Rules for the Selection of Local Government Candidates in England and Wales

Approved by the Party Board on 23 March 2026, for entry into force on 31 March 2026

Next review: January 2027

Conservatives

Note that this document incorporates material which was previously covered in multiple separate guidance notes.

Introduction

1. The aim of these rules is to ensure a firm but fair process that produces outstanding Conservative candidates who reflect and represent their local communities.

2. These rules are mandatory and have been approved by the Conservative Party Board under the Party Constitution[1], following consultation.

3. These rules must be used for the selection of candidates for all elections and by-elections within scope from 31 March 2026, subject to the transitional arrangements set out in Appendix 2.

4. These rules must be used to select candidates for election to Principal Local Authorities[2]. It is strongly recommended that these rules (adapted where necessary) are also followed by Associations to select candidates standing under the Party's name for election to Town and Parish Councils.

5. Not adhering to these rules may lead to appeals being upheld, the selections being re-run, and ultimately the refusal of the Party Nominating Officer to give authorisation to candidates.

6. To be successful, Candidates must demonstrate:

   6.1 Belief in, and commitment to, Conservative values and principles.

   6.2 Commitment to their community.

   6.3 Commitment to the Party, being a team player who works hard all year round, not just around election time.

   6.4 Fitness and propriety for the role of a Councillor.

   6.5 Appropriate breadth and depth of skills relevant to the role of being a Councillor.

7. The operation of these rules is ultimately overseen by the Local Government Sub-committee of the Committee on Candidates ("the Local Government Sub-committee" – see Rule 104). If an Area Chairman, Regional Chairman, Chairman of the Candidates Committee, Chairman of the National Convention or Party Chairman view it as necessary and reasonable, any ambiguities or situations not covered in these rules can be referred to the Sub-committee. A decision of the Sub-committee on any matter relating to local government selections is final.

Principles

[1] Schedule 6 clause 10 of the Party Constitution states:
"The Board may, through the Committee on Candidates, from time to time publish mandatory rules as to the procedure by which Constituency Associations and other bodies select Candidates for all or any public elections."
Future changes to the Constitution will not invalidate these rules provided that the essence of Schedule 6 clause 10 is unchanged.

[2] Principal Local Authority refers to District, Borough, Unitary, County, Metropolitan and London Borough Councils.

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8. These rules are based on the following principles:

8.1 The process should be as simple, fair, open and as streamlined as possible.

8.2 There is no automatic reapproval or reselection for sitting councillors, ensuring that the performance and conduct of sitting councillors are fully considered.

8.3 If a new council is being created, for example a new unitary, or if there have been major boundary changes (as decided by the relevant Area Management Executive(s) ("AME(s)")), then for the purposes of these rules there are deemed to be no sitting councillors.

8.4 Party members will be involved in the selection of the prospective candidate within their ward[3].

8.5 All votes in the selection process must be by secret ballot. Proxy or postal votes are not permitted in any of the stages.

8.6 Decisions arrived at via properly conducted virtual meetings carry the same weight as any decisions taken at a physical meeting[4].

9. Participants at all stages of the process (applicants[5], those on Committees and those voting) must be Qualifying Members[6].

10. Where an applicant is involved in disciplinary action (locally or nationally) at any point during the approval or selection process the chairman of the Approvals Committee or CCHQ staff may refer the matter to the Sub-committee, which may, in consultation with the CCHQ Member Governance team, suspend the application pending resolution of the complaint. Such suspension should only made in exceptional circumstances, where the disciplinary matter is of a nature where selecting the applicant prior to the disciplinary determination could bring the Party into disrepute.

11. At all stages of the process participants (including applicants, members of the Approvals Committee and Short-listing Panel, but not including ordinary members at Stage Three) must avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest. Prior to Approvals Committee and Short-listing Panel meetings the chairman must ask participants to declare any conflicts.

11.1 Where such a conflict arises, the person shall declare it and consider whether a reasonable member would view their participation in the meeting as compromising their fairness, in which case they should withdraw from the relevant part of the meeting, in sufficient time for a substitute member to be arranged, if

[3] Where "ward" is used in these rules, it applies equally to "division", or any other term describing the area for which a councillor is elected.
[4] Where a virtual meeting is being held, members will need to supply an email address to receive the invitation to vote. Where you do not hold an email address for a member, they should be notified of the meeting by other means and asked to provide an email address if they wish to participate in the selection meeting.
[5] In these rules the term "applicant" is used to refer to those in the process, up to the point of being selected for a specific ward, after which they are referred to as "candidate".
[6] As defined at the relevant point in time by the Constitution or Rules of the Party.

