



GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ward Councillors Working Group

Date: Tuesday, 10 December 2013
Time: 18:00
Venue: Supper Room
Address: Town Hall, Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QF

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Minutes
To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2013. | 3 - 5 |
| 2 | Members Handbook
To consider the attached Hand Book. | 6 - 29 |
| 3 | Councillors Induction
The Working Group will discuss the Councillors Induction. | |
| 4 | Youth Engagement in Local Democracy
To consider the report attached. | 30 - 31 |

Ward Councillors Working Group

Minutes

Thursday, 10 October 2013 at 18:00

Attendees:

Mr Graham Plant (Member), Mrs Marlene Fairhead (Member), Mr Jamie Smith (Member), Mr Trevor Wainwright (Member)

Apologies for Absence:

Mrs Mary Coleman (Member), Mr Michael Castle (Member)

Absent:

Mrs Sue Hacon (Member)

Also in attendance at the above meeting were:

Linda Mockford (Governance Group Manager), Robin Hodds (Cabinet Secretary) and Karline Smith (Senior Member Services Officer).

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2013 were confirmed

2 Members handbook

The Governance Group Manager reported as the Group had been through the handbook at the last meeting all of the pictures had now been taken out and this had been reduced from 63 pages to 20 pages. Electoral Ward Information had now been included along with polling station/ward information. Both the Constitution and Corporate Plan documents would be going into the CMIS members information section. The document had also been re-worded in a more user friendly way. A section on where services are located had been included along with information on CMIS.

The organisational structure that had been included on page 23 is the new Council

structure and details from GYB Services could also be included. It was agreed that an A-Z of services should be included along with contact details for NPLaw.

The VIP IT Helpdesk number would be included in the pack.

Councillor J Smith asked for the polling station information to be removed and for the ward boundary information to be left in. It was also agreed that information on GYB Services would be included along with Community Worker information.

It was agreed that the handbook would be sent out to all Councillors for consideration via Scrutiny and then to Cabinet.

3 Youth Engagement in Local Democracy

In the absence of the Neighbourhood and Communities Group Manager the Cabinet Secretary detailed the report.

Councillor J Smith asked if Ward Councillors were aware of how to get involved in the community and the Cabinet Secretary suggested having neighbourhood managers contact numbers in the pack. It was suggested that a community work introduction be carried out by each of the Neighbourhood Managers.

Clarification was sought on the YAB which MAP runs and it was reported that Tracey Jones is the Council lead officer.

Councillor Fairhead stated that it was not clear who to get youths to talk to for example when the french youth visitors came to Great Yarmouth. It was agreed that Rob Gregory attend the November Scrutiny Committee to explain this.

4 Ward Councillor Compact

The Group considered the Cabinet Secretary's amended Ward Councillor Compact.

The Chairman stated that he would like to see skills and training needs identified for Councillors through the LGA.

A discussion then ensued around training for Audit and Risk, Licensing, Standards and Development Control committees and it was agreed that training should be offered to all councilors for these committees after the May 2014 election.

RESOLVED:

That the Ward Councilor Compact be recommended for approval to Scrutiny on 21 November 2013.

5 Members Job Description

It was agreed that the Members Job Description would placed in the members library on CMIS.

RESOLVED:

That the Councillors Job Descriptions be agreed.

6 Any other business

(i) Mentoring System

It was reported that the mentoring system would be implemented, with the seven cabinet councillors being mentored by Robin and the remaining thirty two councilors being split into two groups of sixteen and being mentored between Karline and Sarah. New councillors would also have an experienced councillor as a mentor.

Councillors attendance at meetings should be sent to the leaders of both parties.

The meeting ended at: 19:10

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Members Handbook

2013 - 2015



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1. Introduction

This handbook is intended to help newly elected Councillors understand the context in which they will operate as a Member of the Council by:

- Giving a brief description of, and the composition of the Borough.
- Describing the way the Council is structured.
- Explaining the facilities and services available to Members.

It should also act as a useful reference for existing Members.

