

Peer Challenge

Expression of interest to become an Officer Peer

The Local Government Association's **Peer Challenge** offer (www.local.gov.uk/sector-led-improvement) provides a range of tools and support to help councils, fire and rescue services and other organisations further strengthen local accountability and explore how effectively they are delivering services.

Peer challenge is a fundamental part of this offer. Peers are at the heart of the peer challenge process. They help councils, fire and rescue services and other organisations with their improvement and learning by providing a 'practitioner perspective' and 'critical friend' challenge.

The make-up of a peer team reflects the requirements of the council, fire and rescue services and other organisations receiving the peer challenge. We regularly review our pool of peers to ensure we can offer peers with the experience and expertise required by the sector. The information we request in this form will help us consider your knowledge, expertise and experience, and how that matches the demand and requirements for peers.

You should submit your completed form to:
peer.application@local.gov.uk

Hard copies can be sent to:
Peer Support Team
Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

If you would prefer to submit a Curriculum Vitae (CV) then please also complete sections 5-7 of this form and submit both.

We will use the information you provide for administration, record keeping, and potentially selection for peer work within the local government and public sector. We may also share your information with others – such as local authorities and other public sector bodies we work with – for these purposes. By returning this form (and CV) to us you consent to our processing personal data about you where necessary for the purposes described above. You can ask for a copy of the information we hold about you and to correct any inaccuracies in your information.

If you would like to discuss your interest in becoming an officer peer please contact:
Paul Clarke, Programme Manager (Peer Support) **paul.clarke2@local.gov.uk**

Thank you for your interest.

Section one

Personal information

First name

Surname

Work
Address

Email

Work
telephone

Mobile
telephone

Date of completion of this form

In order to maximise the peer expertise we offer to the sector we look at the relevant skills of all peers when putting peer teams together. However if there are areas you are particularly interested in, or have been asked to apply for, then please indicate the relevant peer challenge programme(s) below:

Corporate Peer Challenge

Planning and Economic Growth

Fire and Rescue Services

Housing

Children's Safeguarding/Services

Regulatory Services

Adult Safeguarding/Services

Community Safety

Equalities and Diversity

Health and NHS Reform

Highways

Financial and Resource Management

Section two

Employment history

Please state your current role and briefly (in 250 words or less) outline your responsibilities. This will give us and the councils, fire and rescue services and other organisations we work with a good idea of the experience and expertise you can offer as a peer.

Organisation	Position held	From/to

Section two

Employment history (continued)

Please also state the role/s you have held over the last ten years, listing the most recent first:

Organisation	Position held	From/to

Section three

Personal statement

Please summarise the skills, experience and expertise you would bring as a peer. We will use this statement as the basis for your 'peer profile'. The profile is what we normally send to councils, fire and rescue services and other organisations when suggesting peers to them. You may wish to include any previous experience of working in a peer capacity (e.g. for the Audit Commission, regional body or improvement agency). Your personal statement should be no longer than 300 words and written in the third person.

Section four

Education and qualifications

Please list any qualifications, particularly professional qualifications, that you think may be relevant to the peer work you are expressing an interest in. For example, CQSW/Dip SW for Children's or Adult's Services work or CIPFA qualifications for finance work. Please also list any training undertaken with the Local Government Association (LGA) e.g. Advanced Executive Leadership (AEL) Programme, Future Leaders Programme (FLP), Leeds Castle, etc.

Section five

Endorsement and reference

We ask that you have the endorsement of your employer to be a peer. This lets us know that your organisation will be happy to release you to serve as a peer if required. Officers should be endorsed by their Chief Executive, Chief Fire Officer, Director or line manager. Please provide the name, position and contact number for the individual who has endorsed your application to be a peer. Please note that we may contact them to confirm the endorsement.

I agree to the person named in this document applying to become a peer.

Name

Position

Contact
telephone

Email

Date

Signed (if hard copy being submitted)

Reference: We also ask that you list at least one person who can be contacted regarding your work and suitability to be a peer. Ideally this will be someone different to the person listed above. We request that your referee is someone not from the Local Government Association. If a reference can be submitted with this form that will speed up the process of progressing your expression of interest in being a peer.

Name

Position

Organisation

Address

Email

Section six

Unspent Criminal Convictions

Peers can work in challenging and sensitive situations, including the handling of confidential information. You will not be asked to disclose convictions which are 'spent' under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Having an unspent conviction will not necessarily bar you from becoming a peer, this will depend on the circumstance and background to your offence. It is therefore important that we know of anything that may have a bearing on that part of the role. If we require evidence other forms of check, such as CRB, this will be handled separately.

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence? Yes No

If yes, please give details of the convictions(s) and date(s).

Please note you need only disclose convictions which are not spent.

Section seven

Equal Opportunities Information

Please note the following information will not be used in the peer selection or placement process, it will only be used for monitoring purposes as we are asked from time to time to report on the equality impact aspects of our work.

Gender Male Female Other

Age 16–20 21–30 31–40 41–50
51–60 61+ Prefer not to say

I would describe my ethnic origin as: Prefer not to say

White British Irish Other white

Black Black British Caribbean African
Other Black

Asian Asian British Indian Pakistani
Bangladeshi Other Asian

Mixed
White + Asian White + Black African
White + Black Caribbean Other Mixed

Chinese or other ethnic group Chinese Any other

Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on a person's ability to carry out day-to-day activities. **Do you have a disability?**

Yes No Prefer not to say

Do you have any special requirements regarding carrying out potential peer work?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.

Please return your completed form to peer.application@local.gov.uk