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necessary.

11.2 If they do not withdraw, the other members of the Committee or Panel may (if in their view the conflict fails the reasonableness test), by majority vote, exclude the conflicted person from the item in question.

11.3 Failure to declare and act on material conflicts of interest may lead to successful appeals.

12. There are two routes to selection:

12.1 For wards designated at outset by an Executive Council as less winnable, a Shortened Selection Procedure may be used (see separate section of this document for the full process and the circumstances in which it may be used).

12.2 Otherwise, the Full Process applies, which is formed of the three Stages set out in the sections below.

13. The use of the term "Association" in these rules shall be taken to include Federations, as appropriate[7].

Compliance matters

14. The use of membership data, by applicants for the purpose of canvassing support during the selection process, is not permitted.

15. Where any participant is in possession of membership data because they also hold an Association role, eg branch chairman, it must be made clear that this data cannot be used to canvass support during the selection process.

16. Anyone using Association data without authorisation is in breach of the Association's data protection policy and the Association may be required to report such a breach to the ICO. This would include the use of an out-of-date membership list.

17. Associations must comply with all other relevant data protection rules, and retain records resulting from this process (including application forms) for five years, apart from ballot papers, which must be kept for 3 months.

18. In all interviews and meetings those asking questions must only use legal methods to question applicants. This means that questions should not ask about an individual's religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, health or disability. Otherwise, questions directly relating to the applicant's ability to meet the demands of being a candidate and councillor are acceptable.

Stage One – the Local Approved Candidates List ("the List")

19. The purpose of Stage One is to consider general suitability to be a candidate, including evidence of campaigning, Conservative values, positive contributions to the local Association, and behavioural attributes.

[7] Groupings of Associations have no formal standing in candidate selection processes.

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20. Approval should be based solely on the applicant's ability to fulfil the criteria set out in Rule 6, and not be influenced by other factors, such as personal friendships, grievances or factors specific to local wards.

21. Each applicant must complete the relevant sections of the Party's mandatory application form (version dated 2026 or later)). Applicants must be given a copy of these rules with their application form.

22. It is the responsibility of the relevant AMEs to ensure that an approved list of potential candidates is established and maintained for each Principal Local Authority it covers. If an AME wishes to proceed with Stage One for a new Local Authority which has yet to be legally confirmed, it shall first gain approval to do so from the Sub-committee.

23. The AME must establish one or more Approvals Committees, to be responsible for the approval of applicants. The default will be to have one Approvals Committee covering the area of each Local Authority for which candidates are being selected, although the AME, in consultation with its Associations and with neighbouring AMEs (in the case of Local Authorities which straddle more than one AME) may establish an Approvals Committee covering the whole of its Area. In the event of uncertainty over the application of this Rule to a specific Area or Local Authority a determination may be sought from the Sub-committee.

24. By default any approvals given will apply for all Local Authorities within in the area covered by the Approvals Committee, but for individual applicants the Committee can restrict approval to one or more specific Local Authority. Such restriction would need to be proposed and then voted on by secret ballot, after the approval ballot itself, and a rationale given to the applicant.

25. Approval to stand expires at the next scheduled election for the Local Authority in question.

Membership of the Approvals Committee

26. Members of the Approvals Committee must be Qualifying Members within the Party Area(s) covered by any part of the Local Authority in question.

