

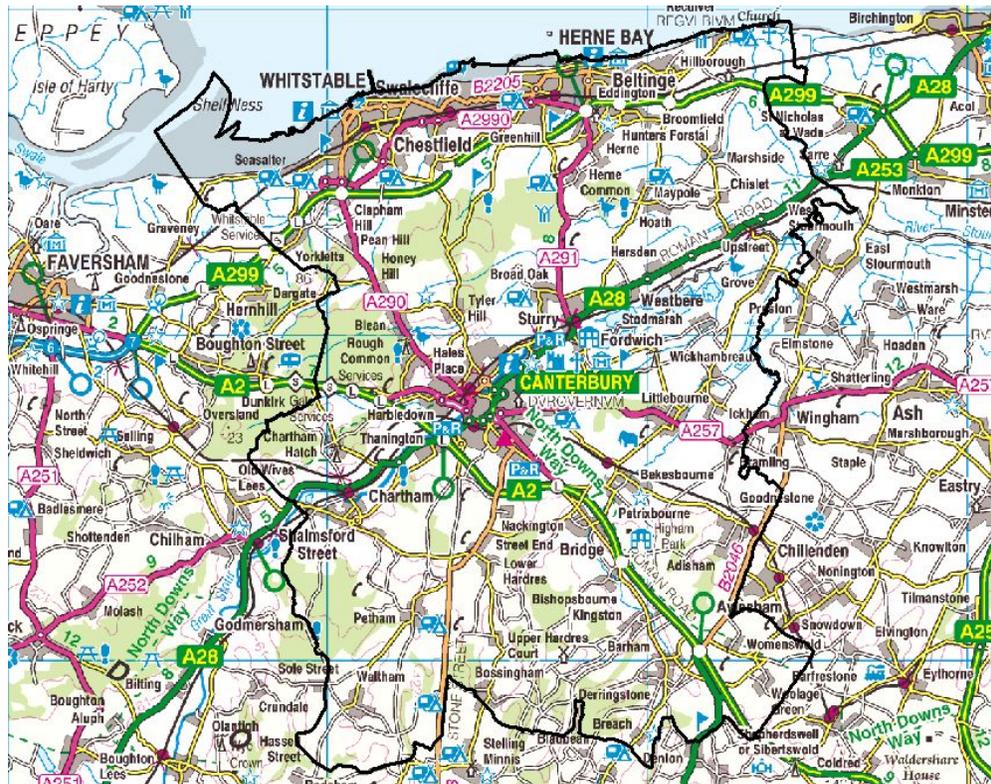
Canterbury City Council

Colin Carmichael, Chief Executive

Facts about the council and area



- Population 170,000
- Two towns, one city and 24 villages
- Budget of £120 million per annum
- Location of three universities and home to 30,000 students
- World Heritage Site
- One of the leading heritage and tourist sites in Britain
- Owner of substantial landholdings, including most of the centre of Canterbury
- Shopping centre for east Kent



What does Canterbury City Council do?



- Recycling
- Planning
- Museums
- Social housing
- Benefits
- Street cleaning
- Waste collection
- Theatre
- Parks
- Coastal protection
- Car Parks
- Park and Ride
- Litter enforcement

What does Kent County Council do?

