

Election Policy and Key Dates for 2019 Elections

Introduction to Election Policy

This policy governs the conduct of elections and shall be made available to all members for scrutiny.

A copy shall be sent to all candidates upon receipt of nomination form. It may be changed from time to time by the Board or by the members approving such a resolution at a General Meeting.

Key Dates for 2019 Elections

Deadline for return of Nomination Forms:	23rd September 2019
Circulation of candidate statements and ballot papers:	30th September 2019
Cut off date for receipt of online votes:	16th October 2019
Voting in person at AGM:	17th October 2019

Election Control

1. The election process will be undertaken by the Secretary of Bristol Energy Cooperative. Voting instructions and supplementary papers shall be sent to all members. The count shall be conducted under either a simple majority system, with each voter having the ability to indicate support for as many candidates as there are places to be elected, or a cumulative voting system, with each voter having as many votes as there are places to be elected, and able to allocate them at will between different candidates.
2. The Secretary or shall act as the returning officer for all elections and shall settle any disputes at their sole discretion.
3. All candidates agree to abide by these rules and accept that by their nomination they shall be deemed to have accepted these rules and agreed to be bound by them.

Eligibility

4. Candidates must:
 - a) Agree with and be committed to the aims of the Cooperative.
 - b) Agree and be committed to the equal opportunities policy of the Cooperative.
 - c) Be in a state of mental and physical health and personal circumstances which allow them to carry out their duties.
 - d) Be able to act in good faith and responsibly to maintain the reputation of the Cooperative.
 - e) Make full disclosure if they have:
 - i) Been removed from membership of a recognised professional body and not reinstated.
 - ii) Been convicted of an indictable offence relevant to the roles and responsibilities of a Director or the aims and ethos of Bristol Energy Cooperative, subject to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1972.

Candidates must not:

- a) Have been adjudged by the Board to have brought the Organisation into disrepute in the last five years. Be the spouse, cohabitee, brother, sister, child, father or mother of a member of the Board or another candidate for election to the Board or an employee of Bristol Energy Cooperative.
- Be currently declared bankrupt or compounded with their creditors.
- Be subject to a disqualification order made under the Company Directors Disqualification Act.

Nomination

6. A notice of the election shall be sent to all members in good time before the close of voting. The notice will advise of the procedure for nomination, the closing date for nominations and the number of candidates to be elected in the poll and the eligibility criteria for candidates.

7. Candidates shall submit a statement with their nomination of not more than 500 words. These statements shall be copied and included with ballot papers and circulated to members before the AGM where the election will take place. Candidates must not in their statements make threats, abusive, racist, sexist, or homophobic statements. This would be seen as evidence of non-compliance with the ethos of the Cooperative and our equal opportunities policy, and would disqualify the candidate at the discretion of the Board. Candidates also agree to indemnify Bristol Energy Cooperative for any action resulting from the publication of their statement.

8. Nominations shall only be valid if supported by one proposing member and at least one supporting member. These nominations may be made at the AGM at which the election is being held.

9. The receipt of a nomination form shall be taken as certification that the candidate has met the relevant criteria. Bristol Energy Cooperative may undertake enquiries to verify that the candidate has met the criteria. If a candidate is discovered to be ineligible under those criteria then the following action will be taken:

- a) If the discovery of the ineligibility is before the closing date, the nomination is ruled invalid.
- b) If the discovery of the ineligibility is after the closing date but before the close of voting, the votes of the excluded candidate shall not be counted.
- c) If the discovery of the ineligibility is after the close of voting and the individual has been successfully elected, then the person shall be removed from the Bristol Energy Cooperative.

Voting

10. Bristol Energy Cooperative as a corporate body shall remain neutral during the election. Any comments made regarding the candidates by members of the Board not taking part in the election as a candidate, or by staff of Bristol Energy Cooperative, shall be clearly stated as being made in a purely personal capacity.

11. The ballot will take place at Bristol Energy Cooperative's AGM. Members who are unable to attend the AGM may submit their completed ballot papers in advance of the AGM, either by post or online.