

FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**NEW MEMBER WELCOME
INDUCTION BOOKLET**

Introduction from the Chief Executive

Dear Councillor,

I would like to take this opportunity to personally congratulate you on your election as a Councillor for Fareham Borough Council and I extend a very warm welcome to you.

This induction booklet has been compiled to assist you in your role throughout your term of office. It contains important information for ongoing reference and an electronic version of the document will be updated on the website as required. In addition, there are a number of forms for you to complete and return, as explained in the attached letter.

The booklet includes a number of web links which allow you to access information across the Council's website and direct you to other useful websites.

I hope you will attend the training provided as shown on the enclosed schedule and you will find my officers willing to explain any areas which are unclear.

I look forward to working with you during the forthcoming Council term.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Grimwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and 'G'.

Peter Grimwood
Chief Executive

Congratulations on your election to Fareham Borough Council.

The Head of Democratic Services, Leigh Usher and her team would like to welcome you and introduce you to the Council.

The following pages give an overview of the Council and a list of key contacts. A scheme of training has been adopted to assist new Members in familiarising themselves with the work of the Council and is also attached.

Member training and development is considered to be an integral part of the Council's business and it is recognised that the Council can achieve its aims and objectives to assist Members in dealing with the demands placed upon them.

Fareham Borough Council:

- Recognises the need to provide appropriate training and development and learning opportunities to all members
- Will identify resources to provide training and development to maximise the potential of its members
- Recognises that continued investment and commitment to training and development are essential to Fareham Borough Council, if quality services are to be provided, maintained and continually improved;
- Requires all members to actively participate and ensure that training needs are identified through completion of a training needs assessment every two years to enable the appropriate investment of the Authority's resources in the training and development of all members, and
- Recognises its responsibility to provide equal access for all members to training and development in accordance with equal opportunities and existing policies.

I look forward to meeting you at the first induction session on Tuesday 10 May at 4.30pm. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to telephone as follows:

Leigh Usher
Head of Democratic Services
01329 824553
lusher@fareham.gov.uk

Samantha Wightman
Committee and Information Services Manager
01329 824594
swightman@fareham.gov.uk

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION TRAINING TIMETABLE

05 May 2022

Elected

Paperwork received will include Acceptance of Office, bank details car registration and Declarations of Interests form – to be returned on or before 10 May.

Please note the following timeframes:

- Your Acceptance of Office form must be signed and returned to the Head of Democratic Services before the Annual Council Meeting. Without this, you cannot attend that meeting.
- Your Declaration of Interests form must be returned to the Head of Democratic Services by 27 May 2021.

After 05 May 2022

You will be contacted by an ICT Officer to make a mutually convenient appointment to set up your IT device and offer training on the systems available to you.

Tuesday 10 May at 4.30pm

Module 1 – Welcome, Introduction, Overview of key points and use of virtual platform

Required attendance – all new Members

Venue – Council Chamber, Civic Offices

- Attend Civic Offices to have photo taken for ID badge (ICT) and for the website & formal publications (floor 8)
- Opportunity to hand in paperwork given out on Election night and undertake various administration tasks
- Return Parking Permit Application - please bring your driving licence to receive your car parking pass (this will not be copied or retained by the Council)
- Short ICT briefing
- Short presentation from the Head of Democratic Services to outline Council Meeting procedures, Declarations of Interest, Petitions and Motions, committees, information security and group rooms in readiness for Annual Council meeting

Wednesday 18 May 2021 at 4pm

Module 2 – Introduction to sitting on Planning Committee

Required attendance – all new Councillors who are appointed to sit on Planning Committee

Venue – online via Microsoft Teams

This session is for new Councillors who have been appointed to sit on Planning Committee and it will cover the procedures for these meetings.

Thursday 26 May 2021: 10am – 4.30pm
Module 3 – New Member Induction Training Day
Required attendance – all new Members
Venue – Council Chamber

- 10am **Welcome and Introductions**
Fire procedure at the Civic Offices
Presented by Leigh Usher, Head of Democratic Services
- Roles and responsibilities including Code of conduct; registering interests; declarations of interests and the use of Social media**
Presented by Sarah Robinson, Monitoring Officer and Richard Ivory, Solicitor to the Council
- 11.15am Break
- 11.25am **Overview of the Council’s Constitution including Standing Orders and Financial regulations**
Presented by Leigh Usher, Head of Democratic Services and Elaine Hammell, Head of Finance and Audit.
- 12.25pm **Corporate Strategy and Objectives; Equality and Inclusion; and The Council’s response to Climate Change & its Action Plan**
Presented by Roy Brown, Policy Research and Engagement Manager
- 1.10pm **Lunch**
- 2pm **Committee structure, scrutiny, motions to Council and petitions**
Presented by Leigh Usher, Head of Democratic Services
- 2.45pm **Freedom of information, Data Protection and the UK General Data Protection Regulation**
Presented by Leigh Usher, Head of Democratic Services and Data Protection Officer
- 3.30pm Break
- 3.40pm **Safeguarding**
Presented by Narinder Bains, Community Safety Manager
- 4.10pm Close of day
Leigh Usher
- 4.30pm Session end

~ Some of these topics will be revisited in detail during your term of office in future training sessions ~

September/October 2022

Module 4 – Review of Role

Civic Offices

This session will be an individual appointment with Leigh Usher, Head of Democratic Services to discuss the training programme and any further training requirements you may have, or wish to, suggest.

