



WEYMOUTH
TOWN COUNCIL

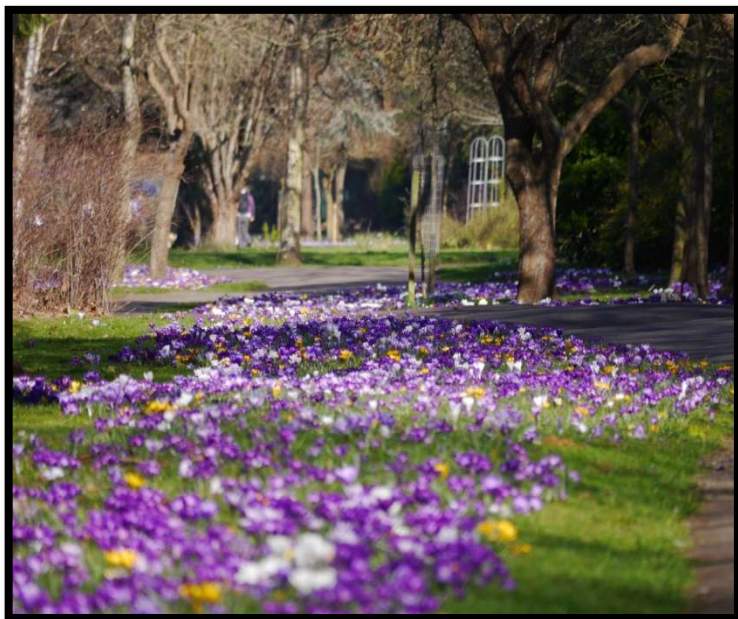


Creating thriving communities in Weymouth where everyone is proud to live, work, play and visit

