

Assessment criterion 1: Track record to demonstrate the candidate's understanding of governance and relevant legislation.

Rationale: To be a good councillor it is necessary to understand the statutory framework that the council operates in, to have knowledge of the key plans and policies which are administered by the council, and to be aware of where the councillor's role stops and the council staff role begins.

Grade descriptors:

Low: the individual shows limited understanding of the relevant statutes, plans and policies and has been shown in committee or council meetings or in public discussions to lack understanding of how to progress issues using the council processes.

Medium: the individual has a moderate to good record of demonstrating a working knowledge of the key plans and policies and has on some occasions been able to successfully progress issues in the public arena or using the council processes.

High: the individual has a significant track record as a councillor already or in an organisational role where similar attributes are required and has demonstrated on a regular basis an excellent understanding of the requirements. There is evidence that the individual has taken steps to increase their understanding either formally or informally of the key statutes, plans and policies e.g., the annual plan, the regional pest strategy, the LTCCP and the RMA (1991).

Assessment criterion 2: Demonstrate having made decisions that align with the principles and practices of Sustainable Waikato.

Rationale: It is easy to claim to care about sustainability, but actions speak louder than words. A good councillor will have a track record of supporting sustainable practices and projects

Grade descriptors:

Low: the individual has a little or no record of support for policies and programmes that have high sustainability value.

Medium: the individual has a moderate to good record of supporting policies and programmes that have high sustainability value.

High: the individual has a significant track record of initiating or supporting policies and programmes that have high sustainability value.

Assessment criterion 3: The level of contribution to sustainability projects.

Rationale: If candidates really believe in sustainability they will have a track record of personal leadership involvement in sustainable practices, lifestyle or projects.

Grade descriptors:

Low: the individual has no record of leadership roles in projects that have good sustainability outcomes, and investment of time or money in such projects has been minor.

Medium: the individual has a moderate to good record of leadership roles in projects that have good sustainability outcomes. They can present several examples of sustainable initiatives or projects for which they have provided leadership or material support.

High: The candidate has an excellent track record of initiating or supporting sustainable projects or policies by contributing strategic governance, time or monetary investment. It is clear from their track record that sustainability is a key driver of their desire to participate in local government.

Assessment criterion 4: Articulates a vision and implementation policy for enhancing Waikato's (or Hamilton City's) sustainability

Rationale: The candidate must demonstrate that they are motivated to stand for local government by a concern for fostering sustainability policies and practices. Their primary vision for the Waikato will align with the principles of Sustainable Waikato.

Grade descriptors:

Low: The individual's primary rationale for standing for council is focussed on short term outcomes or single issues, or they have no track record of articulating a vision for sustainability.

Medium: The individual articulates a vision for sustainability that is backed by a moderately good record of support for sustainable initiatives.

High: The individual demonstrates an outstanding vision for sustainability backed by a track record of support for or involvement in initiatives that lead to improvements in sustainable practices.

Assessment criterion 5: Demonstrate commitment and priority to the council process and duties and related roles.

Rationale: While the role of a councillor is a part-time one, the level of commitment required demands that candidates demonstrate the highest level of commitment. Present or past councillors have demonstrated this commitment by their high level of attendance at meetings and events, and by their standard of preparedness.

Low: the individual has a low or no record of commitment to council process, and has taken steps to subvert the council process.

Medium: The councillors have shown levels of commitment that are inconsistent with the level of responsibility.

High: Demonstrates highest level of commitment to their council duties and is consistently well prepared. Aspiring new councillors have demonstrated this level of commitment to community service or related roles.

Assessment criterion 6: Willingness to consider and respond to a request for information from ratepayers.

Rationale: Candidates that we seek to support will have demonstrated their alignment with our principles by willingly and enthusiastically partaking in our endorsement process.

Low: Did not respond or engage in dialogue or response was superficial.

Medium: Response was uneven, inconsistent with poor attention to detail.

High: Made a compelling response to our questionnaires which demonstrated a deep understanding and commitment to engage in dialogue.