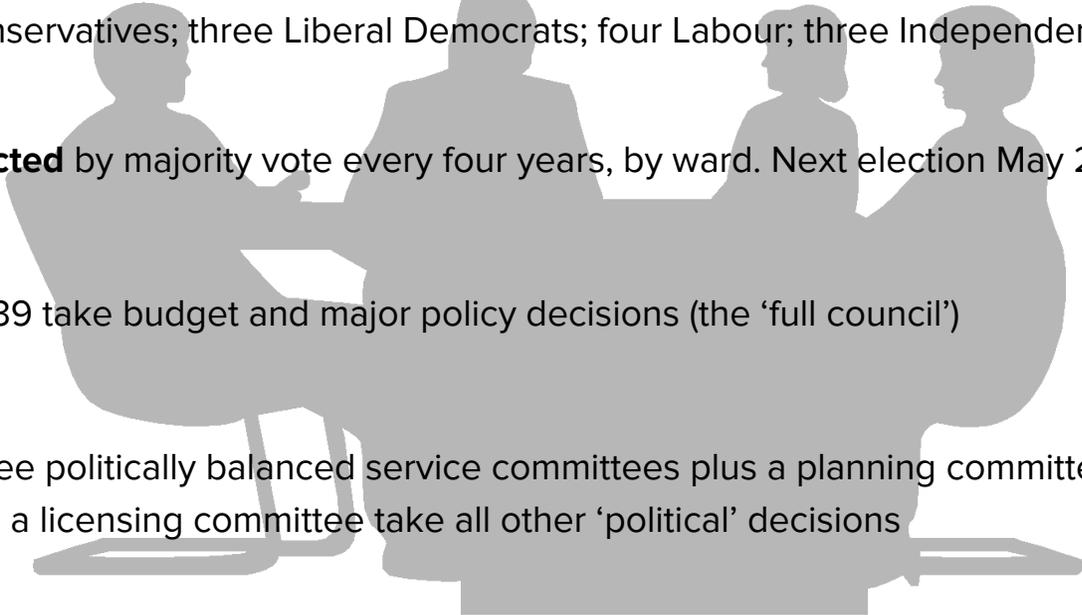


- Roads
- Schools
- Libraries
- Social Services
- Pot holes

How the council works

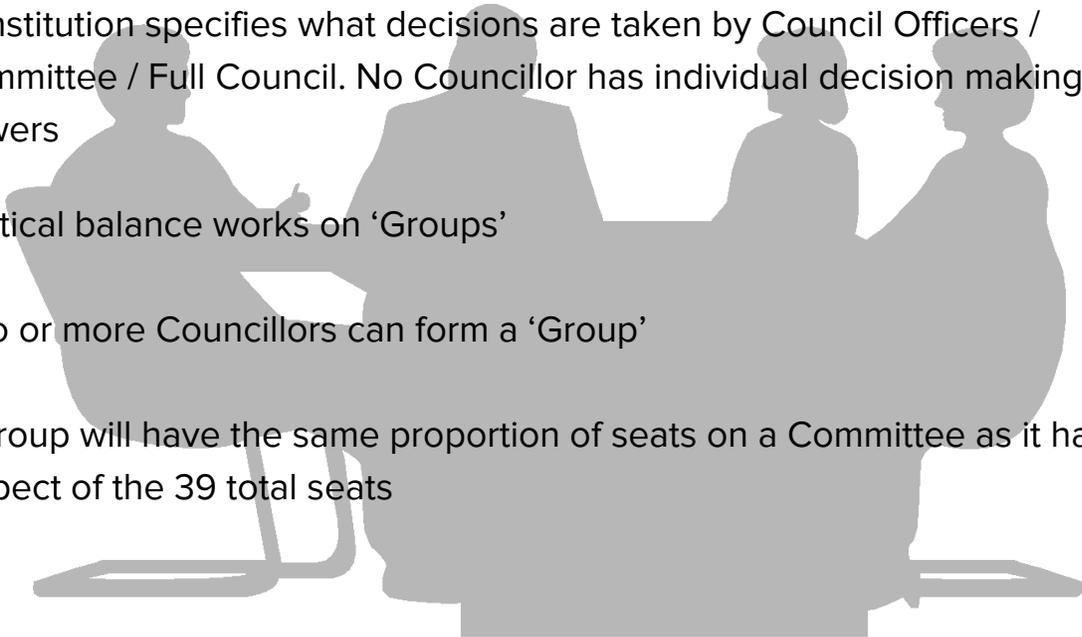


- 39 Councillors, each represent about 2,670 electors. Currently 29 Conservatives; three Liberal Democrats; four Labour; three Independents
- **Elected** by majority vote every four years, by ward. Next election May 2019
- All 39 take budget and major policy decisions (the 'full council')
- Three politically balanced service committees plus a planning committee and a licensing committee take all other 'political' decisions
- Two other Councillors elected each year as Lord Mayor and Sheriff



How the council works

- Constitution specifies what decisions are taken by Council Officers / Committee / Full Council. No Councillor has individual decision making powers
- Political balance works on 'Groups'
- Two or more Councillors can form a 'Group'
- A group will have the same proportion of seats on a Committee as it has in respect of the 39 total seats



How the council works



- Services delivered by 500 ‘officers’
- **Appointed** and paid by salary
- Managed by Chief Executive as ‘Head of the Paid Service’
- Role of officers;
 - politically independent
 - advice to councillors on substantial decisions
 - to implement these decisions once taken
 - to take all other decisions
- Councillors cannot take decisions without advice from officers