27. If the Local Authority in question straddles more than one Party Area, the Area Chairman/Officer must be from the Party Area which covers the most wards of the local authority in question

28. The membership of each Approvals Committee will comprise the following, all of whom may speak and vote at meetings:

Category (and maximum number attending each meeting)	Default member	Permitted Substitutes (ex-officio)	Situations where they must not attend
Area (1)	Area Chairman	Any other elected Area Officer	If they are a councillor on the Local Authority/ies in
Association/ Federation (1 per)	Association/ Federation	Respective Association/Federation	

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Category (and maximum number attending each meeting)	Default member	Permitted Substitutes (ex-officio)	Situations where they must not attend
	Chairman	Deputy Chairmen	question[8] If their own approval is on the agenda If they have a conflict of interest
Constituencies within a Federation (1 per)	Constituency Officer	As approved by the Executive Council	
Group (1)	Group Leader[9]	Deputy Group Leader or Group Whip	If their own approval is on the agenda If they have a conflict of interest
Additional Members (up to 3)	N/A	None	If they have a conflict of interest

29. In the event that the total membership of the Approvals Committee based on the above exceeds 15, prior approval of the Sub-committee must be sought.

30. The Area Chairman (or their designated substitute) shall be Chairman of the Approvals Committee, unless they are a councillor on the Local Authority in question, in which case the other members of the Approvals Committee shall elect the Chairman.

31. The Additional Members, who must not be seeking approval themselves to the Local Authority in question (unless via the Shortened Selection Process), are appointed by the AME at the outset of the process. Sufficient additional members must be appointed such that there are at least 7 members of the Approval Committee in total.

32. The majority of the Approvals Committee, overall and at every meeting, must comprise individuals who are not councillors. For this rule 'councillor' refers to a member of any Principal Local Authority[10], and this includes those appointed as Additional Members.

33. All members of the Approvals Committee must be invited to all meetings. A minimum of 50% of the members of the Approvals Committee must attend each meeting and there must always be a majority of non-councillors present.

34. Members wishing to apply for approval cannot sit on the Approvals Committee during any agenda item covering their own approval. In such circumstances they may be replaced for the item in question by a Permitted Substitute.

35. Approvals Committee meetings must be supported by an Independent Administrator ("IA" - appointed in consultation between the Regional Chairman and

[8] Where selections are taking place for a new Local Authority, this restriction applies to those who are a councillor on any predecessor Local Authority.

[9] Where selections are taking place for a new Local Authority the holder of the role for this purpose shall be decided between the Group Leaders of Conservative Groups on the predecessor Local Authorities. Likewise substitutes may be drawn from the Deputy Leaders and Group Whips on the predecessor Local Authorities.

[10] Principal Local Authority refers to District, Borough, Unitary, County, Metropolitan and London Borough Councils. For the purpose of this Rule this includes membership of any local authority outside of the area covered by the Approvals Committee.

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CCHQ Head of Field covering the area for which the selection is taking place) to convene the meeting, ensure that papers are circulated and oversee the ballot, in a non-voting capacity.

35.1 The IA may be a member of staff (CCHQ or locally employed) or an independent, senior, experienced volunteer.

35.2 The CCHQ Head of Field and Regional Chairman may determine instances where an IA is not required.

Meeting preparation

36. For each applicant the Approvals Committee must be provided with the following prior to their interview:

36.1 The applicant's application form.

36.2 For current councillors (or former councillors, if available), a reference from the relevant Group Leader (or their delegate) and attendance records from council meetings.

36.3 References from the applicant's nominated referees.

36.4 A reference from the relevant Association Chairman, covering the applicant's level of activity, covering canvassing, delivery of leaflets, fundraising and other relevant support to the furthering of Conservative values. This reference must be as dispassionate, factual and accurate as possible.

37. The IA should compile the above material into a standardised bundle for all selections (not including those conducted under the Shortened Selection Process).

Meeting procedure

38. All applicants must be given the opportunity to present for a maximum of 3 minutes to the Approvals Committee, with the Approvals Committee able to ask questions afterwards to assess the applicant's suitability to be a candidate. The amount of time provided for questions and answers must be fair and comparable between all applicants.

39. Any inaccuracies or ambiguity in the presentation or questioning must be addressed while the applicant is still present.

40. Any questions or doubts about the suitability of an applicant must only be discussed by the Approvals Committee in advance of the meeting or whilst the applicant is present, and be put to the applicant in the meeting to give them the opportunity to respond.

41. While the Chairman of the Approvals Committee oversees and runs the meeting, the IA is also responsible for ensuring that presentations and questioning are reasonable, fair, and focussed on issues relevant to being a candidate. They are able to intervene and ask the Chairman to disallow a question if they judge this not to be the

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case.

