



# **LAMBETH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

# **2026 COUNCIL CANDIDATES**

# **APPLICATION PACK**

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# Sarah Lewis

Chair, Lambeth Liberal Democrats

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W: [www.lambethlibdems.org.uk](http://www.lambethlibdems.org.uk)

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Dear friend

## **Have you ever thought of becoming a Lib Dem councillor?**

The next elections to Lambeth Council will take place in May 2026. At the last local elections (2022) we successfully elected three Liberal Democrats onto the Council, who formed and now serve as the Official Opposition Group on Lambeth Council.

With Labour in power in Westminster, City Hall and Lambeth Council - and following a fantastic General Election for the Liberal Democrats, which elected 72 MPs including three new Lib Dem MPs in South London - we have the opportunity to elect many more Liberal Democrats to Lambeth Council.

Our Lib Dem councillors speak up for local people and challenge the Labour administration, who currently control 58 out of the 63 councillors.

## **Target seat selections**

At this time, we are selecting candidates for 11 wards in the Borough of Lambeth:

- Clapham Common & Abbeville
- Clapham East
- Clapham Park
- Clapham Town
- Oval
- Stockwell East
- Streatham Common & Vale
- Streatham Hill West & Thornton
- Streatham Wells
- Vauxhall
- Waterloo & South Bank

Please note that target seats can be selected for - or removed from this list - at any time between January 2025 and May 2026, at the discretion of the Lambeth Liberal Democrats Executive Committee.

If you are interested in becoming a Lib Dem candidate for the 2026 elections, **you need to act now**. There are two stages that you will have to go through:

## 1. Approval

The approval process determines whether someone is suitable to be a Lib Dem candidate in Lambeth. No one is at this stage picked to stand in a particular part of the Borough (or 'ward' as they are formally known). The approval process consists of filling in the application form and consent to background checks; as well as a half hour interview with a panel.

Anyone wanting to be a candidate in a target ward for 2026 **must** undertake the approval process: this includes sitting Liberal Democrat Councillors. **We will accept applications and hold rolling approval panels from now until 24th November 2024.**

Note that any candidates who are approved are also eligible to be candidates in any local council by-elections prior to May 2026. This approval process does not constitute approval for council elections outside Lambeth, nor approval to submit nominations for parliamentary selections.

## 2. Selection

Anyone who has been 'approved' to be a Lib Dem candidate for Lambeth local elections by the borough party may put themselves forward to be a candidate in a specific ward. A member may only apply to one ward.

Prospective candidates will be expected to provide a short (150 - 200 words) statement/pitch, which will be made available online; and to participate in an online meeting (this will be an opportunity for ward members to meet the candidates before making their selection). These meetings will take place in December 2024 and January 2025.

Following the conclusion of the ward meeting, voting will be open to all members of the ward by way of an e-ballot. Members will have 14 days to cast their vote using the single transferable vote system and they will have the option to re-open nominations (RON).

The results of candidate selections will be announced following the close of polls.

## **Filling our slate**

In the event that, following the completion of ward selection meetings in February 2026, we do not have a full slate of candidates for our target seats, we will invite approved candidates who have not been selected to stand to express interest in one or more wards in which a candidate slate is not yet full. The Executive Committee will match candidates to seats on this basis, after which candidates will be informed of the ward in which they are invited to stand. The Executive Committee may not overturn any decisions made by members in ward selections. Candidates may decline to take up their candidacy and, in the event of any open seats remaining, the Executive Committee will determine a process by which to fill them.

**Thank you for your interest in representing the Liberal Democrats in our community.**

**Sarah Lewis**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Application for inclusion to the list of Approved Candidates for elections to Lambeth Council in 2026.**

Please return to Sarah Lewis on [sarah.lewis43@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.lewis43@gmail.com) by 24th November 2024.

Please feel free to attach additional sheets to provide full and comprehensive information on any of the points raised. If handwriting responses, please write as clearly as possible.