2. Your basic responsibilities as a councillor

By law you must:

- attend Full Council and designated committee meetings (the statutory requirement is to attend at least one every six months)
- comply with the Code of Conduct
- register interests
- declare personal and prejudicial interests at meetings and follow the appropriate protocols
- register under the Data Protection Act
- observe the Member/Officer protocols

3. General information

There are three tiers of local government within the County of Norfolk:

- Norfolk County Council covers the whole county and is responsible for strategic services such as education, highways, social services, libraries and refuse disposal.
- There are seven district/borough councils within the County of Norfolk; Great Yarmouth Borough Council being one of them. Each district is responsible for local services such as council tax and business rates, environmental health, local planning and refuse collection.
- There are a number of Parish Councils within districts (with the exception of Norwich City Council). Parish Councils undertake a limited range of statutory functions and also have a consultative role on many important issues i.e. planning applications.

4. The Borough of Great Yarmouth

Great Yarmouth Borough Council is one of the most popular British seaside resorts with some 80,000 available bed spaces, caters for over five million visitor nights and over three million day visitors each year.

The latest population estimate for the Borough is 97,277 (2011 census) making it the smallest in the County in terms of population. In terms of area it is the second smallest, after Norwich city, covering 67.2 square miles.

As well as the Tourism industry, which is a major employer, Great Yarmouth is also a centre for supporting the energy industry, traditionally oil and gas and more latterly the renewable sector. The other main economic driver for the town is the port. With the completion of the deep water outer harbour, the prospects for new business for the port are starting to be realised.

The council area is a mixture of urban and rural areas

5. Electoral wards

Councillors are democratically accountable to the residents of their Wards. Whilst their overriding duty is to the whole community they also have a special duty to all their constituents including those who did not vote for them.

The borough is divided into 17 borough electoral wards, 21 parishes and 9 county electoral divisions. The urban areas of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston-on-sea do not have parish councils.

There are 39 councillors representing the 17 wards of the Borough. Councillors are elected for a four year period and elections are held annually, so a third of the Council is elected each year.

A map of the Borough is shown on page 18. More detailed maps of each Ward are available from the election teams (contact Denise Harvey, 01493 846548/ email: elections@great-yarmouth.gov.uk)

6. Parish Councils

Most of the parishes have parish councils with the exception of Ashby with Oby and West Caister. Parish councils appoint a clerk who is responsible for ensuring that the Council as a whole conducts its business properly and provides independent, objective, professional advice and support.

Contact details for parish clerks are available on the council website (www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk)

7. How the Council operates

Following consultations with the Borough's residents in 1999, it was decided that this authority would operate with a Leader and Executive (Cabinet) type of Governance.

Decisions are taken by the Full Council, the Cabinet, individual Cabinet members and Officers.

A list of the powers delegated to each of these is included within the constitution.

8. The Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan lists Great Yarmouth Borough Council's key priorities and plans. The Council has identified a number of key priorities including supporting economic development, tourism and the heritage of the Borough, as well as creating jobs and wealth for local people.

The plan sets out how the Council intends to deliver on the priorities with a focus on enterprise and ambition and raising the profile of the place and the Council. The Corporate Plan is available on the Council's website: www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk

9. The Council's Constitution

Great Yarmouth Borough Council's Constitution contains full details of the Council's democratic systems and also sets out the roles of members and officers. The purpose of the Constitution is to enable decisions to be taken efficiently, effectively and lawfully. The full Constitution is available on the Council's Website: www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk.

The constitution includes Standing Orders which govern the way in which business is transacted at meetings. Business is conducted very formally at Full Council with the Standing Orders governing the nature of motions to be discussed and limiting the length of speeches.

Proceedings at committee and sub-committee are less formal than at Council meetings but nevertheless rules of procedure need to be followed. The Chairman, advised by the member services officer present, is responsible for ensuring that those rules are properly observed. However, members do not stand to speak and in addition to debating issues there is an opportunity to ask questions of officers in attendance.

10. Full Council

The Full Council of 39 Members meeting together is responsible for determining the Council's overall policies and set the budget and level of council tax each year.

The full Council will appoint the Mayor (and Deputy Mayor) who will chair meetings of Council, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members, all other Committees, all Members to serve on outside bodies and Chief Officers and Heads of Services (or make alternative arrangements for such appointments).

Full Council meetings will also include the provision for members of the public to ask questions during an allotted period at the commencement of each meeting and in accordance with the Council's agreed procedure for such questions. The protocol for Full Council meetings is attached on page 19-20.