November/December 2022

Module 5 – Induction – What’s Missing!

How can we help you further? Are there any further requirements you may have? Requests for further training or clarification?

Please don't wait though...if there is anything we can assist with in the meantime, please do contact the Committee team who will be happy to help or signpost you to the right person or department.

Training sessions will be arranged during the year for all councillors regarding specific topics and changes in legislation.

If you have any particular requirements, please discuss these with Samantha Wightman, Committee and Information Services Manager on 01329 824594 or email

swightman@fareham.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1 COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Local people want to know that the people they elected to represent are doing so. This can involve speaking out on issues that impact on the ward or the borough, such as planning applications. The Council website www.fareham.gov.uk has information on past committee and individual decisions, agendas, reports and minutes from 2008 and the committee calendar for the current year. <http://moderngov.fareham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

The website also shows details of your colleagues, the County Councillors, MPs and MEPs.

A copy of the committee calendar is shown on the Council's website here - <http://moderngov.fareham.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

And you can see the dates of the committees to which you are appointed and the Council meeting that all councillors attend. For your ease of reference initially, we attach a paper copy of the schedule.

Meetings generally start at 6pm except Planning Committee which begins at 2.30pm and, on occasions, we may convene a meeting during the day. You will be sent an agenda before a meeting for each committee on which you sit which shows the start time, Chairman, Vice Chairman, committee members, minutes of last meeting and officer reports to be discussed. Contact details for the report writer is shown at the end of every report if you require clarification on any point in the report.

If you are unable to attend a meeting to which you are appointed or Council, as well as advising the Chairman, please also confirm to the Committee officer, or team, prior to the meeting if a deputy is attending in your place.

This will enable us to ensure a quorum of Councillors will be present.

Democratic Services can be contacted:

By phone on 01329 824594;

By email at democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk

In person on floor 9 of the Civic Offices

You may also be appointed to serve on an Outside Body on behalf of the council. There are a number of organisations which are independent from the council but have an impact on our service areas. In order that the council can maintain effective partnerships with a number of these organisations, representatives of the council, usually elected councillors sit on the various committees and forums that are responsible for them. You will be appointed at the first meeting of Council and details of the organisation and their meetings will be sent to you. These organisations usually meet 2 or 3 times a year.

APPENDIX 2 COMMITTEE TEAM

The Committee Team support all Council Committees and panels, as well as Member training, processing claims and distributing Councillors' post.

The Committee team are located on Floor 9 of the Civic Offices and comprises:

Leigh Usher
Head of Democratic Services

Samantha Wightman
Committee and Information Services Manager

Melanie Bettley
Committee and Information Officer

Astra Hughes
Committee Officer

Julie Lumley-Pistor
Committee Officer

Although committees are allocated between the team and each officer will have a responsibility for supporting those Committees and carrying out all associated administrative tasks, please approach any member of the team who will be happy to help you.

Councillor's post trays are also located in Democratic Services on floor 9. You will have been asked how you wish your post to reach you – posted or collected. If there is any change to this, please let one of the Committee Team know who will note this.

The Elections Team are also located on floor 9 and are happy to answer any of your Election enquiries.

APPENDIX 3 MANAGEMENT TEAM

As shown on the chart (attached to this document), the Chief Executive is responsible for the employees and their actions. He is supported by four directors and a number of Head of Service officers reporting to them.

In addition, there are a number of key contacts who deal with particular areas that may be of concern to you or your residents.

APPENDIX 4 KEY CONTACTS

This is an A-Z list of contacts within the Council for your ease of reference (attached to this document).

APPENDIX 5 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

Anyone elected as a councillor may claim payments for carrying out their duties. Our scheme under which these are made includes a basic allowance payable to all councillors and special responsibility allowances which are paid to some who have additional responsibilities.

The basic allowance is intended to recognise the time commitment all Councillors have to make, including such calls on their time such as attending meetings and dealing with constituency matters. The special responsibility allowances are available to councillors with significant extra duties and responsibilities such as the Executive Leader or the chairmen of committees. There are also various allowances available such as travel and subsistence. A carers' allowance is also available to assist councillors with expenditure necessarily incurred in arranging for the care of their dependants or children.

Allowances are automatically paid monthly into your nominated bank account but claims for travel and subsistence must be made on the appropriate form and submitted to Democratic Services within three months of incurring the expenditure.

If you have any payroll enquiries, please speak to Neil Wood.

A copy of the members' allowances scheme can be found at this link http://www.fareham.gov.uk/about_the_council/governance/memballow.aspx

A paper copy is available on request from the Committee team.