CORPORATE PLAN 2021 – 2025

Refreshed June 2023





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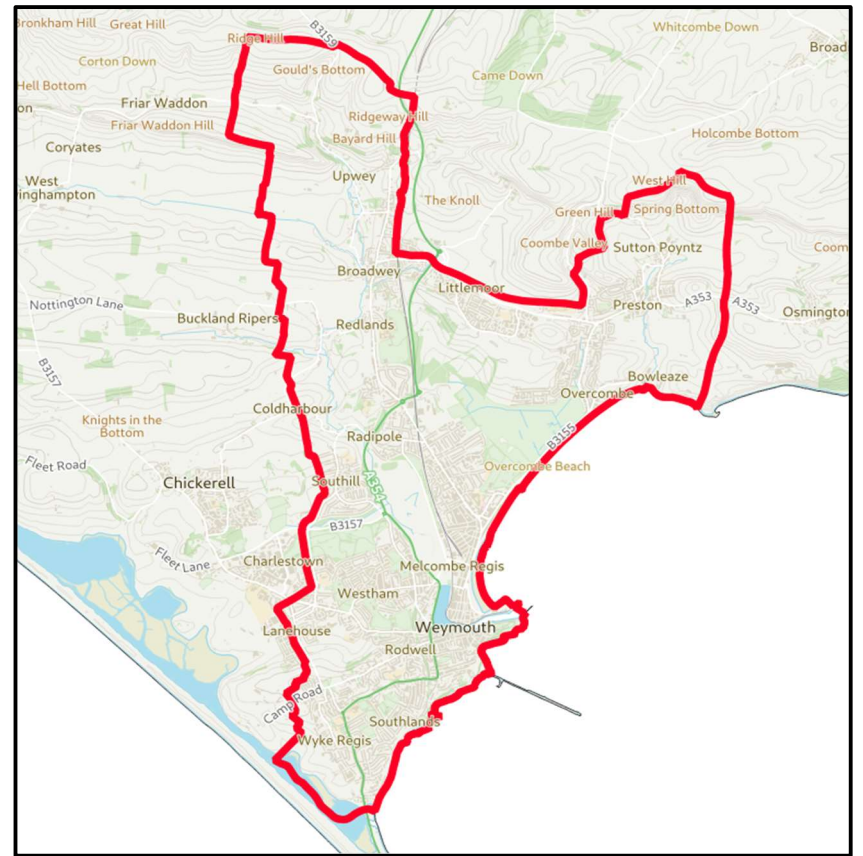
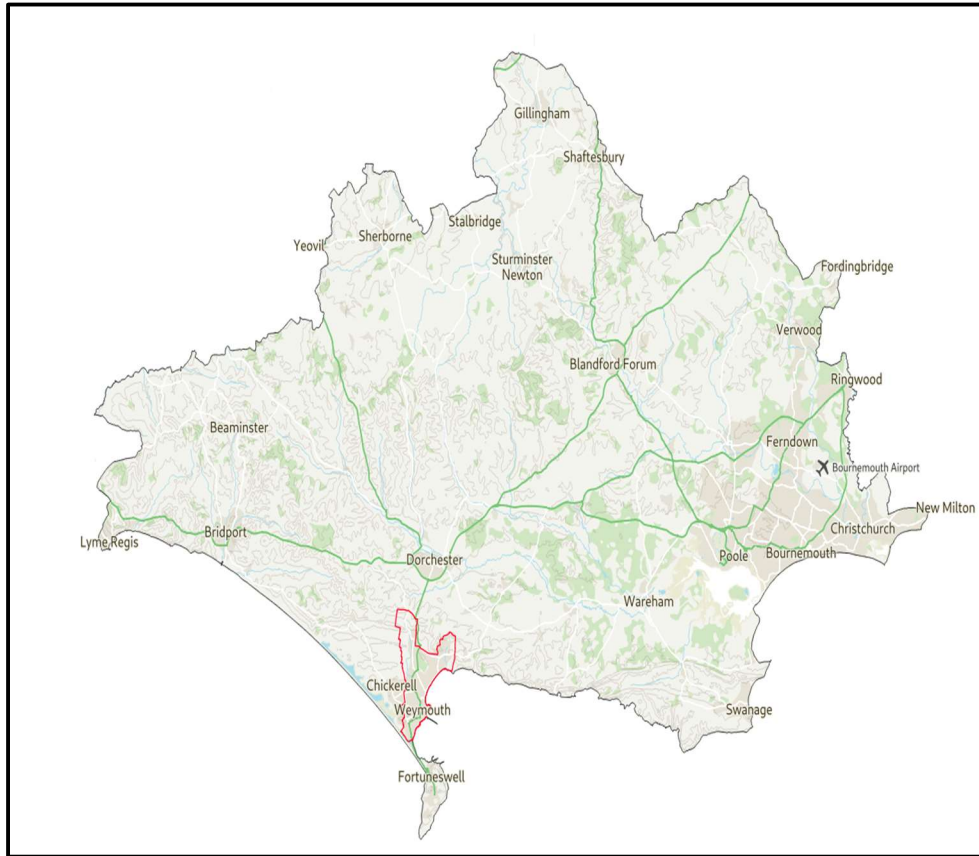
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Weymouth – Regional Location

Weymouth Area Map

FOREWORD:



The Jurassic coast in Dorset is an amazing place, that's why UNESCO made it England's first and only geological world heritage site in 2001. All 95 miles of this stretch of coast are rich in heritage and history, offering so much to both residents and visitors.

We are perfectly placed in the centre of this coastline to offer something for everyone. For our residents, Weymouth is a vibrant hometown of diverse and distinct communities with all you need to enjoy life – active communities, schools, libraries, health care, recreation, shopping, easy access to the outdoors etc. And for the one million visitors we welcome each year we team heritage with modern offers so there is always something to do and see.

From the lively main beach where you can sip cocktails and watch the waves lap on the sands as the Promenade lights glint on the water to the quiet coves that dot the coastline, we are proud of our wonderful beaches, but Weymouth is more than a handy place to enjoy the sea. We have picturesque villages like Sutton Poyntz and Upwey with thatched cottages and views of rolling hills. We have a busy quayside where you can see fishermen unload their catch and then you can eat it, fresh from the sea, in one of our wonderful restaurants, we have formal parks and gardens to while away a lazy afternoon and exciting attractions to keep both kids and adults engaged for hours.

As a Town Council we are immensely proud of the town centre, villages and districts within Weymouth. We have 53,000 residents and we want every one of you to be happy and able to enjoy life. We know there are things we can improve, and things we need to work with partners like Dorset Council, Public Health, Businesses and Community Organisations and Dorset Police to improve – and we are committed to doing that. In this plan you will see our priorities and the work we are doing to achieve those. Please get in touch if you want to talk to us about those, if you have any ideas and if you want to get involved. The way we make things better is by working with all of you – everyone who lives, visits, works or studies in the area can add their voices.

