

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party 2017 Local Government Selection Rules

Application to join list of approved candidates

1. A Regional Selection Panel (RSP) will be created for each of the three regions; East of Scotland, North of Scotland and West of Scotland. The RSP will be comprised of: the Regional Convener and all Association Chairmen in the region.
2. The Regional Convener will be responsible for the selection process in their Region.
3. A time frame for the selection process will be agreed by the RSP and the relevant Association.
4. All applicants, including existing councillors, will be required to complete and return the standard application form in advance of their interview.
5. All applicants, including existing councillors, must be approved by a RSP in order to apply for candidacy of a ward.
6. For existing councillors, a report will be sought in advance of the interview by the RSP from the relevant Association Chairman and Group Leader which will include comments on the performance of the councillor and their involvement in supporting parliamentary campaigns, using the standard form provided.
7. A report will be sought on all applicants in advance of the interview by the RSP from the relevant Association Chairman on their contribution to the Party and parliamentary campaigns, using the standard form provided.
8. Each applicant, including existing councillors, will be interviewed by 4 (four) members of the RSP, one of whom will live in the same Local Authority area.
9. Where a member of the RSP is an applicant, a deputy may be sought from the relevant Local Authority area.

Ward selection

10. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party will contest every ward in Scotland and it is incumbent upon Associations and the Regional Councils to identify potential candidates.
11. The RSP and the relevant Association will agree with SCCO the number of candidates in each STV ward.

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12. The Selection Meeting, organised by the relevant Association, will be open to all qualifying members who reside in the ward, plus all members of the RSP who have full voting rights. Those present will elect a Chairman from amongst their number at the meeting. Each candidate will be asked to speak for up to five minutes and answer questions for up to fifteen minutes.
13. A qualifying member is a member whose subscription is paid for the current year and who has been a member of the Party for at least three months preceding the date of the Selection Meeting and who resides in the ward.
14. Where there is to be one Scottish Conservative candidate, those present at the Selection Meeting will be entitled to vote for their preferred candidate on the ballot paper. Where there is to be two they will be entitled to vote for their preferred two candidates. Where there is to be three they will be entitled to vote for their preferred three candidates. In each case a voter will make their preferences known by the use of a cross/ crosses (X).
15. To be selected a candidate must receive the support of 50% plus one of those entitled to vote at the Selection Meeting. If no-one receives this quota, the applicant with the lowest number of votes will be excluded from the succeeding ballot until such time as one applicant has received 50% plus one.
16. On the occasion of a tie the Chairman of the meeting shall have the casting vote.
17. All sitting councillors must be fully paid up members of the SCCA to be nominated as a Scottish Conservative and Unionist candidate.
18. To be nominated as a Scottish Conservative and Unionist candidate, the candidate will be required to sign a detailed undertaking incorporating the following elements agreeing, if elected, to the following; compulsory membership of the SCCA; a minimum commitment of regular deliveries in the ward; a minimum number of voter contacts per year; a minimum financial contribution to the Party per year; a minimum commitment to support the relevant parliamentary candidates; an expectation of attendance at Scottish Conservative conference.