable bodies.

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

Armadillo Youth Cafe and Venue, a £1.5 M facility which is open 7 days per week - all year round. Developed in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council. Now solely owned and operated by Yate TC after SG Council stopped its financial contribution. The Town Council also finances and directs the Youth Out Reach Service based on the "Urbie" a van fully equipped for Youth use.

Yate Outdoor Sports Complex. Started by Yate TC and expanded with support first by Northavon District Council and then with Avon CC (both merged into South Gloucestershire Council). For a while run (down) by SG Council - the Town Council has taken on full responsibility for YOSC and has now put a new all-weather track in place and has completely relayed an all-weather hockey/football pitch

Kingsgate Park, originally South Gloucestershire run, the Town Council has taken it over in exchange for reduction of Special Expenses Council Tax for the Town. Working with a Friends Group the Council has provided a very large Adventure Play Area; up graded other play equipment. An Outdoor Gym has been added. The TC provides Annual music festival (Yate Rocks) with local bands and dance groups; Easter Egg hunt and other events in the Park.

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Title	Councillor
First name	Paul
Surname	Harvey
County association	Bucks & Milton Keynes
Council name	West Bletchley
Precept	Approximately £1 Million
Electorate	17,400

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

I am standing for this committee so that we continue to work on areas such as Diversity and inclusion, continue to create networks such as the super council and coastal networks. Over the last few years this committee has worked on and promoted the sharing of best practice between member councils, prior to covid we had planned visits to more areas and I would hope to return to this in the future

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

During the nearly 10 years of involvement with this committee both as a direct and assembly member I have worked on the creation of the virtual networks such as super councils, and have looked to add to this with networks for other similar groupings such as market towns.

I have also looked to promote active participation by younger councillors, encouraging them to stand for election to this committee as a direct elected member, I believe that this is important so that we do not get to stale on our outlook and miss important changes to the makeup of councils. This includes the creation of new councils in areas that are unrepresented at this time.

I have always considered it important to give a voice to all members of the committee, so that we are better informed of ongoing issues and of successful of improvements around the country, and to hopefully pass this on to other members.

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Title	Cllr.
First name	Richard
Surname	Parry
County association	Kent
Council name	Sevenoaks Town Council
Precept	£1,239,898
Electorate	15032

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

I'm standing for election to NALC's Larger Councils' Committee because in this time of very significant change we, NALC's elected Councillors, will have to ensure that NALC provides the best possible services to our Larger and Super Town Councils.

Because of the likely creation of many Unitary authorities and also the need to recover from the results of the Covid pandemic, England's Larger and Super Councils will be facing a period of change and major challenges.

We do not know what services we will have to take over, or perhaps even invent, to serve the needs of our residents!

There is also the very real need to ensure that Larger and Super councils work together to develop and share best practice and help each other surmount the challenges ahead.

To overcome the challenges our sector faces NALC will need to continue to become more responsive and this is where the skills and experiences of councillors from Large and Super councils will be most helpful and effective.

I am an experienced councillor and manager and have been privileged to serve as a member of NALC's Larger Councils' Committee for the last two years. As a member of the committee I made useful, significant, positive and helpful contributions to the successful work of the Committee.

If elected I will support, most strongly, the work of new LCC to ensure that NALC provides the best possible help, advice and support to our Larger and Super Councils.

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

As the new leader of Sevenoaks Town Council, with the constant help and support of other new councillors, turning around Sevenoaks TC from a “do little council” into a forward looking and entrepreneurial council which now responds to and serves the needs of its residents.

When I joined Sevenoaks the Council’s mantra, always stated with regret and remorse, appeared to be “We wish we had seized the opportunity to”!

The Council is now an organisation which identifies the needs and aspirations of its residents and delivers projects and scheme which benefit all who live in, work in and visit Sevenoaks.

The delivered projects include a £3 million new Conference Centre, a Business Hub, refurbishing a derelict railway station – this restoration won the first prize in the National Awards scheme, numerous playing fields and equipment, a Skate Park and new allotments.

One of our proudest achievements is the creation of our Town Team which works with local and national business to keep Sevenoaks flourishing with the result that we have one of the most occupied and best Town Centres in the UK. In Sevenoaks shops and business premisses, if ever vacant, do not stay empty for long.

Being part of a two person “start up” software company which my friend, and then business partner, and I started in our kitchens and then garages – we needed to put our laptops somewhere safer!

Using our computer coding skills and experience, developed working in and then managing large IT organisations, we built and the marketed a Change Management software package which, after a lot of effort and some disappointments became the best available internationally and thus the market leader.

The experience of building an internationally successful company, from very humble beginnings, and dealing with and overcoming the inevitable set backs provided an invaluable experience which fortunately provided the necessary foundations to allow me to become an effective Town Councillor.

Being awarded my Pilots Wings!