1	Full Name	
2	Address	
3	Date of Birth	
4	Telephone numbers	
5	E-mail address	
6	Web address / Twitter handle	
7	Party Membership No. & renewal date	
8	Name of Local Party	
9	How long have you been a member of the Liberal Democrats?	
10	Have you ever been a member of another political party? If so, please give details	
11	Would you prefer any particular ward or area?	
12	What would you hope to achieve on the Council?	
13	Offices held (if any) within the Liberal Democrats, at all levels	
14	Previous elections in which you have been a candidate	

15	Please state your campaigning experience in the Liberal Democrats	
16	Other non-political campaigning experience	
17	Which policies of the Liberal Democrats do you find most attractive? Please state why	
18	Name at least one Liberal Democrat policy you disagree with, and state why	
19	Other national and local bodies of which you are a member (e.g. Trade Union, Community Group, School Governor, Local Residents, Mosque, Freemasons, National Trust etc.).	
20	Other elected or appointed public offices held.	
21	Other interests outside politics.	
22	Are there any subjects in which you have particular knowledge and/or expertise?	
23	Present job & place of employment or any caring responsibilities etc.	

24	Would your job or your personal circumstances make it difficult for you to campaign between now and the election? If so, please state why	
26	Would your job or your personal circumstances make it difficult for you to fulfil your duties as a councillor? If so, please state why	
27	How much time can you commit to working in a ward if you are selected?	
28	Time available for your council duties if elected?	
29	Do you require any additional support or help to perform your duties during the campaign and as a councillor?	
30	Are you willing to undertake training to improve your IT skills (to be able to run an effective campaign, communicate with your colleagues and be an effective councillor)?	
31	Are you willing to undertake training to improve your campaign skills?	
32	Are you willing to undertake training to improve your skills if elected as a councillor?	
33	Are you prepared to support other Liberal Democrats in all public elections?	
34	<b>Qualification to stand</b> Part I Please confirm that you qualified to stand in	<i>Please indicate all that apply:</i>  British citizen  Commonwealth citizen

	respect of your citizenship	<p>Citizen of the Republic of Ireland</p> <p>Citizen of any other European Union member state</p>
35	<p><b>Qualification to stand Part II</b></p> <p>Please confirm that you are qualified to stand in respect of your links with the Borough of Lambeth</p>	<p><i>Please indicate all that apply:</i></p> <p>Registered as a local government elector in Lambeth</p> <p>Owner or tenant of land within Lambeth (for the whole preceding 12 months)</p> <p>Principal or only place of work within Lambeth (for the whole preceding 12 months)</p> <p>Resident within the borough</p>
36	<p><b>Qualification to stand Part III</b></p> <p>Please confirm you are not barred from standing due to any of these reasons:</p>	<p>Bankruptcy <i>Anyone who has been adjudged bankrupt or who has made an arrangement with their creditors is disqualified from standing until they are discharged.</i></p> <p>Imprisonment <i>Anyone convicted of a crime within the last five years who has a sentence passed of more than three months is disqualified.</i></p> <p>Employees of local councils <i>Employees cannot stand for election to the council that employs them; nor can employees of other councils who work in a 'Politically Restricted Post'.</i></p> <p>Surcharge <i>People who have been surcharged by a District Auditor to an amount of more than £500 within 5 years of polling day are disqualified.</i></p> <p>Corrupt and illegal practices <i>People who have been guilty of corrupt or illegal practices under the Representation of the People Act are disqualified from being a candidate.</i></p> <p><b>I confirm I am not barred from standing due to any of these reasons Y/N</b></p>
37	Have you EVER had any criminal convictions, including spent ones? If	



	so please give full details.	
38	Are there any matters, which might cause political embarrassment if they became known?	
39	Are there any questions you wish to ask the panel?	
40	Names and contact details of two Liberal Democrat members who are willing to give you a reference if required	<b>Referee 1</b>
		<b>Referee 2</b>