42. Prior to leaving the room, the applicant should be asked to verbally agree to the terms of, and (if the meeting is in person) sign a copy of, the Candidate Contract.

43. No discussions about the suitability of an applicant can take place between the Committee members after the applicant has left the room (or video conference following an interview before the ballot has taken place).

44. Each member of the Approvals Committee must make their own decision without influence from the other members. Factual questions that seek clarification can be asked of the IA. No discussion may follow the responses to such questions.

45. The final decision regarding an applicant's inclusion on the list may only be made by secret ballot of those members of the Approvals Committee present and voting. The ballot must take place immediately after any factual questions have been answered by the IA.

46. To be placed on the List an individual needs the support of the majority of those voting. A drawn vote will not be considered a pass and there is no casting vote.

47. The result should be announced to the Approvals Committee in the meeting and communicated to the applicant immediately afterwards, unless at the outset of the process the Approvals Committee has agreed that results will be communicated differently, for example to all applicants at the same time.

48. No-one should attempt to offer reasons or speculate as to why a candidate has been unsuccessful.

49. Applicants rejected at Stage One will not be allowed to reapply for the same Council within 12 months of their latest application, except as a result of a successful appeal or with the express approval of their Executive Council .

50. An AME, Executive Council or Group Leader may refer an approved or selected applicant back to the Approvals Panel for reassessment, if there is a material justification for doing so. In such cases the justification must be presented to the Approval Panel and the candidate given opportunity to respond. In all other respects the Panel shall proceed as set out above.

50.1 If the applicant is re-approved they shall resume their status as it was prior to the triggering of this Rule.

50.2 If the applicant had already been selected as a candidate for a ward but is not reapproved, that ward shall return to Stage Two.

Stage Two – Short-listing

51. The purpose of Stage Two is to enable applicants on the List to apply for selection in individual seats and, in limited circumstances, to enable short listing of the applicants applying for each ward, prior to being presented to members for selection.

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52. At an appropriate time the Executive Council shall advertise vacancies in wards to all individuals on the List.

52.1 The vacancies will be listed with an indication of which councillor(s) wish to be reselected for their existing seats (only if such councillor(s) have already been approved onto the List).

52.2 Only those on the List may apply for vacancies.

53. If the number of applicants for a ward is up to or including two more than the number of vacant seats for the ward[11] all applicants for the ward in question proceed to Stage Three.

54. Otherwise, a Short-listing Panel shall be formed, consisting of the Association Chairman (who shall chair the panel), Association Deputy Chairman Political, Group Leader for the Local Authority in question and Area Chairman (who may delegate this responsibility to one of their Area Deputy Chairmen). In the event of any tied vote, the Association Chairman shall have a casting vote.

54.1 The Short-listing Panel (with the IA present) may reduce the number of applicants for each such ward, to a minimum number equal to that described in Rule 53.

54.2 In doing so they may not remove any sitting councillor(s).

Stage Three – Final Selection

55. The purpose of Stage Three is to give members the opportunity to select the candidate(s) in their own ward(s). The Stage Three selections for a ward must take place expeditiously following the completion of Stage Two.

56. The Stage Three process for each ward is determined as follows:

56.1 Where the Executive Council has agreed (in advance of Stage Two) to use the Shortened Selection Process, the process shall be as set out in the Shortened Selection Process section below.

56.2 For wards in which there are 80 or more Qualifying Members on the electoral roll, a meeting must be held to which all such Qualifying Members must be invited (the "Member Meeting").

56.3 For all other wards:

- A Member Meeting may be held, if the Executive Council so decides.
- Otherwise a joint meeting of the Executive Council and Qualifying Members in the ward will be held (the "Joint Meeting").

56.4 Alternatively to 56.2 and 56.3 above, the Executive Council may decide to

[11] In other words a Shortlisting Panel is only needed if there are 4 or more applicants for a ward with 1 vacancy; 5 or more members for a ward with 2 vacancies; or 6 or more applicants for a ward with 3 vacancies.

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use a hustings and online ballot (the "Online Ballot method") for any ward.

57. If Stage Two results in the same number of, or fewer, applicants for a ward as there are vacancies, regardless of the number of members in the ward, the Joint Meeting method must be followed, with a vote to accept or reject each applicant. If any vacancies remain for the ward in question after the Joint Meeting, Stages Two and Three must be repeated.