Cllr Kate Wheller, Mayor of Weymouth 2023/24



Since Weymouth Town Council was established on 1 April 2019 we have achieved so much. From day one we took over and successfully ran: 3.5 miles of beach and the Promenade, 18 play areas, 33 open spaces and amenity areas, 4 cemeteries, 353 allotments, 10 public toilet buildings, 30 properties and assets, memorials, statues and monuments (including Henry VIII's castle at Sandsfoot), 150 events and festivals, community development and business support programmes as well as all the back office work required.

Not only did we seamlessly take on that work, but we also started on an ambitious programme of development: a £1.4m project to revamp Radipole Park and Gardens, an ambitious project to relaunch Tumbledown as a community asset and climate change work to reduce our carbon footprint and address the ecological emergency we declared.

A wide-ranging review of our work and contracts to ensure we are working as efficiently and effectively as we can to provide high class services whilst protecting the public purse and keeping costs down was undertaken and a programme of income generation was devised so we don't rely so much on the precept which is our small proportion of the Council Tax.

I feel incredibly lucky to be living somewhere so diverse and energetic. One of the strengths I have noticed is the way communities help themselves to thrive – and this has been so evident through the Coronavirus crisis. Neighbours helped neighbours, residents set up social media groups and small community support hubs to make sure no one was left in need, charities diversified their work and food banks increased their work to support people.

This is the strength and commitment I would love to harness in the Council's ambitious aspirations for future years. I want you to come forward and tell us what you think, tell us what you need and help us provide that. Coronavirus has obviously affected our planned programme of engagement and we all look forward to getting to a new normal where we can again meet in person, discuss, plan and share the success of making Weymouth the very best that it can be.

Jane Biscombe – Town Clerk, Weymouth Town Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This document has been prepared in order to clearly set out the key priorities and objectives for Weymouth Town Council until 2025. The document sets out a vision for the Council and the Council's 7 Corporate Priorities, which are:

1. Improve the Well-Being of the People of Weymouth.
2. Work to Address the Climate & Ecological emergency and support the Community to do the Same.
3. Promote Opportunities for Economic Success in the Area.
4. Manage the Council's Assets and Resources Responsibly and Transparently.
5. Manage the Council's Services to Meet the Needs of the Community.
6. Strive for Continuous Improvement and Service Development.
7. Work with Partners to Deliver our Core Values and Strategy.

Our work is underpinned by a commitment to the environment and tackling climate change and working to ensure equality for all.

The aim of the document is to give Weymouth's residents a clear understanding of what the Council is trying to achieve and how it intends to deliver that. It sets out what the Council intends to focus on over the next five years and in doing this the document also defines what the Council will not necessarily focus on as it may be that other public sector bodies are better placed for other areas of service provision.

This Town Plan sets out what the Council can achieve rather than seeks to influence others on issues that are not directly under the control of the Council.



This document will be reviewed on an annual basis and updates on achievements will be reported through the Council's reporting process, and also annually at the Council's Annual Town Assembly in the spring each year.

Weymouth Town Council – So Far:

Weymouth Town Council was founded on 1 April 2019 as part of the local government reorganisation process that created Dorset Council from the numerous Boroughs and District Councils, and the Dorset County Council.

Weymouth Town Council provides its residents locally focussed services and management of public assets within the Town such as such as play areas, public toilets, allotments and community work and improvements.

The Councils budget in 22/23 is £4.3m with £3.2 million coming from the precept. The precept is the proportion of your Council Tax that comes to the Town Council. This equates to about £145 a year (or £12 per month) for the average house in Weymouth.

We are constantly looking for new ways to work and new ways to bring in income to the Council. In coming years this will be one of our main themes. We want to offer high quality services to residents and visitors alike to support the local economy and quality of life.

This corporate plan is not set in stone and will change and flex to capitalise on opportunities, meet the changing needs of our residents and meet the challenges that we may encounter.

Highlights include:

Maintained high quality play areas and open spaces, including a new skatepark and parkour area at The Marsh

Maintained an award-winning beach and tourist offer.

Launched Tumbledown Community Farm – which in 2023 won an award from the Weymouth Civic Society for “Improving Lifestyles” for local people.

Granted £50,000 to local groups

Declared a climate change and ecological emergency and commitment to achieving a net-zero carbon activity by 2030.

