**Become a Town Councillor for Penrith!**

A vacancy for co-option of a new councillor to Penrith Town Council is now open!

Following the Town Council elections in May, we have one unfilled seat in Penrith East Ward which we can fill by co-option.

Ordinary co-option following a non-contested election is a process whereby a qualifying person can be appointed by the Council during the course of a Council meeting to fill a vacant seat after election.

**Here are 5 reasons why you should consider becoming a councillor:**

1. You can make a difference to your local community and be involved in shaping its future.
2. You can represent the views of local people and make sure they count!
3. You can improve the quality of life and the environment of Penrith.
4. You can work to identify issues which are important to the lives of Penrith residents.
5. You can work to bring about improvements through local projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other organisations and authorities.

You can apply to become a Councillor if:

* you are 18 or over,
* you are a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the EU
* you are and will continue to be on the electoral role for Penrith
* you have lived in or within 3 miles of the parish for at least 12 months
* you have occupied land or other premises in the parish area for at least 12 months
* your main or only place of work for at least 12 months is in Penrith

You cannot stand if you are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction or order, you have been in prison (or have a suspended sentence) of 3 months or more, have been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act or you are the subject to the notification requirement of or under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. More details can be found on the [Electoral Commission Website.](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdf_file/Part-1-Can-you-stand-for-election-P-and-C.pdf)

For more information about the role, please visit the [Penrith Town Council website](https://www.penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk/your-council/councillor-vacancies/) or call us on 01768 899 773 for more details.

Application forms are available on the [Penrith Town Council website](https://www.penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/230515-Co-option-Policy.docx) or email the office and we will send you the application form.

**Notes to Editor**

Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Monday 3 July 2023. Applications will then be considered at Full Council on Monday 17 July 2023.

[Penrith Town Council Co-option Poster](https://www.penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/240523-cO-OPTION-POSTER.pdf)