58. Where a ward crosses Association boundaries, instances in the following rules of "Executive Council" shall be interpreted as relating to a "Joint Executive Council", the composition of which shall be determined by the AME on the basis of each Associations' share of the electorate.

59. In exceptional circumstances, the Local Government Sub-committee may mandate one of the methods to be used for a specific ward.

Member Meeting method

60. All Qualifying Members (under the Rules of the Conservative Party) on the electoral roll for the ward in question must be invited to the meeting, and only they may ask questions and/or vote at the meeting.

60.1 Where the number of Qualifying Members voting at the meeting is 20 or more the outcome shall be final (with the Executive Council unable to overturn the outcome).

60.2 Where the number of Qualifying Members voting at the meeting is fewer than 20 the vote shall be considered a recommendation and the final decision undertaken via the Joint Meeting process. The Executive Council has the right to re-run the process if there are extenuating circumstances, if this is supported by the AME.

61. Officers of the Association and the Group Leader (or their delegate) are able to attend and speak at the meeting. The meeting must be chaired by an Association Officer and supported by the IA, who is able to intervene if these procedures are not being followed.

Joint Meeting method

62. This shall be a meeting of the Executive Council to which all Qualifying Members on the electoral roll for the ward in question must be invited (for the item in question). The quorum for an Executive Council shall apply.

63. Only the following may vote in the selection ballot(s); all votes count equally:

63.1 Members who are full voting members of a properly constituted Executive Council, as per the Association rules.

63.2 Qualifying Members on the electoral roll for the ward in question as at the date of the meeting.

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64. If the Joint Meeting has resulted from an inquorate Member Meeting, the recommendation and voting numbers from the Member Meeting must be announced to the Joint Meeting at the beginning of the item. The Executive Council should vote on whether to accept this recommendation.

64.1 For multi-member wards the successful applicants from the Member Meeting must be voted on individually (ie each ballot is to accept/reject).

64.2 If any recommended applicant is rejected, or if the selection has come direct to the Joint Meeting (ie not as a result of an inquorate Member Meeting), the applicants must be invited to address the meeting and answer questions individually as set out below.

65. The Chairman of the meeting shall ensure that any Qualifying Members from the ward in question are given reasonable opportunity to raise any concerns before the applicants address the meeting, and ask questions of the applicant(s).

Rules applying to both the Member Meeting and Joint Meeting methods

66. These meetings can take place in person or online, at the discretion of the Executive Council[12].

67. Those invited to attend shall have not less than 7 days' notice of the meeting.

68. Anyone arriving to a physical meeting after the first applicant has commenced speaking or departing before the final applicant has finished speaking may listen and ask questions but may not vote.

69. In a virtual meeting, late arrivals will not be admitted to the meeting and early departers will not be readmitted[13].

70. At the meeting the applicants for the ward should be invited to address the meeting for a maximum of 5 minutes and answer questions individually for a maximum of 25 minutes[14].

71. Applicants have the same voting rights at the meeting as any other Qualifying Member in the ward, but are not allowed in the room to hear other applicants.

Online Ballot method

72. This method may only be used with the agreement of the relevant CCHQ Head of Field, based on using the First Choice voting system (or any other system determined from time to time by the Party Board). The Association will cover the cost.

[12] Where a virtual meeting is being held, members will need to supply an email address to receive the invitation to vote. Where VoteSource does not hold an email address for a member, they should be notified of the meeting by other means and asked to provide an email address if they wish to participate in the selection meeting. Where a virtual meeting is held, applicants should note that members being unable to join the meeting or to see/hear applicants for the duration of their presentation and questions, does not constitute grounds to appeal a validly taken decision. Similarly, the Association is not responsible for any problems in connectivity experience by the applicant during the course of the meeting.

[13] This does not apply to those who may have briefly lost connection to a virtual meeting they had joined prior to its commencement. In those circumstances, members will be re-admitted if they re-join prior to the poll being concluded.

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73. Qualifying Members on the electoral roll for any ward for which this method is used must, at the choice of the Executive Council, either be:

73.1 Invited, at least 7 days in advance, to a hustings of the applicants to take place either in person or online, prior to the opening of the ballot; or

73.2 Sent a 2 sided A4 "In Touch" style leaflet/manifesto (in PDF format) on behalf of each applicant, at least 48 hours prior to the opening of the ballot.