I declare that all the information on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please note: the Candidate Approval Panel reserves the right to withdraw approval if your circumstances (as described above) change, or are subsequently found not to be as described above.***

## Consent to Background Checks

In addition to the Declaration included in the Liberal Democrat Candidates Approval Form,

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name),

of \_\_\_\_\_ (address)

consent to the London Borough of Lambeth checking relevant information held by it to see whether I am involved in a legal dispute with the Council or if I owe it any money (for example Council Tax, Business Rates, Lambeth Council Rent, Housing Benefit overpayments, Lambeth leaseholder charges or parking fines) and details of any such information uncovered being passed on to the Chair of Lambeth Liberal Democrats. I also consent to the council carrying out a background Disclosure and Barring Service check.

My consent is given:

- On the understanding the information will only be used for the purposes of confirming my suitability to stand as a Liberal Democrat candidate in the local elections in Lambeth in May 2026 or a local council by-election before that date.
- On the understanding that I have the right to see any of the data relating to me which has been used in the process.
- On the understanding that use of the data which is made available for any other purpose is a contravention of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form along with your completed application form.*

# Being a Councillor – Job Description

There are a number of different strands to being a local councillor. These are outlined below.

## **Representing Your Ward**

You are first and foremost elected to represent the residents in your ward and to lobby decision makers both within the council and external to the council on behalf of local residents. This can include making representations to the Planning Committee about a planning application in your area.

## **Decision Making**

You must attend any and all relevant meetings. All councillors must attend the monthly meetings of the Full Council. Councillors are also appointed to other panels, groups and committees; the meetings for which you are expected to attend and actively engage in. This could include internal scrutiny panels as well as ‘outside bodies’ such as community associations. You might also take on being a Party Spokesperson for a particular area of the council’s work such as Traffic and Transportation.

## **Scrutiny**

Scrutiny is an important part of how the council works. It gives councillors the opportunity to look at council policies and assess how they can be improved. Scrutiny is an important process for opposition and back bench councillors to hold the council’s administration to account for their decisions.

## **Quasi-judicial Committees**

As a London Borough, Lambeth Council is also the Local Planning Authority and the Local Licensing Authority. This means that councillors might sit on one of these panels which make non-political decisions about planning and licensing applications respectively.

## **Representing the Party and its Values**

As Liberal Democrats, it is also the job of Lib Dem councillors to speak to the values and policies of the party when at all possible. This includes taking decisions based on fairness, equality and community.

## **Community Leadership and Engagement**

Localism and community empowerment have always been core values of the Liberal Democrats. Lib Dem councillors are expected to get ‘stuck-in’ in their local area and show grassroots level leadership. This includes engagement in local community associations, residents groups and Neighbourhood Forums.

## Being a Councillor – Person Specification

To run for the elected office of ‘Councillor’, you must be at least 18 years old on the day of your nomination, be a British, Commonwealth or EU citizen and meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. You are registered to vote in Lambeth.
2. You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in Lambeth during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
3. Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election is in Lambeth.
4. You have lived in Lambeth during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

While you don’t need any special qualifications to be a councillor, having or being able to develop the following skills, knowledge and attributes will help you in the role.

### **Communication skills**

These include listening and interpersonal skills, public speaking skills, the ability to consider alternative points of view and to negotiate, mediate and resolve conflict.

### **Problem solving and analytical skills**

This includes being able to get to the bottom of an issue and to think of different ways to resolve it, including considering the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

### **Team working**

This includes being able to work with others in meetings and on committees. It also includes being able to complete any tasks that you agree to do on time.

### **Organisational skills**

Being able to plan and manage your time, keep appointments and meet deadlines.

### **Ability to engage with your local community**

You may have to make yourself available through meetings, the media, the internet, public forums, debates and on the telephone.