

**Human Resources
Test Valley Borough Council**

POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS

Information for Candidates

I would like to advise you that this post falls within the 'politically restricted' category under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. This means that, if appointed, you are not allowed to become an MP, a Euro MP or a district or county councillor (parish councillor is allowable), or to carry out certain other 'political' activities specified by the Government.

The Government has issued detailed Regulations listing these other activities.

In summary the restrictions say that, if appointed, you must not:

1. Announce that you are a candidate for Parliamentary, county or district council seat (unless you have previously resigned your post).
2. Act as an election agent for a Parliamentary, county or district council candidate.
3. Be an officer or committee member of a political party (at national or branch level), if this would involve participating in party general management or dealing with outsiders on behalf of the party. This means that it would be all right to be a social or membership secretary, provided this did not involve participating in party management.
4. Canvass on behalf of either a political party or a Parliamentary, county or district council candidate.
5. Speak in public, or publish any written or artistic material, if the intention appears to be to affect public support for a political party. You will see that display of posters in the window of your house and/or stickers in your car are exempt, you are also exempt if you are carrying out these activities as part of your job, e.g. explaining the Council's position on a policy or issue at a public meeting which you are attending in your official capacity. The ban under this Regulation extends to giving a private interview (e.g. to a journalist) if you know that what you say is likely to be published or broadcast.

If you are unfamiliar with the Act, or have any queries about the restrictions, please do not hesitate to contact either Georgina Pratt on (01264) 368252 or Human Resources on (01264) 368255.