74. Such members must also be notified by email at least 48 hours in advance of the opening of the ballot, and be sent a reminder approximately 24 hours prior to the ballot closing.

75. The form of the ballot shall follow that which would apply for an equivalent Member Meeting, as outlined above.

76. The online ballot (each round thereof for multiple rounds of ballots) must be open for voting for at least 48 hours.

77. If turnout in the Online Ballot is lower than 20% of Qualifying Members on the electoral roll in the ward concerned, the result will be reported to a Joint Meeting, which shall take the final decision (in the same way as for an inquorate Member Meeting).

Voting processes

78. These processes apply to Member Meetings, Joint Meetings and (as far as possible within the constraints of the system used) to Online Ballots.

79. Where there is a single vacancy:

79.1 Each member has a single vote in each round.

79.2 It is necessary for the successful applicant to achieve over 50% of the votes cast, excluding abstentions.

79.3 If this is not achieved in the first round, the applicant with the fewest votes is eliminated and the meeting proceeds to a further ballot. This process continues until an overall majority for one applicant is achieved.

80. Where there is more than one vacancy:

80.1 Each member has as many votes as there are vacancies, in each round. They must use all of these votes in each round; any ballot with fewer votes than vacancies will not be counted.

80.2 The applicant with the fewest votes is eliminated in each round.

80.3 The ballot stops when the number of applicants remaining equals the number of vacancies.

81. In the event that two applicants are tied in last place in any round, a run-off ballot between those two applicants should be held with members casting one vote each. The applicant receiving fewest votes is eliminated and the other continues as part of the

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elimination ballot with all other remaining applicants.

82. Where there is a tied vote in the final round which is not broken by a further ballot of members, this should be resolved by a coin toss/drawing of lots, overseen by an Association Officer. Where this occurs at the Member Meeting with fewer than 20 voting members the fact that a tied vote was resolved in this manner should be noted in the recommendation to the resulting Joint Meeting.

83. At the end of each ballot it should be announced who is eliminated.

84. The number of votes received for each applicant must not be announced to the meeting.

85. Following every stage of a count, the applicants must be informed of the result and, where a physical ballot has taken place, be given the opportunity to see the ballots (which must be kept for at least 3 months) and ask for a recount, before any announcement is made to the meeting.

86. Where the vote is conducted online, there is no mechanism for a recount as the number of votes cast for each applicant is indisputable. Applicants have the right to ask for proof (normally a screenshot of the ballot outcome) of the online votes, which should be kept for 3 months.

Shortened Selection Procedure

Circumstance for use

87. This Shortened Procedure may be used in the following circumstances:

87.1 To select candidates for less winnable wards, within the 6 months prior to polling day. The Executive Council must approve the wards to be selected in this way, by simple majority and based on a recommendation of wards made jointly by the Association Deputy Chairman Political, Area Deputy Chairman Political and relevant member of the CCHQ Field Staff[15]. The proposal must be based on objective data relating to winnability (eg demographics, historic performance, recent voting intention data).

87.2 To select candidates for any ward where there is no candidate in place within 21 days of the close of nominations (whether for a regular election or a by-election).

Process

88. The relevant ward(s) must be advertised, by email, to those already on the List and to all other members of the Association.

89. Applicants for the ward(s) must complete the relevant sections of the application form (if they have not already completed a form).

90. The Short-listing Panel must then review these forms (replacing Stage One) and

[15] Where a ward is split between two Associations a suitable joint decision making process shall be adopted, under the direction of the Area Chairman.

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confirm the appointment of candidate(s) for each ward (replacing Stages Two and Three).

91. If there are more applicants for any seat than vacancies, then applicants must be interviewed by the Short-Listing Panel.

92. If the Short-listing Panel wishes to reject an applicant's application, they must also be interviewed by the Approvals Committee.

93. Applicants offered a seat by the Short-listing Panel under this streamlined process must accept their selection as a candidate in writing (by email).

94. The Executive Council must receive a report on and ratify the selections made, at the earliest opportunity.

Emergency Situations

95. In emergency situations (whether for a regular election or a by-election) the following shall apply, dependent on the remaining time until close of nominations:

95.1 Where there is no candidate in place within 21 days of the close of nominations the Shortened Process (outlined above) applies.

