

The role of a modern councillor

Councillor Lisa Smart, Stockport MBC and LGA
Regional Member Peer

Congratulations!



Being a good councillor?



A balancing act: many different roles, hats and expectations.

The different roles of a local councillor (part 1)

1. Representing your local area

- Represent your ward - all who live in it.
- Be a bridge between community & council.
- Advocate for local residents: signpost to the right people at the council and keep them informed.



- Good communication and engagement.
- Residents will have expectations! e.g. case work, represent their views, communicate decisions, etc.



2. Community leadership

- Work in partnership with local communities & local organisations.
- Develop a vision for your local area.

The different roles of a local councillor (part 2)

3. Developing council policy

- Contribute to the development of Council policies and strategies, bringing the views and priorities of your local area to the debate.



5. Planning & regulation

- Consider planning applications licences ensuring that businesses comply with the law.

4. Accountability

- Holding officers to account for delivery.



Standards of Conduct

- Holding a public office means there are responsibilities in terms of your conduct.



- You must adhere to your **council's code of conduct** for elected members.
 - It will be based on the Seven **Principles of Public Life** (Nolan Principles).
 - Get to know your Code of Conduct, and if required, seek **guidance from the Monitoring Officer.**
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The role of officers & councillors

- Both have a collective corporate responsibility but different roles:
 - **Political leadership:** Councillors set the strategic direction and agree the policy framework.
 - **Officer leadership:** Officers politically neutral and are responsible for delivering the council's policies and for the day-to-day operation.



‘Councillor led, Officer run’

**Based on mutual understanding,
trust and respect.**

What councillors and officers should expect from each other

What councillors should expect from officers	What officers should expect from councillors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitment to council as a whole, and not to an individual political group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political leadership and direction
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A working partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A working partnership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A timely response to enquiries and complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distance from the day-to-day management of the authority
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional advice, not influenced by political views or preference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not to use influence to gain special treatment for themselves or others
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrity, mutual support and appropriate confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An understanding of the need for work/life balance