11. The Cabinet

The Cabinet is the main decision making body of the Council. It is responsible for carrying out all of the authority's functions except those which by law are responsibility of Full Council or its regulatory committees (i.e. Audit, Licensing, Planning and Standards).

The Cabinet consists of the Leader and Cabinet members, and these are appointed at Annual Council. Each Cabinet member has a portfolio of responsibilities, rather like a Government minister. Their portfolios cover service specific areas or thematic, cross-cutting areas of responsibility.

12. Delegated Powers

It is not practical for Cabinet Members to take every one of the many decisions that are made weekly, so Council Officers have 'delegated powers' to handle some of these.

Decisions can only be made in line with Council policy and the law. They include for example, spending within certain pre-defined limits, taking legal action, including enforcement, serving statutory notices and signing of some contracts up to a certain value.

The delegated powers to officers are set out in the scheme of delegation which is contained in the Council's constitution.

13. Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny works to ensure and promote open and transparent decision making and democratic accountability. The role and functions of the Scrutiny Committee are as follows:

- to review or scrutinise existing policy, and develop new policy for approval by the Cabinet or Council.
- to review or scrutinise existing services or functions of the Council.
- to hold cabinet decision makers to account by the call-in of decisions made, but not implemented, or by a review or scrutiny of decisions already made.
- to influence the Cabinet and Council through reports and recommendations in connection with any of the above, or in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions or any other matter affecting the Borough or its inhabitants.

14. Call-in

One way in which Scrutiny holds the Cabinet to account is through the statutory power of Call-in. Open to all members of the Council, any five members can ask for any decision made, or about to be made, by the Cabinet or one of its members, or a 'key decision' made by an officer, to be discussed by the Scrutiny committee, prior to its implementation. The Call-in procedure for operating this power is explained in the Council's Constitution.

The Call-In procedure does not apply to regulatory non-Executive functions.

15. Development Control Committee

Development Control is responsible for dealing with local authority planning applications.

There is a scheme of delegation in place which gives officers power to deal with certain planning applications and these are listed in the Constitution. Major planning applications and applications where officers decline to exercise their delegated authority are referred to Development Control.

The committee has power to act.

16. Licensing Committee

Licensing Committee is responsible for the licensing and safety functions of the Council. These include taxis, private hire vehicles and drivers and environmental health licensing and safety functions.

Licensing Sub committee is responsible for determining applications for alcohol and gambling premises.

Members of Licensing Committee act in a quasi-judicial capacity and can be deciding matters which may have very important implications for an individual's livelihood. Members will need to listen carefully to the evidence and arguments which are put forward by the parties and to determine the matter only on relevant considerations. If Members fail to do so the decision may be challenged in the court which is why a Solicitor or other experienced person acts as clerk in order to give guidance.

There is a scheme of delegation in place which gives officers power to deal with licensing applications (these are listed in the Constitution). Applications for premises licences are referred to a sub-committee when representations are received. Applications for taxi licences or other matters are referred to Licensing committee where officers are minded to refuse applications or they do not wish to use their delegated powers.

Licensing Committee and Licensing sub have power to act.

17. Standards Committee

The aim of the Standards Committee is to promote high standards of ethical conduct among elected councillors. The Standards Committee examines the conduct of councillors including parish councillors and advises on ethical standards. It is separate from all other committees.

Made up of both councillors and external members, it is responsible for ensuring that members and officers of the Council conduct their business to the highest standards as set out in the Council's Member Code of Conduct.

18. Audit and Risk Committee

The purpose of the Audit and Risk committee is to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, review annual Governance Statement, and to oversee the financial reporting process.

19. Appeals Committee

The role of the Appeals committee is:

- to consider appeals against disciplinary decisions from employees of the authority in accordance with the provisions of the Council's disciplinary procedure
- to consider unresolved grievances from employees under the Council's grievance procedure
- to deal with grading appeals from employees in accordance with the Council's agreed procedure for regrading applications

The Committee has full power to act.

20. Housing Appeals

The Housing Appeals committee considers appeals on housing management decisions other than decisions on Eviction and Nuisance Orders.