How the council works



Services delivered in a variety of ways;

- We deliver directly to customers
- East Kent Services or East Kent Housing deliver on behalf of ourselves Thanet and Dover
- We pay other local organisations to deliver for us (Active Life in leisure centres, Charitable Trusts in Whitstable Castle, Horsebridge and the Marlowe Theatre)
- We pay a commercial operator to deliver for us (SERCO for rubbish collection and cleaning the streets)
- We grant aid an organisation (Citizens Advice Bureau)

What we're about:



Making Canterbury a great place to live and work

- The council is a multi-million pound business seeking to make a difference to people's lives together with key partners in the public and private sector
- We deliver services and projects which are the basics for people's quality of life and which the private sector wouldn't do
- We want to deliver services which our customers believe are great value for money
- Our district is the centre of East Kent and we work across that area with the other Councils

Major projects and priorities

- from the past



New Marlowe Theatre

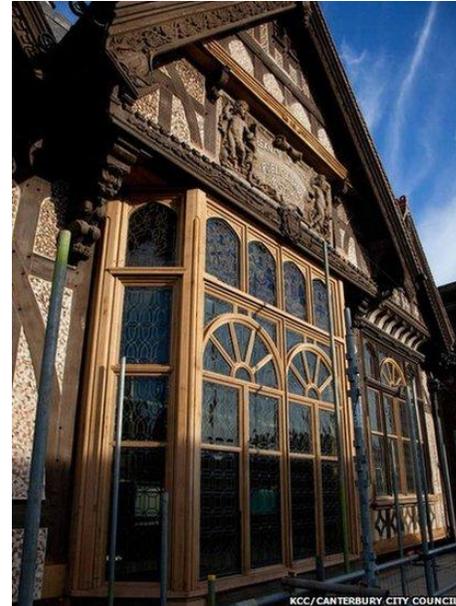
- New theatre with 1,200 seats in main auditorium
- Second auditorium for new talent, community and education use
- £25 million
- New 21st century building in an ancient city



Major projects and priorities - from the past

Beaney library and art gallery development

- New library and gallery
- Shared facilities with Kent County Council
- £14 million



Major projects and priorities

- for the future



- New car park at Station Road West
- Upgrading St George's Street Canterbury
- Sea Front at Herne Bay

Transport improvements

- Road system designed for the cart, not the car
- Traffic growth projected of two per cent per annum
- Car parks and Park and Ride reaching capacity over next five years
- Need to expand Park and Ride provision at New Dover Road and Wincheap
- Need to build on some car parks to avoid green field development around Canterbury



Local planning



- More housing is needed to meet a growing demand for new homes across the southeast of England
- We are seeking to meet this need in a sensitive way that minimises the environmental and social impact, but also takes some of the developer's profits to build infrastructure
- Likely number of additional housing need is 16,000 by 2031 - but this will increase
- Our job is to allocate enough land supply to enable developers to build that number
- We also need to allocate land for business growth.
- Jobs = houses = jobs

Waste Collection

Up for change in 2021



- Waste and recycling collection is one of our major roles
- Highly valued by our residents
- What do we collect?
- How do we do that?

Summary

You would be part of:

- A multi-million pound business
- Which is, however, a political organisation
 - that regards customers as its top priority, and
 - wants to run services and deliver changes which make
 - a difference to people's lives, and
 - is determined to be a top-performing council across the board

Elections

- Election timetable
- Qualifications
- Disqualifications
- Nominations
- Agents
- Postal votes
- Day of poll
- Counting of votes
- Candidates expenses
- Contacts and further information

Local Election Timetable



Last day for publication of Notice of Election	15 March or 26 March 2019
Nominations Commence	18 March or 27 March 2019
Close of nominations	4pm – 3 April 2019
Deadline for withdrawals of candidature	4pm – 3 April 2019
Deadline for notice of appointment of election agents	4pm – 3 April 2019
Statement of persons nominated	4pm – 4 April 2019
Deadline for applications to register to vote	Midnight – 12 April 2019
Deadline for new postal votes/changes to postal or proxy votes	5pm – 15 April 2019
Notice of poll	24 April 2019
Deadline for applications for new proxy votes	5pm – 24 April 2019

