

## VOTING IN THE ELECTION

### **CAN I VOTE BY POST?**

No. The entire election process will be conducted online.

### **WHEN WILL VOTING OPEN?**

The Trust will publish a list of candidates on 25 November 2019 on the Trust's website [here](#). Should the number of candidates exceed the number of available posts, voting will open on 20 January 2020 and eligible individuals will be contacted with instructions for casting their vote.

If the number of candidates does not exceed the number of available posts, that individual will be appointed to the vacancy and the election in that constituency will end.

### **WHEN WILL VOTING BE OPEN?**

Voting will be held between 20 January 2020 and 14 February 2020.

### **WHAT METHOD OF VOTING WILL BE USED?**

Members will be elected on the basis of proportional representation using a method called the Single Transferable Vote. This form of election is quite widely used in organisations with multi-member constituencies.

### **HOW DOES A SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE WORK?**

Every eligible voter will have 1 vote in the election that under the Single Transferable Vote system can be transferred to avoid wasted votes. The elector will use his/her vote by sorting the names of candidates into the elector's order of preference (e.g., by putting preferred candidate first, their second preferred candidate in second place etc). If the first preferred candidate already has enough votes to be elected, or cannot ever get enough, the vote can be transferred to the second preferred candidate and so on, so it is not wasted. Votes will be counted electronically.

To ensure that the election process is fair, open and transparent, we have engaged Electoral Reform Services (ERS) [www.electoralreform.co.uk](http://www.electoralreform.co.uk) as election managers to run the election. For more information about the Single Transferable Vote, visit [www.electoral-reform.org.uk/single-transferable-vote](http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/single-transferable-vote)

### **WHEN WILL I HEAR FROM THE TRUST AND HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN VOTING?**

Eligible voters will receive an email inviting them to cast a vote. This email will contain a link to the election portal and unique secure pin codes. Votes must be cast using the elections portal. Please note that postal votes will not be accepted.

### **I'VE NOT RECEIVED AN EMAIL, AM I ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS?**

Firstly, we recommend that you check your junk folder for the email. Secondly, we suggest that you check the eligibility criteria for voting which can be found in the Election Rules. The Election Rules can be found on the Trust's website [here](#). Only eligible individuals will receive an email. Finally, please contact [council@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:council@canalrivertrust.org.uk) with any questions.

**IF I DON'T HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS, CAN I TAKE PART?**

Yes, we will send you all the information you need by post, but you will then need to go online to take part in the election. You cannot vote by post.

**IF I DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET CAN I TAKE PART?**

You will need access to the internet to nominate and sponsor candidates and to vote. If you do not have a computer or smart phone, we would encourage you to ask a friend who has either of these to help you.

**I'M NOT SURE IF MY VOTE WAS CAST, HOW CAN I CHECK?**

The easiest way to check if your vote has been cast is to use the link in the email and enter the secure pins again. The secure pins are valid for one use only, if they do not work, your vote was cast. If you are still unsure, you can contact [council@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:council@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

**MY BOAT LICENCE IS IN JOINT NAMES WITH MY PARTNER. CAN WE BOTH VOTE?**

For fairness and practicality, the election is on the basis of one vote per customer. Please agree how your vote is used with your partner.

**I OWN A SHARE OF A BOAT BUT MY NAME IS NOT ON THE BOAT LICENCE. CAN I VOTE?**

Shared boats are generally licensed as private boats so there is no national register of boat share owners on which to base an electoral roll. Only the boat's licence holder will be able to vote, but we would expect them to confer with other share owners on how the vote should be cast.

**I AM AN EMPLOYEE OF CANAL & RIVER TRUST AND MEET THE CRITERIA IN ANOTHER CONSTITUENCY. WILL I BE ABLE TO VOTE IN BOTH CONSTITUENCIES?**

No. You are eligible to vote in the employee election only. You are excluded from voting in any other category.

**ARE DIRECTORS OF CANAL & RIVER TRUST ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE EMPLOYEE CONSTITUENCY?**

No. Executive Directors are excluded from standing as candidates and from voting in the employee constituency.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

Voting will close on 14 February 2020. The results will be announced on 17 February 2020 on the Trust's website [here](#).

Successful candidates will attend their first Council meeting on 26 March 2020.