

Nomination for Vice-Chair 2021/22

Watford has become a very vibrant and diverse borough in Hertfordshire in recent years. Being the Vice-Chair of Watford Borough Council, therefore, is great privileges for any councillor. I seek your support to be the Vice-Chair of Watford Borough Council for 2021/22. I bring a unique perspective as a competent black African woman with experience in leadership and facilitating meetings across political, professional and voluntary sectors. I have the vision, passion, capacity and experience to motivate, inspire and invigorate public engagement in the council's activities. I am a leader and a trained facilitator. I am a graduate of Jo Cox Women in Leadership Programme, the Fabian Women Network Leadership programme and NHS Leadership Academy. I am the deputy group leader of the labour group. I was the Vice-Chair of the Watford Labour Party for four years.

My strong leadership and facilitation skills were demonstrated in leading a delicate and sensitive cross-part a Task group on the impact of Covid on Watford BAME community and Street name policy review at the peak of the COVID 19 pandemic. I was able to collaborate effectively with colleagues across political lines whilst negotiating with different stakeholders and witnesses through virtual platforms to arrive at recommendations that have been accepted across the board. As an NHS manager, I chair multi-disciplinary and multi-agency meeting involving different stakeholders across Hertfordshire. As a clinician, I am trained to work methodically and with discipline through an agenda or other similar prepared list or document.

Before becoming a councillor, I was a lead social worker for Watford and Three Rivers. I was a parent governor of Grove Academy and trustee of the Aspire Academy covering four schools around Watford and Hemel Hempstead. As well as being a local councillor, I am well embedded in the community in Watford and very active in Watford African Caribbean Association and the One Vision Project. I organised free Adult Social Care and Homelessness Awareness training for local volunteers representing different voluntary organisations in Watford under the One Vision project. I am the founder and patron of a community group in Watford. I recently organised a successful COVID19 vaccination awareness session to encourage vaccination uptake among the black community in Watford.

At the national level, I am a member of the NHS England Taskforce on mental health inequality. This year I successfully influenced the award of a DfE, NHSE and DH Trailblazer Mental health Support Team in Watford which will provide early intervention for our children and young people across 20 schools in the pilot. I have strong interpersonal and communications skills. I am confident in speaking in public settings. I had the privilege of co-facilitating round tables for shadow ministers on mental health inequality in 2018. I am a guest lecturer at Brunel University London. I speak regularly at Labour regional and national conferences.

It is essential that a Vice-Chair is competent to command the respect of the town and population to be able to bring the community together. I have demonstrable capacity and experience to do this and to raise the profile of Watford on the national scene. If elected Vice-Chair, I will ensure that I act in a non-political capacity during my term in office and especially in council meetings.

I hope you will support my nomination and together we will raise the profile of our town.

Thank you

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