95.2 Where there is no candidate in place within 7 days of the close of nominations, the Association Chairman, Deputy Chairmen, Treasurer and Group Leader may, by majority decision, select a candidate. Reasonable efforts must be made to advertise the vacancy and to consult with ward members prior to a selection being made.

95.3 Where there is no candidate in place within 2 days of the close of nominations, the Association Chairman may select a candidate. Reasonable efforts must be made to advertise the vacancy and to consult with those referred to in Rule 95.2 prior to a selection being made.

96. The Executive Council must receive a report on and ratify the selections made at the earliest opportunity.

Appeals

97. The only appeal possible is on the grounds that the process was not carried out in accordance with these rules. Applicants may not appeal against a properly taken vote that they have lost.

98. Any appeal must be made to the Regional Chairman within 7 days of a decision being notified to the applicant. The Regional Team (Chairman plus two Deputy Chairmen) must meet and determine the appeal within 14 days of the receipt of the appeal.

99. Any appeal must be submitted using the standard appeal template form, included at Appendix 1, via the LGAdmin@conservatives.com mailbox.

100. No connected party to the individual appealing or any individual directly involved in

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the part of the selection process which is subject to the appeal can be involved in the appeals process. In such cases the Sub-committee or the Regional Team itself may pass an appeal to a different Regional Team or an AME (unconnected with the Local Authority concerned) to determine, or substitute individual members of the Regional Team with members of another Regional Team or AME.

101. The Regional Team may ask for additional evidence from any of the parties concerned, who must cooperate expeditiously. The 14 day time limit will be paused whilst further information is awaited. In the event of undue delay the appeal may be completed prior to receiving such information.

102. Appeals may only be upheld by a majority vote of the Regional Team concerned; there is no casting vote and a tied vote leads to dismissal of the appeal.

103. In the event of an appeal being upheld the Regional Chairman must write to the appellant and either the Approvals Committee Chairman (if the appeal related to Stage One) or the Association Chairman (otherwise) notifying them of the decision and requiring them to re-run the selection process in respect of the appellant from the point at which it went wrong, correcting any errors identified in the process. If the appellant is a sitting councillor, their Group Leader should confidentially be notified of the outcome in advance.

Local Government Sub-committee

104. The membership of the Local Government Sub-committee will be as follows:

- Chairman of the CCA (who shall chair the Sub-committee and have a casting vote).
- Appointee of the Chairman of the Committee on Candidates.
- Appointee of the Chairman of the National Convention.
- Party Nominating Officer.

105. The Sub-committee will publish a report annually summarising the nature of appeals and other issues encountered in the working of these rules, and proposing any changes to be made as a result.

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Appendix 1: Appeal Submission Form

This form must be submitted to LGAdmin@conservatives.com.

Name:	
Association/Federation:	
Date of Appeal:	

Appeals against non-approval may only be made on the grounds that the procedure was not carried out in accordance with the rules. Please indicate below which procedure(s) were not followed, giving reference numbers (based on the rules set out in the main part of this document):

In what way did the Association/Federation and/or Approvals Committee fail to adhere to these rule(s)?

Do you wish to provide any further comment in support of your appeal? Please ensure that this is relevant to the breach in procedure.

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Appendix 2: Transitional arrangements

106. For selections of candidates for elections and by-elections scheduled to take place up to and including 7 May 2026, the previous version of the rules (dated 2022) still apply.

107. For selections of candidates for elections and by-elections scheduled to take place after 7 May 2026:

107.1 Where any part of the process has already begun as at the date these rules enter into force, the outcomes of those processes shall stand (for Stages One, Two and Three).

107.2 Between the date on which these rules enter into force and 7 May 2026 the Association in question may choose to continue such selections using the rules dated 2022 or use these rules.

107.3 From 7 May 2026 these rules must be used in all cases.

107.4 Where the area covered by an Approvals Committee under these rules differs from that currently used, any applicants on local Approved Lists at the point at which the new rules are applied will automatically be members of the Approved List under these rules.

108. These rules must be used for the selection of candidates for elections and by-elections scheduled to take place after 6 May 2026.

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