Members of Housing Appeals act in a quasi-judicial capacity and can be deciding matters which may have very important implications for an individual's livelihood. Members will need to listen carefully to the evidence and arguments which are put forward by the parties and to determine the matter only on relevant considerations. If Members fail to do so the decision may be challenged in the court which is why a Solicitor or other experienced person acts as clerk in order to give guidance.

The Committee has full power to act.

21. The Gorleston and Yarmouth Area Committees

The two area Committees provide for better and more co-ordinated local services by enabling local elected members, residents and their communities to get involved in the work of the Council and other services.

22. Outside Bodies

The Council has links with many different bodies and, as part of this, the Council annually appoints members to a number of outside bodies.

The Council provides a general indemnity to members when serving on outside bodies. There may be some situations which the indemnity does not cover. It is therefore advisable for members to check that the outside body has adequate insurance in place.

23. The role of Council Officers and Council structure

To be efficient and effective, Councillors need a variety of support from officers of the Council. Officers work for the whole Council and not just the majority political party. The Council's paid staff is headed by the Chief Executive Officer who together with three directors make up the Executive Management Team (EMT). EMT oversees the corporate management and operation of the Council's performance and strategic direction.

The Council currently operates under the following structure:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Directors
- Group Managers

A copy of the structure and contact details for EMT and group managers are on pages 21 and 22.

24. Statutory Officers

By law, local authorities are required to designate the following officers:

- Head of Paid Service, who is responsible to Councillors for the staffing of the Council, ensuring the work of the different departments is co-ordinated, and making sure the organisation runs efficiently. The Chief Executive Officer, Jane Ratcliffe, is designated the Council's Head of Paid Service.
- Monitoring Officer, who is responsible for warning Councillors about anything the Council does which is likely to lead to legal action or to a finding of maladministration by the Ombudsman. Chris Skinner, from NP Law is the Council's Monitoring Officer.
- Section 151 Officer, who monitors all the expenditure and financial dealings of the Council. Seb Duncan, Head of Resources, Governance and Growth is the Council's Section 151 Officer
- Electoral Registration Officer, who is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the register of electors and absent voters in the borough
- Returning Officer, who is responsible for the conduct of all elections in the borough. The duties of the Returning Officer are separate from their duties as a local government officer. The Returning Officer is directly accountable to the courts system as an independent statutory officer holder. The Chief Executive Officer, Jane Ratcliffe, is appointed the Council's Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer

25. Members Code of Conduct

Once they take up office, all Members of the Council are required to abide by the Member's Code of Conduct, as laid out in the Council's Constitution. The general principles are:

Selflessness: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

Integrity: Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity: In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability: Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness: Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty: Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership: Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

26. Register of Interests

The Code of Conduct requires that Members, within 28 days of election, register certain interests with the Monitoring Officer. These include a members' employment (or office, trade or profession), land and property ownership, contracts with the authority, and interests in the securities of a company that trades or owns land in the area of the authority.

27. Declaration of Interests – personal and prejudicial interests

If you have a **personal** interest in a matter for decision you must disclose it at the meeting that is considering that issue. Personal interests are defined in the Code of Conduct and include, among other things, professional and personal relationships.

If an interest is **prejudicial** then in general a member must withdraw from the room where the meeting is taking place and not seek to influence a decision about that matter. A personal interest may be prejudicial if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest.

Any member concerned that he/she might have a prejudicial interest should seek the advice of a Member Services Officer.

28. Council tax and housing rent arrears

Any member who has arrears of Council Tax that have been outstanding for two months or more is prohibited from voting at any meeting of the Council or other Council body on any matter that effects the level of Council Tax.

Any member who is a Council tenant and who has housing rent arrears for two or more months is prohibited from voting at any meeting of the Council, or a committee, sub committee or other Council body when any matter concerning rents of local authority housing is to be discussed.

29. Access to information

The Access to Information Act requires that notice is given of all meetings of Council at least five working days prior to the meeting.

The press and public have the right to attend unless the meeting is discussing an issue containing confidential or 'exempt' information as defined in Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972 and a resolution is passed to exclude them during the discussion of the item. 'Exempt' information includes details regarding an individual employee; terms proposed in negotiations, security etc and a full list is given in the Council's constitution.

Members of the public also have rights to see background papers used in the preparation of reports to meetings. As a Councillor you have additional rights to see papers which are not available to the general public providing access to the documents is reasonably necessary to enable the member properly to perform their duties. This principle is commonly referred to as the 'need to know' principle.

