

YouElect Hustings Guide



What is a hustings?

A hustings is an event at which Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPC) are invited to be members of a panel where they have an opportunity to make a short 'pitch' [for 5 minutes] and respond to previously undisclosed questions from the local community and electorate.

Why organise a hustings?

To let local voters hear from the candidates directly and satisfy themselves that if elected, the candidate will represent the concerns and issues of his or her constituency.

Who should organise it?

This could be organised by anybody. But we recommend a coalition of community bodies in a constituency, ensuring that it is inclusive and non-partisan.

Planning your hustings

One community activist needs to come forward and take on the role of lead co-ordinator and organise a planning meeting attended by representatives of local community bodies, if you do not have contact with them your local authority website should have details of voluntary and community organisations in your area.

Contact the candidates to check their availability – normally they will be more than happy to participate. Remember to invite candidates from all the parties.

Once the date and time has been confirmed, hire a venue (within the constituency) for the hustings event or if the local Masjid has provisions ask them to host and become involved.

Design posters, leaflets and use text and email to publicise the event. Make sure you invite the Imams of local Masjids and community leaders. YouElect can direct you on basic design.

Appoint a chairperson who has experience in running meetings, has good knowledge about politics and provide him/her with brief profiles of each candidate in order to make the introductions.

Prepare a list of key questions to put to the candidates and open the floor for the voters to ask what they like.

Try and find a photographer to cover the event. Ask one person to make notes of the event and write up a report for publication.

When should you hold your hustings?

PPC names are available on YouElect with their email and blog links, to allow you to establish direct contact as soon as possible. Given that a May election is likely, there is no time to be lost. The more notice you can give candidates the better chance you have of getting them all together for an evening, after 6pm is advisable.

After the event

Write up a short account of the event and send it to: info@YouElect.org.uk

Further Help:

We can help with:

- Providing templates for printing leaflets
- Promote your hustings
- Provide a chair for your event

If you need any further assistance then please do not hesitate to contact us at info@YouElect.org.uk