Election Timetable



Appointment of Counting and Polling Agents	25 April 2019
Polling Day	2 May 2019 – 7am to 10pm
Deadline to apply for new applications to vote by proxy on grounds of emergency	5pm – 2 May 2019
Replacement for lost/spoilt postal votes ends	5pm – 2 May 2019
Alterations to register to correct clerical error	9pm – 2 May 2019
Return of election expenses	+ 35 days from announcement of result

Qualifications

- Candidates must satisfy criteria on the day they are nominated and on polling day:
 - At least 18 years of age
 - British, qualifying Commonwealth (with indefinite leave to remain), Irish, member state of EU

Qualifications

- Also at least one of the following:
 - Registered local government elector for local authority area
 - Occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises in the local authority area during the whole 12 months preceding nomination
 - Main or only place of work (including unpaid) during last 12 months in local authority area
 - Lived in local authority area during the last 12 months

Disqualifications

- A person cannot be a candidate if:
 - employed by the local authority or hold paid office under the authority
 - subject of a Bankruptcy Restrictions Order (or interim order) in England or Wales
 - they have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (inc suspended sentence) without option of a fine, during the 5 years before election day
 - serving a disqualification due to being found guilty of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court
 - hold a politically restricted post

Nominations



- The Returning Officer (RO) will adjudicate the nomination on the basis of the information provided on the nomination paper. To see that it is 'correct on its face'
- The only reasons for rejection are:
 - particulars are not as required by law
 - paper is not subscribed as required
 - the description is not as required

Descriptions on ballot papers

- Independent candidates, 2 choices:
 - ‘**independent**’
 - **no description**
- Party-nominated candidates, 2 choices:
 - registered **name** of the political party
 - **description registered** by the political party

Agents

- Election Agent
 - must be officially appointed and accept the appointment by 4pm on 3 April 2019

- Polling Agent
 - the RO requires notice in writing of any people appointed as polling agents by 25 April 2019

- Counting Agent
 - the RO requires notice in writing of any persons nominated to attend the counting of the votes by 25 April 2019

Day of Poll



- Polling stations open from 7am to 10pm
- Electoral Services office open 7.30am to 9pm for queries or problems relating to the administration of the election
 - any queries relating to regulatory issues or queries about a candidate's campaign literature please contact the Electoral Commission (contact details shown later)
- Postal Votes – can be handed into polling stations within electoral area or delivered to the Electoral Services office at Military Road, Canterbury until 10pm on polling day

Counting of Votes



- Will take place at the Westgate Hall, Westgate Hall Road, Canterbury on Friday 3 May 2019 starting at 10am. Although the time may change
- Make sure appointments for Counting Agents are submitted to the RO prior to deadline

Candidates' expenses

- Responsibility of **election agent**
- Limit on expenses:
 - £740 + 6 pence per elector in each ward
 - Reduction for joint candidates e.g.
 - Two or more candidates reduction of spending limit 25%- a quarter,
 - Three or more candidates reduction in spending limit 33%- a third

Candidates' expenses returns

- Returns due 35 days after result of election
- Returns made public by **Returning Officer**
- Failure to submit an expenses return is a criminal offence

Contacts



- Lyn McDaid – **01227 862 006**
E-mail: **lynda.mcdaid@canterbury.gov.uk**
- Louise Simmons – **01227 862 574**
E-mail: **louise.simmons@canterbury.gov.uk**

- Further information:
- Electoral Commission
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Role of councillors in the future?



- Local leaders
- Problem solvers – helping find local solutions for residents and groups
- Influencers – to achieve desired outcomes (personal or political)
- Advocates – representing residents views to the council and council views to residents
- Building participation – getting involved with local communities

What kind of support can you expect?



- Democratic Services
 - Officers available to signpost you
 - Advice on process
- IT – keen to promote electronic communication to reduce paper
- Social media – becoming an increasingly common way of communicating with residents

What kind of support can you expect?

- Training – intense period of training after the election
- Mandatory – Code of Conduct, Data Protection, Planning, Licensing, Audit/Finance
- Introductory sessions for other committees
- Skills training – chairmanship, public speaking, handling the media
- Member briefings – knowledge sharing on key topics

Main areas of activity



- Attending Committee meetings
- Dealing with constituent queries

Any questions?