30. Data Protection

As a member of the Council, you will handle and have access to personal information about members of the public and employees of the Council. This information is subject to the Data Protection Act.

The Act regulates how personal information about any living person is held and handled by others. It covers all information held either on computer or in manual form. People handling personal data are referred to as 'data controllers' and are required to notify the Information Commissioner of details of the information processed.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council is a data controller and has submitted notification. Members are covered by the Council's notification if they handle information in the exercise of its functions; for example, if a Member had access to information as a member of an appeals panel or decision making body in respect to members of the public or employees.

Members are not covered by the Council's notification when they act on their own behalf and are required to complete a separate notification. Geoff Jones, the Council's Information Manager will arrange this for members.

The Information Commissioner has published guidance for elected Members in a 'Compliance Advice' booklet, which is accessible online at www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

31. Accommodation

Services are located in the following buildings:

Services	Building
Reception, Executive Support Team, Elections, Licensing, Member Services, Civic and Events, Communications, Finance, IT, Markets, Environmental Services, Planning, Planning Policy	Town Hall, Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QF
Customer Services, Revenues and Benefits, Housing	Greyfriars House, Greyfriars Way, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QE
Car Parking/Civil Parking Enforcement, Property, Asset Management, Economic Development, Construction & Facilities	Novus House, The Conge, Great Yarmouth, NR30 1NA
Tourism	Maritime House, Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2EN
Neighbourhood and Communities	ComeUnity office, 143 King Street, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QP

32. Agenda and Meeting Management System (CMIS)

Great Yarmouth uses an electronic committee management system (CMIS) to support and streamline the management and administration of the Council's democratic processes, committee meetings, documentation and decision tracking, and including the on-line publishing of agendas and minutes.

Members will receive emails informing them of committee dates which can be saved into electronic calendars. A further email will be sent with a link to the agenda for the meeting.

The agenda will be the one available on the website; if there are any confidential items, members will need to login to the system to view confidential papers. Members will be given login details and training on the system by the Member Services team (contact details, page 17).

33. Councillor Web pages

Each councillor has a page specifically dedicated to them on the Council website (via CMIS). The Councillor web pages greatly improve Members' visibility to the general public and raise awareness of the role of Councillors. Great Yarmouth's Councillor pages include:

- A photograph of each member and contact information (telephone number and Council email)
- Committee and outside body appointments
- Declaration of meetings and register of interests
- A biography (if a member provides one)

A biography must not be explicitly party political and is in relation to Councillor's formal and civic roles as elected representatives and community champions and leaders.

An up to date list of all Councillors' details are available on the council website (www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk)

34. Information Communications Technology (ICT) facilities

Members will be provided with 3G Wi-Fi l pads in order to access emails and the website (which will be required to be able to access agendas). Details of the security policy relating to mobile devices will be given separately as Members need to understand data security requirements.

Councillors will be given a Council email address which they will need to use for Council business. This email address will be published on the website to enable constituents to contact you.

Members will expected to use their own broadband but a monthly allowance will be payable (see paragraph 36).

35. Citrix

Access to the Council's intranet system, containing information such as the Council's electronic telephone book and contact details for officers in NP Law, is done via Citrix.

To log in to Citrix, members need to use their Council email, their network password and the key fob that is issued to them. Members Services officers will be able to provide training on Citrix and the information available to members.

36. Members' allowances

All members will receive a basic allowance of £3,579 which is paid monthly via payroll. A monthly allowance of £15 per is payable towards the cost of councillors' broadband per household. Where councillors are living at the same address, only one councillor can claim this allowance. Members can also claim for mileage when on Council business and attending meetings. All payments are subject to income tax and national insurance (if applicable).

In addition to a basic allowance, extra payments referred to 'special responsibility allowances' are paid to those who take on additional responsibilities such as the Leader, cabinet members and committees chairs. Again this allowance is paid monthly.

37. Insurance

When on Council business, members are indemnified under the Council's insurance policy. However, this does not extend to when members are driving to meetings or to Council business.

It is legal requirement, to have adequate insurance cover; therefore Members will need to ensure that their motor insurance cover includes commuting and business use for their role of councillor. Member services officers will check councillors various driving documents as part of health and safety requirements.

