

Guide to becoming a Conservative Party Mayoral Candidate (Combined Authority, Greater Manchester and London)

Introduction

We want to build an army of candidates that can be successful.

We need to select candidates who can be champions for their local areas but who, in time, can serve in a radical, transforming local government once again.

We want a new cohort of future Conservative Mayors who really believe in less tax, less interference, less regulation and a local government that achieves the change that our country needs. Candidates who are going to hold the civil service to account, who are willing to change things, and who are willing to make difficult decisions.

We are searching for people from across the community, with a wide variety of transferable skills and experiences. We are prioritising the four Cs - communication, charisma, cleverness and conservatism.

As a Conservative Mayor you will have the opportunity to make a real and lasting difference to the constituents who elect you and to the future of our great country.

The process to becoming a Conservative Party Mayoral Candidate contains a number of stages. This guide will answer a number of FAQs about becoming a Prospective Mayoral Candidate. We hope this guide will prove useful in informing your decision about whether or not this is the right path for you at present and hope you will choose to join us as we embark on this exciting journey.

[APPLY HERE](#)

FAQs

What does being a Mayor entail?

A Combined Authority Mayor leads a region made up of different Councils. They have a devolved budget which they spend on priorities agreed with the Councils, their remits vary but include job creation, transport, roads and strategic housing, plus promoting their region nationally, gaining private investment.



Does this guide cover all authority areas?

This guide covers Combined Authority Mayoral areas (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, East Midlands, Greater Lincolnshire, Greater Manchester, Hull and Easter Yorkshire, Liverpool, North East, South Yorkshire, Tees Valley, West Midlands, West of England, West Yorkshire, York and North Yorkshire, Cheshire and Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Essex, Hampshire and the Solent, Norfolk and Suffolk, Sussex and Brighton (as of May 2025).



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If you are interested in becoming an Executive Mayor in charge of a single local authority (Bedford, Bristol, Copeland, Doncaster, Hackney, Leicester, Lewisham, Liverpool, Mansfield, Middlesbrough, Newham, North Tyneside, Salford, Tower Hamlets, Watford), contact either the relevant local association(s) or cca@conservatives.com who will be able to point you in the right direction.

What are the next steps if I want to apply?

APPLY HERE

1. Eligibility Questions

The very first step will be to answer some basic eligibility questions which will determine whether you can apply to be an Approved Conservative Party Parliamentary Candidate both legally and in line with Party requirements.

It is your personal responsibility to ensure you meet these criteria so please read them carefully.

Legal eligibility requirements to apply

- You must be over 18 years old
- You must be a UK, Irish or Commonwealth citizen
- You must not be currently subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or debt relief restrictions order made by a court in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, or your estate must

not have been sequestered by a court in Scotland and you have not been discharged

- More detailed qualification and disqualification criteria can be found on the Electoral Commission website via the following [here](#).

Party eligibility requirements to apply

- You must be a resident in the UK for tax purposes
- You must have the right to work in the UK
- You must have been a member of the Conservative Party for at least three months
- You must subscribe to the Nolan principles of public life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, leadership)
- You must not be a member of, work for or be a representative of another political party

2. The Online Application Form

At the end of this guide you will be able to access a link which will take you to our online platform where you will be invited to create an account and fill in our new application form. This will ask for you to enter information such as contact details, employment history and answer some competency based questions.

You do not need to complete your application all at once, however once you begin your application, you will have **one month to complete it**.

Applications to apply to the Approved List of Candidates are in an online format, however if you have any difficulty in accessing this please contact us and we will strive to accommodate your needs.

3. Due Diligence Checks

If your initial application is successful, you will be invited to start the due diligence process.

This aspect of the application process will have a cost to be paid.

Once your payment has been submitted online you will be invited to our due diligence portal where you can input your information. The checks that will be undertaken will include the production of an in depth due diligence report and a DBS check.

4. Assessment Centre

If you fulfil all the requirements, you will be invited to book a place at the Assessment Centre from a list of dates provided to you. There is a cost to be paid at the time of booking.

At the Assessment Centre, you will be assessed for the competencies, skills and abilities which are most prevalent in successful Candidates and holders of Public Office.



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The core purpose of the assessment is for you to demonstrate good judgement, life experience, political conviction, commitment and integrity. Throughout the assessment process, you should seek to show the assessors your capabilities from a variety of different areas and experiences. This should include your political, personal, professional and voluntary/charitable life.

You will have the opportunity to show your array of skills and competencies to the assessors in a two-stage process.

What assistance is provided if I am a disabled applicant?

We welcome applications from those who have disabilities, and if you want to discuss any particular concerns then please contact the Candidates Team. We have worked with disability organisations to survey our processes and help us to remove any barriers to disabled applicants.

As part of the recruitment process you are asked what we can do to assist you to achieve your potential, and following discussion with you, we will make whatever reasonable adjustments we can to fit your personal circumstances. This includes any measures required at the venues for your Assessment Centre.

What happens once I pass the Assessment Centre?

If you pass the Assessment Centre, you will be added to our Approved List of Conservative Party Candidates. Our modern and dynamic recruitment and development platform will be the home of your Candidate experience.

You will be invited to sign up to our 'Candidate Portal' where you will be able to access your bespoke training and development pathway, update your information and apply for any vacancies. The type of pass you receive will be personalised based on your assessment and will determine your pathway and the vacancies you can apply for.

Being a member of the Approved List of Conservative Party Candidates carries with it a number of rights and responsibilities which you will be required to sign up to. We are dedicated to the provision of an excellent service to our candidates, delivered with professionalism, respect, transparency and a caring attitude. You are expected to play an active role in the Party and take up appropriate training courses.

Are there other ways to get involved if I am not yet ready to apply or if I haven't passed the Assessment Centre?

Volunteering with your local Conservative association and area helps to build-up your campaigning experience. You will learn and develop key skills by having access to training opportunities, whilst making a difference in elections. Our volunteering structure is fluid and works around you. From supporting local campaigns near you, assisting in marginal electoral areas or getting involved with national campaigns, we will facilitate your involvement and offer one-to-one mentoring to further your progress.

If you are interested please email volunteer@conservatives.com.



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Are there other ways I can get involved with the Party?

If you decide the Mayoral route is not for you, there are many ways you can get involved with your local community whether this is through being an activist supporting campaigns or standing yourself as a Councillor, a School Governor, as a Police and Crime Commissioner Candidate, a Mayoral Candidate, a GLA Candidate, a Senedd or Member of the Scottish Parliament Candidate.

Useful websites:

www.conservatives.com

www.parliament.uk

www.conservativewomen.uk

www.conservativedisabilitygroup.com