Maintained 10 public toilet buildings ensuring visitors and residents had access to clean, safe facilities.

Started an ambitious re-vamp of Radipole Park & Gardens

Formulated proposals to improve how the Council works to make it more efficient, open, participative and keep it non-political.

Supported over 150 events, celebrations, and festivals a year.

Developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Weymouth to set out our own local Planning Policies.

Maintained the Council’s Blue Flag, Green Flag and Purple Flag accreditations.

These are just some of the highlights of what the Council has achieved over the past three years and the impact of these achievements is that the residents of Weymouth are benefiting from the provision of quality-of-life services that no other organisation would provide for them if Weymouth Town Council did not exist.

This Corporate Plan for 2021 to 2025 will help to ensure the continuation of this track record of achievement and service delivery that contributes to ‘Make Weymouth a Better Place’ for all residents, businesses and visitors to the town.



An Overview of Weymouth:

Weymouth was first mentioned in the 10th century and by 1252 was a thriving seaport and Charter Town. However, archaeological digs and research has shown the area was busy even during Roman times and the local hillforts point to a history stretching as far back as the Iron Age, about 1,000 BC. Now, about 53,000 people live in the area covered by Weymouth Town Council.

Weymouth was a popular seaside destination whose reputation and fame was catapulted across Europe by George III's regular stays in the late 18th century. With the advent of the railways in the late 19th Century, it became a destination of choice for families, groups, couples and monarchs alike! Our history and recognition continued to develop in the 20th century as we played our part in WW1 as a convalescence base for over 120,000 ANZAC troops and in WW2 where over 500,000 troops passed through the port, including those on their way to the D-Day landings.

Weymouth is consistently recognised as one of the top seaside destinations in the UK, for both holidays and quality of life for residents. We are committed to retaining our blue, green and purple flags which prove the quality of our beaches, parks and town centre. In an average year tourism generates 1.6 million staying visitor nights and 2.1 million day visits, adding £2.9m to the local economy.

Weymouth has excellent transport links with train access to London and Bristol in under three hours. There are also road links that offer beautiful coastal drives, as well as quick access to Poole, Bournemouth and Exeter. Nearby airports include Bristol, Bournemouth, Exeter and Southampton.



An Overview of Weymouth Town Council

Weymouth Town Council was established in April 2019 following the re-organisation of Local Government arrangements for Dorset. When it was created it became one of the largest Town Councils in the country.

The Council comprises 29 elected representatives that are democratically elected (typically) every four years. The next elections are due in May 2024. For Town Council purposes Weymouth is divided into 12 wards that have the following numbers of elected representatives:

Littlemoor Ward	2 Councillors
Melcombe Regis	3 Councillors
Preston	3 Councillors
Radipole	2 Councillors
Upwey & Broadwey	2 Councillors
Westham East	2 Councillors
Westham North	3 Councillors
Westham West	2 Councillors
Wey Valley	2 Councillors
Weymouth East	2 Councillors
Weymouth West	3 Councillors
Wyke Regis	3 Councillors

The elected Council is the body that makes decisions, and this is achieved through Committees and Working Groups that have delegated authority in line with the Council's Constitution, Standing Orders and Delegation of Authority to Members and Officers

The Council itself is chaired by the Town Mayor who typically serves one year of office and is elected from the Council itself and a Leader of the Council who co-ordinates the strategic direction. The Council then has four main Committees that govern the strategic direction and much of the day to day business of the Council. These are Finance & Governance, Services, Planning & Licensing and Human Resources.

The Council is funded by income it generates of nearly £1m, and by the residents of Weymouth through what is known as a precept on the council tax charge. The 2023/24 budget set a precept of £3.2m which equates to a council tax charge of £145 per council tax band B household per year. The Council's total gross expenditure for 2021/22 is budgeted to be £4.3m. The Council also has capital reserves to undertake agreed projects and improvements, and a general reserve in line with Government guidelines. Further information is available via the Council's website at www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