38. Member Services and Corporate Support

Member Services and the Executive Management Support support Members in general and the overall decision making process. The role of member services officers is to assist councillors in discharging their role as members of the Council for Council business and in their role as advocates for local communities.

Robin Hodds is the manager of these services and is also the Cabinet Secretary and Deputy Monitoring Officer. He and the Member Services Officers can advise on all constitutional matters. The member services officers should be the first port of call for councillors' queries.

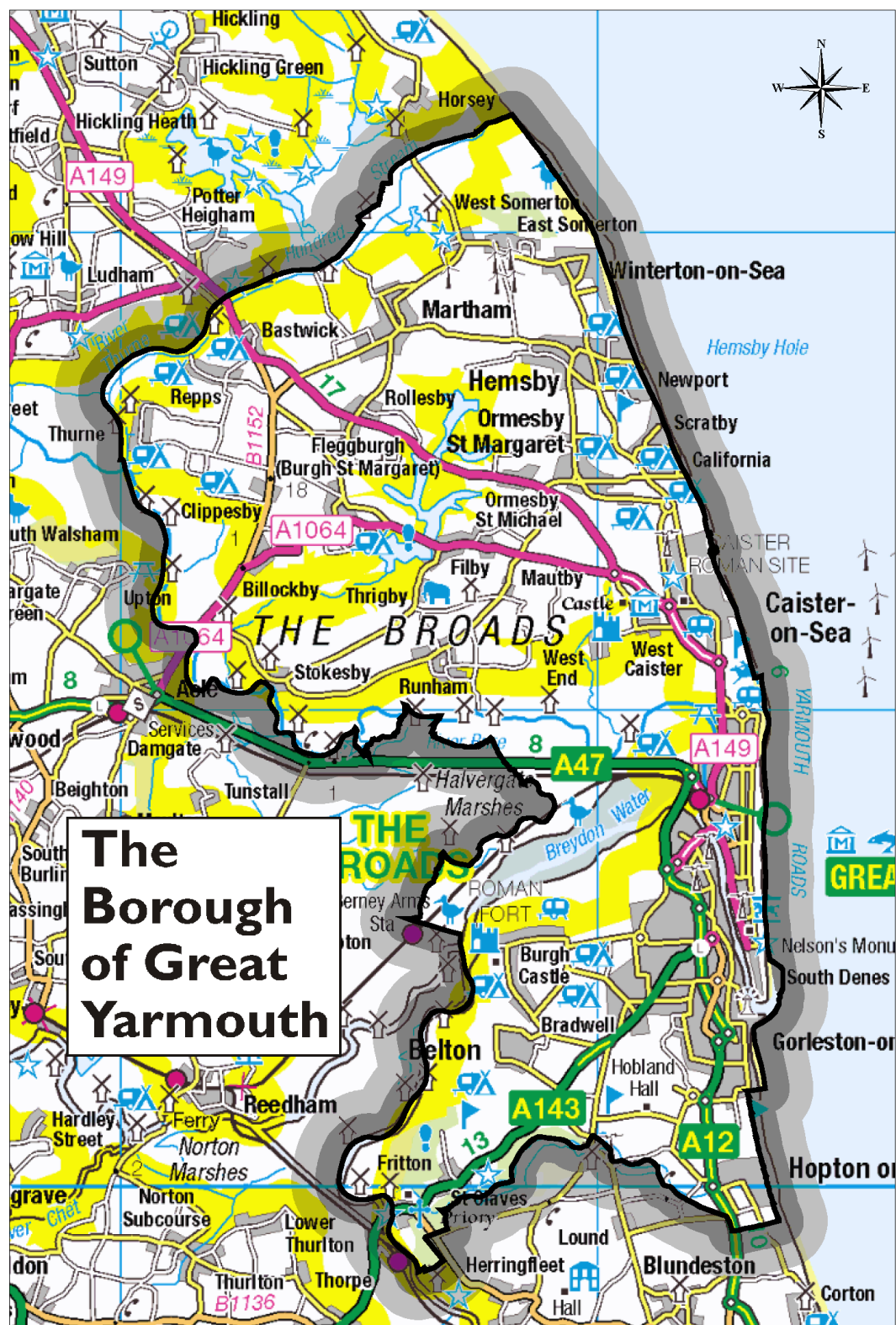
Contact details of all officers in Member services and the Executive Management Support are below:

