

Nominations received for Management board

Management Board
6
Elected
Bob Blezzard
Paul Harvey
Richard Parry

Mike Drew and Peter Davey have withdrawn as they will sit on Management board as Vice chair (Member services) and Vice chair (Finance)

MANAGEMENT BOARD NOMINATION FORM

Title	Mr
First name	Bob
Surname	BLEZZARD
County association	Isle of Wight
Council name	1. Newchurch 2. Havenstreet and Ashe
Precept	1. £18,680 2. 11,874
Electorate	1. 2,178 2. 723

Explain why you are standing for Management board (250 words max)

I have over 30 years experience of the first tier of local government including over 20 years experience as a parish or town clerk in different authorities in various parts of the country. During this time I served as national chair of SLCC and also on the NALC/SLCC liaison committee. In 2019 I came out of retirement to serve as Acting Clerk and RFO to Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council, a council with a turnover of circa £800K. I have over 16 years experience as a town/parish councillor and I served as an Isle of Wight councillor for four years where I chaired the planning committee. In the early part of my career I worked in HR for a large metropolitan city. I was elected to the Management Board two years ago and I would like to continue in that role where I have endeavoured to make a constructive contribution whilst challenging decisions where necessary and using my experience of the sector and wider local government world to good effect. I take the view that I was elected to represent the National Assembly on the Management Board, not the other way round.

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

During my service as national chair of SLCC in 1993/94 I was instrumental in re-designing and re-negotiating the clerk's recommended salary scales to bring all part-time clerks onto the main pay scales to ensure that they were paid pro rata to their full time colleagues. Previously so called "other" part time clerks were paid on an arbitrary basis linked to the number of electors which did not recognise the hours actually worked. My earlier HR experience was of great benefit in this respect.

I have experience of project management. Whilst working in Berkshire in the 1990s I project managed the building of a new community centre using s106 money. That centre became the jewel in the crown of the council concerned, being a major facility on a new council estate and a major revenue earner.

Over the years I have developed reasonably good advocacy and negotiating skills. As the Hon Secretary of the West Berkshire Association of Local Councils in the late 1990s I assisted a member council where the principal authority was proposing to split the parish into two against the wishes of most residents. I assisted the council in putting a case together which resulted in the principal council backing down.

Set out your vision for NALC and how it can improve the service(s) it provides to members ((250 words max)

NALC should continue the excellent work it is doing lobbying Government on behalf of the sector. It should continue to work with the LGA to assert the role of local councils as the first tier of local government and an increasingly important part of the local government family in an uncertain world but it must not allow itself to be treated as a "junior partner." There are too many parts of the country where local councils are not afforded the respect and status they deserve by their principal authorities. NALC must address this in discussions with the LGA.

NALC should be proactive in working with, and where necessary supporting CALCs. In the event of disputes between CALCs NALC should use its good offices to resolve such disputes in accordance with the constitution (which requires updating) and with policies agreed by the Association's AGM and its Assembly.

MANAGEMENT BOARD NOMINATION FORM

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 Management board (250 words max)

I am standing for this committee to be a voice for the largest councils, to promote best practices, and to continue the improvement of the Association.

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

I have been involved with the larger councils committee for several years and have worked to improve communication between councils using networks and visits to member councils

I have been involved with the changes within my county association to improve how we run and promotion of training as key to improving councils and Councillors

I have been involved in the creation both of a Parish plan and the creation of new Councils, this experience has allowed me to understand the problems created by legislation not recognising our sector fully

Set out your vision for NALC and how it can improve the service(s) it provides to members ((250 words max)

I believe NALC should be a champion of the use of technology in our sector, to push Government to allow for remote meetings to be recognised as a proper meeting and to promote improvements to the environment using digital platforms where practical.

MANAGEMENT BOARD NOMINATION FORM

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 Management board (250 words max)

I'm standing for election to NALC's Management Board 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 member Councils and CALCs.

NALC is facing a period of change and significant new opportunities; we are about to choose a new Chair, a new Management Board and new Committee members. We and our Councils will also have to deal with the fallout from the Covid pandemic and the many new challenges and changes which face our sector.

There is also the very real need to ensure that NALC and its constituent CALCs continue to work together successfully and harmoniously in the best interests of our Sector.

To be successful in this changing and challenging environment and to be fully involved in the development and expansion of Parish and Town Councils, NALC will need to continue to become dynamic and responsive.

Most importantly NALC must develop its attributes and culture to become an organisation which is determined to get much better deals from the government and also deliver ever improving services to our councils and CALCs.

I am an experienced councillor and manager and have been privileged to serve as a member of NALC's Management Board for the last two years. As a member of the Board I made useful, significant, positive and helpful contributions to the work of NALC and the Management Board and was a strong supporter of our retiring Chair.

If elected I will support, most strongly, our New Chair and the new Management Board to ensure that NALC provides the best possible help, advise and support to the Member Councils and the CALCs and also help NALC to become the best and most effective Local Government association.

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!

Set out your vision for NALC and how it can improve the service(s) it provides to members ((250 words max)

Thanks to the successes of our just retired Chair, the work of the effective and supporting Management Board and the skills of our Chief executive and our Staff, NALC is "in a great place".

During the next few years NALC should focus its efforts and objectives to make very real and significant contributions to the successes of our Parishes and Towns. The opportunities, including those which will materialise from the formation of Unitary Authorities are huge and, with a Team Based approach, using the resources of our CALCs in conjunction with NALC's skill set, we will help our Town and Parish Councils improve the lives of their residents.

NALC must define clearly how it will deliver its services to our Member Councils and make every effort to ensure the rapid expansion of the number of new Councils in England and the services they then will be able to provide to their residents.

Some of NALC's key services will be the provision of:- swift legal advice, working answers to councils' problems, advice and guidance, ie "how to do", the creation of new parishes, the provision of case studies and close collaboration with our CALCs.

Using the strength of its councillor base and member councils, NALC should aim to be the best organisation representing Local Government and thus the first port of reference when central government needs help and advice.

Strong and focused direction from our new Chair and Management Board will make NALC valued, by its member councils and also the CALCs, and thus most successful.