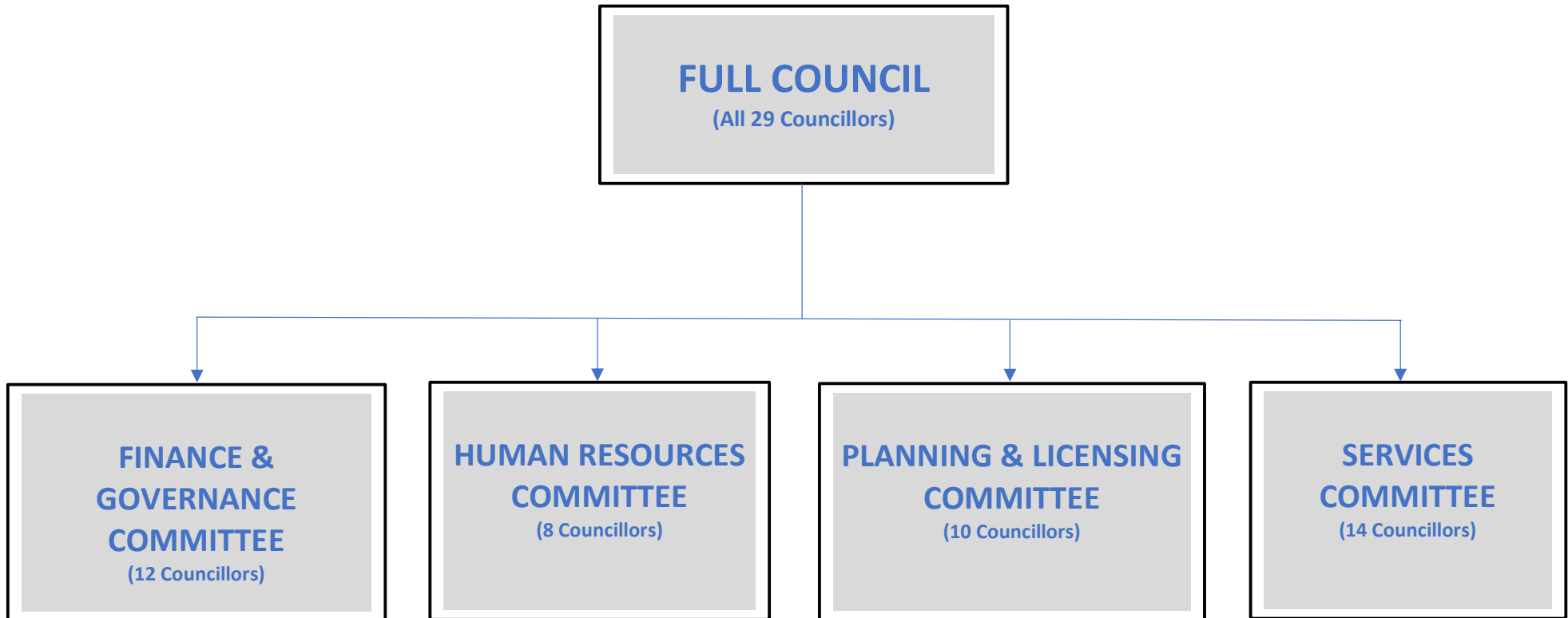
Supporting the Council is a workforce of approximately 50 that the Council employs to deliver services and ensure that all decisions are made appropriately. The Council officer structure is headed by the Town Clerk who is also the statutory Head of the Paid Service, the Deputy Town Clerk also acts as the Council's Responsible Finance Officer. They in turn are supported by a, Assistant Town Clerk.

Additionally, the Council also employs a range of external support services including legal, HR and asset management.

A copy of the Council's departmental service and functions as well as Committee and staffing structures are set in the following pages.



Weymouth Town Council – Committee Structure:



Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the Full Council or Committee meetings, all of which have items for public engagement and questions. Full details of upcoming meetings can be found at www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk/committee

Weymouth Town Council Functions, Services & Responsibilities:

Weymouth Town Council

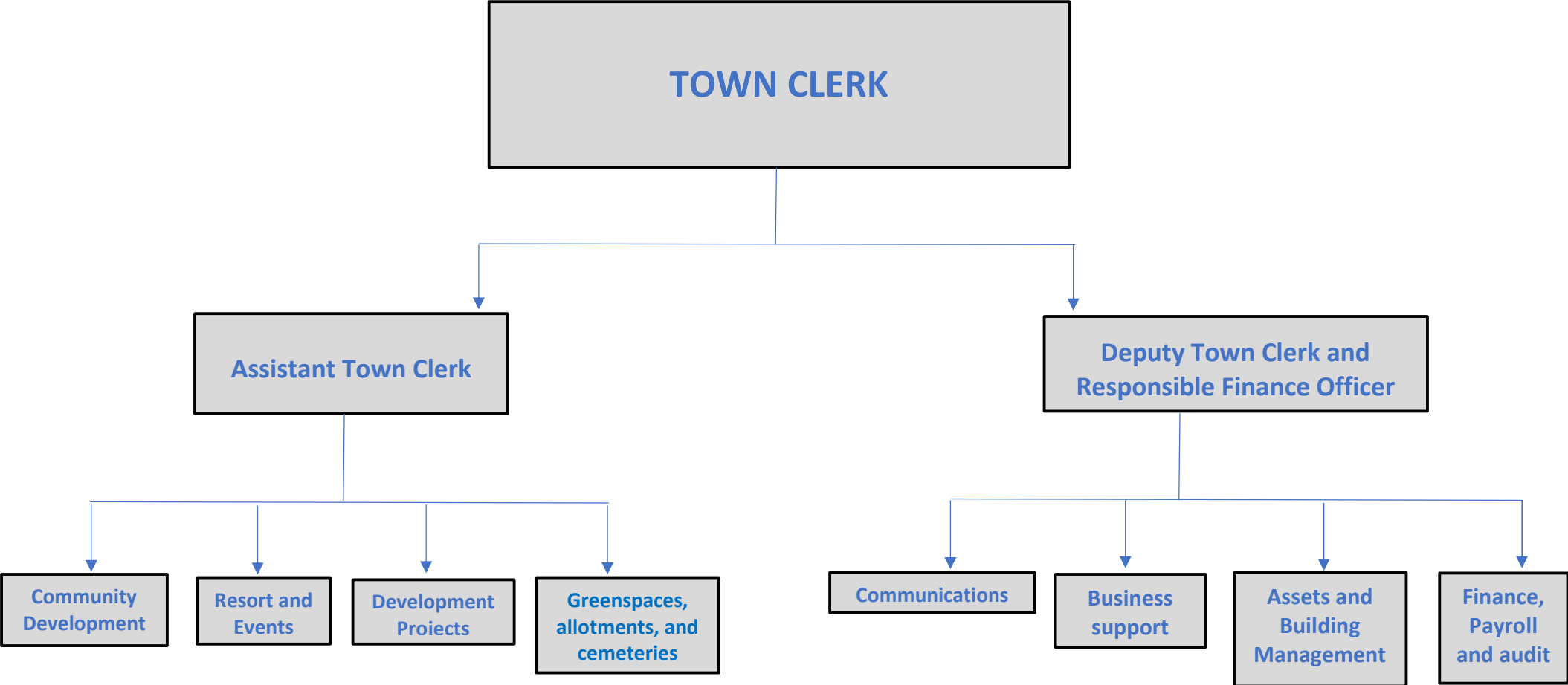
Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk

Weymouth Town Council Departments

Finance & Business	Operations	Greenspaces
Mayor's office and Civic events	The Beach & Promenade	Allotments
Democratic Management	Events	Cemeteries
Council Finances and audit	Public Toilets	Play Areas, Outdoor Gyms, Skate Parks
Personnel, Jobs, Recruitment Enquiries	Property & Assets	Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds
IT Support Enquiries	Income Generation	Tumbledown Community Space
GDPR, FOI and Data Protection	Contracts & Procurement	Arboriculture Services
Customer Service	Community Development	Nursery Services
Community Grants	Statues, Monuments & Memorials	
	Voluntary Groups	
	Catering	

NOTE: Overview only, please contact the Council should you have any queries regarding the detailed areas of responsibility.

Weymouth Town Council – Senior Leadership Team



Weymouth Town Council's Plan



How to Comment on this Document & Contact the Council:

Weymouth Town Council welcomes feedback on its Corporate Plan from all sections of the community.

Views about the work of the Council are welcomed as are suggestions for further service developments and other issues that are important for the town that the Council can have an impact on. Comments can be made by writing to:

Weymouth Town Council
c/o Town Clerk
The New Town Hall,
Commercial Road,
Weymouth,
Dorset,
DT4 8NG

Or by emailing: office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Or by telephoning: 01305 239839

Or by visiting the Council's Facebook page and Twitter accounts

Or by using the contact form on the Council's website

A full copy of this document can be downloaded from the Council's website: www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