Name	Title	Telephone	Email
Robin Hodds	Cabinet Secretary and Deputy Monitoring Off.	01493 846325 07919 592383	rh@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
Sarah Davis	Member Services Officer	01493 846307	sed@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
Karline Smith	Member Services Officer	01493 846309	ke@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
Christina Webb	PA to Chief Executive Officer and the Leader	01493 846301	clw@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
Ria Day	PA to Corporate Directors	01493 846	rjd@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
Colin Rowland	Corporate Policy and Performance Officer	01493 846168	crr@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
Geoff Jones	Information Manager	01493 846855	geoff@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
Ashlie Southey	Member services assistant	01493 846321	ajs@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
Marian Newrick	Clerical assistant	01493 846634	mn@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

39. Council Services

Members may need to access a range of services on behalf of their constituents. To assist members, contact details of officers from Neighbourhood and Communities, GYB Services and an A-Z of services is included on page 23-24.

Map of the Borough



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Quick Guide to Full Council meeting protocol

Asking Questions

Any member may ask the Leader or Chair of a Committee a question without giving notice if the item is on the agenda and is being received or considered.

Any member may ask the Mayor, Member of the Cabinet or Chair of a Committee a question with 10 working days notice if the issue is not on the agenda. If the item is urgent the Mayor, providing the question is received by 11am on the day of the meeting, or the responder may waive this requirement.

The member may also ask one supplementary question of the responder. This question must relate directly from the original questions reply.

Motions

Motions must be about matters for which the council has responsibility.

Written notice of a motion must be signed by at least 5 members and submitted not less than 10 days before the meeting.

Some Motions can be raised without notice these are listed in section 12 of the constitution.

Rules of Debate

No speeches allowed until the motion has been seconded.

When seconding, a Member may reserve their speech until later in the debate.

Speeches must be directed to the question, personal explanation or point of order. No speech may exceed 5 minutes without the consent of the council.

A member may only speak once during a debate unless they are speaking on an amendment, exercising a right of reply, raising a point of order or giving a personal explanation.

An amendment cannot negate a motion or introduce new subject matter. Only one amendment can be discussed at one time. If an amendment is carried the Mayor will read out the amended motion before accepting further amendments or putting it to the vote.

A member may raise a point of order at any time and it will be heard immediately, a point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of council procedure or law. The ruling of the Mayor is final.

Voting

Unless the Constitution states otherwise, any matter will be decided by a simple majority of those Members voting and present in the room.

If there is equal numbers for and against the Mayor has a second casting vote. There is no restriction on how this is used.

Member Conduct

When a member speaks at full council they must stand. If more than one member stands the Mayor will ask one to speak and the others must sit.

Members must remain seated whilst another member is speaking unless they wish to make a point of order or personal explanation.

If the Mayor stands the member speaking must stop and sit, the meeting must be silent.

If a member persistently disregards the Mayor the Mayor may move that the member not be heard further. If this is seconded it is voted on without discussion.

If a member continues to behave improperly after such a motion has been carried the Mayor may move that the member leaves the meeting or the meeting is adjourned. If seconded it is voted on without discussion.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Management Structure



A-Z of services

Advice and Benefits

Council Tax Support/Housing Benefit 01493 846291
Conservation Areas 01493 846195
Cemeteries and Crematorium 01493 441974

Business

Business Start-up Advice 0800 458 0146
Business Rates Enquiries 01493 846244
Tourism Business Advice 01493 846492
Business Development & Promotion 01493 846108
Licensing Enquiries (alcohol, entertainment, gambling & taxis) 01493 846530 /846201

Communications

Media Enquiries 01493 846513
Web Communications 01493 846814

Council and Democracy

Councillor Info/Committee Dates 01493 846325
Freedom of Information 01493 846855
Elections/Register of Electors 01493 846327 /846548

Council Tax

Council Tax Enquiries 01493 846244
Payment Line 01493 846117
Cashiers 01493 846266

Customer & Business

Enquiries 01493 856100
Emergency Out of Hours 01493 330369

Environmental Health

Emergency Management
Flooding
Flytipping
Food Complaints
Hazardous Waste
Pest Control
Pollution (Air, Noise & Water)
Recycling 01493 846478

