

**VICE-CHAIR – GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE /
VICE-PRÉSIDENT(E)- COMMISSION DE LA GOUVERNANCE**

CANDIDATURE¹

Deadline for presentation to the secretariat: **5 Nov 2018 by 6pm**

Limite de dépôt au secrétariat : 5 nov 2018 à 18h

tim.lisney@coe.int

✓ Full member of the Governance Committee / Titulaire de la Commission de la gouvernance

SURNAME / NOM : SAUNDERS

First name / Prénom : ROBERT ANDREW

Chamber / Chambre : of Local Authorities / des pouvoirs locaux
 of Regions / des régions

Country / Pays : _____

Political group / Groupe politique : ECR - CRE
 EPP/CCE - PPE/CCE
 ILDG - GILD
 SOC
 Not registered / non-inscrit(e)

Motivation : I have served as 5th Vice Chair since March 2017 and have been pleased to present reports to committee in the absence of the rapporteur. My particular motivation for re-applying for the Vice-Chair role is that I wish to continue to support and promote a number of the committee's current work streams in addition to the identification of new themes for the committee to research and report on. The committee must ensure that it actively supports the Congress priorities. It is also important to foster good co-operation relationships with other European and international organisations

Date: 30/10/18

Signature:



¹ Please attach your curriculum vitae in English or French / Veuillez joindre votre CV en anglais ou en français

Election of Vice-Chair of the Governance Committee
– November 2018

Robert Saunders UNITED KINGDOM (ECR)

www.robertsaunders.yourcllr.com/



Curriculum vitae

I joined the Congress as a substitute member in October 2015, translating to a full member in October 2016.

I have been a **district councillor** for 8 years.

I am currently an **Assistant Portfolio for Health & Wellbeing** with particular responsibility for youth services, disability access and mental health services.

I have also previously served as **Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance**. My areas of responsibility included oversight of code of conduct investigations, electoral registration services and developing charters of co-operation with other tiers of local government.

I was proud to serve as **Town Mayor** of Alton, Hampshire (famous as the hometown of Jane Austen) from 2010-2011.

My profession is a **Registered Social Worker** working in a team that assess and support service users who lack mental capacity to make best interest decisions for themselves and do not have a court appointed attorney. A key value of this role is upholding the ECHR Articles (especially no.s 5 & 8).

I am a Governor of **South Eastern Hampshire NHS clinical commissioning group**.

I am a member of the Executive Board of **South East Employers** which is a Employers' Organisation for Local Government in the South East of England to promote best practice in human resource matters.

I am a senior steward and equalities representative for the *Unite* trade union.

The current committee themes of particular interest to me are:

[Open data for better public services](#)

There should be a presumption in favour of information which is held by public sector bodies being freely available to citizens. In an increasingly digital world it is essential to ensure all citizens have access to online services.

Coping with the debt burden: local authorities in financial difficulty

Working for a local authority in the social care sector I am acutely aware of the current financial pressures and the need to explore innovative ways to overcome these challenges.

A better future for Europe's rural regions

A recent UK Government report indicated that rural and coastal areas are among the worst performing when it comes to social mobility.

My own local authority is predominantly rural with two medium sized market towns. Improving the lives of those living and working in rural communities is essential to ensure the success of vibrant, rural communities through job creation initiatives including agricultural apprentices, bringing high-speed broadband to every home and business and revitalizing towns and villages.

Protecting whistleblowers

I am a Governor of a NHS clinical commissioning group which has actively supported whistleblowing as it is acknowledged to support the identification of deficiencies in working practices.

I am also interested in proposing that the committee consider an investigation into the increasing prevalence of cyber bullying of elected public officials on social media.