



NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL

RECRUITMENT POLICY

Approved: 20th April 2023

Version: 1

Date To Be Reviewed: April 2026



1. INTRODUCTION

This policy sets out our approach to the recruitment process. It includes information about line manager responsibilities, job descriptions and employee specifications, assessment criteria, interviews (both remote and onsite) and equality, diversity and inclusion.

All employment will be subject to Employment Law, and to conditions outlined in this policy.

This policy automatically applies to all appointments. It does not apply to an appointment for a Town Clerk for which is a special procedure that shall be agreed on and as and when basis.

2. LINE MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

Line managers are responsible for recruitment. A line manager who wishes to recruit someone must first obtain approval from the Town Clerk. Where recruitment is planned to fill a vacancy created by a leaver, approval will normally be granted at the approval of the Town Clerk.

If the line manager wishes to upgrade a role, or create a new role, they must provide the Town Clerk with justification, focusing on organisational needs, this in turn would then need approval from Full Council.

3. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

We always aim to recruit the person who is most suited to each particular job. We recruit solely on the basis of the applicant's abilities and individual merit as measured against the predetermined criteria for the job. Qualifications, experience and skills are assessed at the level that is relevant to the job.

4. JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND EMPLOYEE SPECIFICATIONS

The start of an appointment process for any new post shall be approved by Full Council; at which time any additional necessary budget not covered shall also be approved, at the judgement of the council.

The appointment process to fill existing establishment posts within the existing approved budget need not come to Full Council and can be approved by the Town Clerk, with the exception of Deputy Town Clerk and Facilities Manager.

Before initiating the recruitment process, the responsible line manager must ensure that there is an up-to-date job description for the role and a clear employee specification.

The job description will describe the duties, responsibilities, level of seniority associated with the role and pay and benefits, while the employee specification will describe the type of qualifications, training, knowledge, experience, skills, aptitudes, competencies and personal qualities required for effective performance of the job.



5. ADVERTISEMENT OF VACANCIES

It is our policy that all vacancies will be circulated internally and displayed on noticeboards throughout our premises. Managers should encourage existing employees to apply for vacant posts if they have the appropriate qualifications, experience and skills.

For jobs we intend to advertise externally, managers must send the proposed advertisement to the Town Clerk for approval. Line managers should consider and discuss with the Town Clerk whether and how it is appropriate to advertise the vacancy.

6. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We are committed to applying our equality and diversity policy at all stages of recruitment and selection. We always carry out shortlisting, interviewing and selection without regard to an applicant's sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital or civil partnership status, skin colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origins, religion or belief, age, pregnancy or maternity leave or trade union membership.

We will never exclude any candidate with a disability unless it is clear that the candidate is unable to perform a duty that is intrinsic to the role, having taken into account reasonable adjustments. Line managers must only ask a candidate question about their health where this is directly necessary for a particular role and, in any event, only once they have been shortlisted.

To prevent any candidate from being disadvantaged because of a disability, the individual responsible for communicating with applicants should ask each candidate whether they require reasonable adjustments to be made.

The Town Clerk is always available to provide guidance on reasonable adjustments.

7. INTERVIEWS

Line managers conducting recruitment interviews will ensure that the questions that they ask job applicants are not in any way discriminatory or unnecessarily intrusive. The interview will focus on the role and the skills needed to perform it effectively.

Line managers must make a record of every recruitment interview and forward this to the Town Clerk to be retained for a suitable period of time. To ensure fairness, the line manager should ensure that questions asked are consistent in all interviews for a particular job. On no account should any job offer be made during or at the end of an interview.

The line manager conducting the interview should be accompanied by another officer and training should be offered to those carrying out interviews.

In some cases, we may need to hold interviews remotely via telephone/online video call/online. Video interviews are carried out using Zoom/Skype for Business/Microsoft Teams/other video conferencing platform. The responsible line manager should in advance provide the interviewee with details of how the interview will be conducted. They should also give the interviewee the



opportunity to provide details of any reasonable adjustments that should be made or technological difficulties that they may encounter.

8. REFERENCES

We ask every successful candidate to give their consent for us to obtain two written references and to provide us with documentary proof of qualifications. Any offer of employment will be conditional on these requirements being satisfactory.

9. RIGHT TO WORK CHECKS

We only recruit individuals with a legal right to work in the UK. All offers of employment will be subject to the candidate providing the required original documents or the Council being able to carry out a check on the Home Office online right to work checking service confirming their right to do the work in question. To enable us to conduct an online check, the candidate must have shared their right to work details using the Home Office prove your right to work to an employer online service.

The requirement to provide evidence of the right to work in the UK applies to all new recruits, regardless of their race, nationality or ethnic or national origins.

10. DATA PROTECTION

We process all personal data collected during the recruitment process in accordance with our Data protection policy.

We do not collect unnecessary personal data from applicants during the recruitment process. For example, we will only request bank account details and next-of-kin contact details from successful applicants. Data collected as part of the recruitment process is held securely and accessed by, and disclosed to, individuals only for the purposes of managing the recruitment 10. effectively to decide to whom to offer the job. Staff should report immediately any inappropriate access or disclosure of job applicant data in accordance with the Council's data protection policy. It may also constitute a disciplinary offence, which will be dealt with under the Council's Disciplinary procedure.



VERSION CONTROL

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