GYB Services

Refuse Collection
Septic Tank Emptying Service
Trade Waste
Wheeled Bins
Abandoned Vehicles
Clinical Waste 01493 742200

Homes and Housing

Housing Advice
Homelessness
Housing Register
Housing Options 01493 846140
Rent Income 01493 846726
Housing Repairs 01493 846381

Yare Care Alarm Service 01493 330369
Older Person's Community Outreach Service 01493 846655

Disabled Adaptations 01493 846190
Empty Homes 01493 846113

01493 846140
Greyfriars House Area Housing Office 01493 846529
Gorleston Area Housing Office 01493 846839

South Yarmouth Area Housing Office 01493 846825
Sheltered Housing Service 01493 846666
Safe at Home 01493 846190

Neighbourhoods and Communities

SeaChange Arts 01493 745458
Marina Centre 01493 851521
Phoenix Swimming Pool 01493 664575
Sports Development and Leisure 01493 846354
Play Development 01493 846448
Neighbourhood Matters Comeunity (Yarmouth) 01493 845920
Make it Happen (Southtown/Cobholm) 01493 418295
MESH (Gorleston) 01493 604739

Mayor and Events

Mayor's Secretary 01493 846125
Tourism Enquiries 01493 846346
Event Safety Advisory Group 01493 846343

Norfolk County Council Services

Customer enquiries 0344 800 8020

Planning

Applications/Enquiries
Building Regulations Enforcement
Land Charges 01493 846430
Listed Buildings 01493 846419
Strategic Planning 01493 846626

Transport and Streets

Concessionary Bus Passes 01493 331919 /0344 8008020
Car Parks 01493 846358
Street Naming and Numbering 01493 846432

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Subject:	Youth Engagement and Local Democracy
Date:	10th October 2013
To:	Ward Members Working Group
Report by:	Rob Gregory – Group Manager Neighbourhoods and Communities

Matter for discussion

At its last meeting, the Ward Members Working Group requested further examples of national good practice in youth engagement and local democracy.

The Local Government Association maintains a knowledge hub as an opportunity to share good practice across the functions of local government. Dating back to 2007 GYBC contributed to these hubs as part of its role as an “Empowering Authority”. Through this network there were a number of examples of other authorities undertaking positive engagement activities particularly with young people. Examples included the London Borough of Lewisham, with the first elected Youth Mayor and Devon’s Young Commissioners programme.

A publication produced by the LGA this year highlighted the opportunity to engage young people in Scrutiny, emphasising the importance of a youth perspective in such debates.

http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=b1f405e8-53f2-482e-ab7b-312dfdc98f6e&groupId=10180

At a district level a number of local councils also maintain youth councils and youth forums some to varying degrees of effectiveness.

In Norfolk, the establishment of Youth Advisory Boards in each district has created an opportunity to focus on the needs and aspirations of young people, with a delegated budget directed by young people themselves. In Great Yarmouth the Youth Advisory Board has been particularly successful, commissioning a range of youth projects and establishing 4 Youth Action Groups in recognition of the geographical spread of young people across the borough. Each Youth Action Group is led by young people and supported by a Youth Worker from MAP (the commissioned provider on behalf of Norfolk County Council).

The Youth Advisory Board model provides a number of opportunities for GYBC.

- The success of the Cabinet in Schools programme has highlighted the opportunity to engage young people in democratic debate, utilising the technology and multimedia available in the Council Chamber. There is certainly an appetite from Youth Action Groups to host a larger youth debate around “real issues” for young people in the borough.
- There is also an opportunity to establish a formal relationship between council decision-making processes and the Youth Action Groups, to maintain a direct link between young people and local democratic structures. A number of national case studies are available to illustrate this.
- Individual ward members may wish to engage directly with Youth Action Groups or School Councils to canvass the views of children and young people. Ward members may also wish to engage directly with young people through outreach and detached youth work. Existing Youth and Community Workers may be able to assist with this.

Experience of working with young people demonstrates that such engagement needs to be relevant, meaningful and pitched at the right level and delivered in the right way, delivering concrete results. Such an approach will enthuse young people to become the next generation of councilors and elected members.