



Association of
Democratic Services
Trustees



Wigan Council Democratic Services Team of the Year 2016

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Manager

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Confident Place, Confident People.



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Why we re-evaluated our service

- Wigan Council was third hardest hit Council with the cuts - £160m (more for less)
- The team was re-structured
- 'The Deal' meant a fundamental change in how we work

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So what is The Deal?



- The Deal is our informal agreement between the council and everyone who lives or works in Wigan to create a better borough.
- We want every resident to be able to see our commitment to The Deal and there's no better way than seeing it in your community.
- We are bringing this to the community with The Deal in Action

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The Deal

for modern councillors



Our part

- Enhance your skills
- Be efficient and professional
- Respect Member/Officer Relations
- Keep you informed
- Provide the tools and support you need
- Enable you to be self reliant
- Recognise your achievements & contribution
- Abide by the Council's policies and procedures

signed

Your part

- Embrace the Modern Councillor Programme
- ASC don't 'ask'
- Respect Member/Officer Relations
- Understand and respect officers' roles
- Embrace modern ways of working
- Put our community at the heart of everything
- Be a role model within the community
- Abide by the Members' Code of Conduct

signed



Then and Now

Pre Austerity	Austerity
Agendas	Digital Training
Minutes	iPads
Room Bookings/Refreshments	The Deal & Deal Days
Briefings	Deal Ambassadors
Clerking	Political Awareness Training
Member Support	Report Management (enhanced mod.gov)
	Programme for Schools Module
	My Time

The importance of digital working

- Paperlight accreditation (local award)
- £50k annual savings on printing
- Immediate access to agendas/minutes
- Digital support sessions: self-reliance
- New apps and toolkits
(Brighter Borough, RIC, Welfare Reform)



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Upheavals



- We have been re-structured three times and are currently undergoing a re-structure.
- We have moved offices twice and worked in the town hall throughout the refurbishment
- Agile/Smart Working
- Change in senior management – negative impact on the section.



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Attitude, Attitude, Attitude



Thinking outside of the box

Team iPads

Swift response times

Support for members (above and beyond)

Learning new skills

Confidence

Hosting Events

Training – self and others

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My Time



My Councillor
Time

The Deal
For Modern Councillors



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#BelieveInHer



Even



ADSC Wigan Council
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 Elections

The Deal in Action for Schools

Service: Democratic Services / Elections

Module Description:

A member of the Democratic Services and Elections team, accompanied by two Councillor Members, will visit your school to deliver a 1.5 hour talk/consultation to a year group of your choosing, to educate children about The Deal, Councillors, democracy, voting and elections.

During the session, the Councillor Members will debate an issue for the children in a fun and interactive way, with a vote then taking place on the defined issue, in much the same way of a local general election. By the use of equipment such as printed ballot papers, a ballot box and a voting booth.

Following the vote and the declaration of the result, the Councillor Members and the Democratic Services and Elections representatives will hold a question and answer session for the children.

This module can be delivered at any time during the school day. All that you will need to supply is your school hall and projection equipment.

Benefits of this initiative:

This module enables children to learn about politics, local democracy, voting and their ability to change things, in a fun and engaging way.

Booking information:

For more information, please contact:
 Nick Higham - (01942) 827166 or n.higham@wigan.gov.uk
www.wigan.gov.uk



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Training

Councillor Services Group

- Ad hoc info sessions
- Monthly Seminars
- Different venues
- One to one
- Workshops
- External providers



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Training

David McGrath



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Staff Training

- Political Awareness
- Consultation Masterclasses
- Report Management
- Decision making
- Report Writing



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Interest from other Councils

Manchester
Pendle
Durham
Wirral
Bradford
Chorley
Lancaster
Sheffield
Warrington



Doncaster NHS – ADSO Diploma
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Support from the Chief Executive and The Leader of the Council

"Democratic Services is one of the best, most dynamic, creative and pro-active teams in Wigan Council. They have transformed traditionally 'boring' services into a function at the corporate heart of the council and the community. Their creativity and ideas exhaust me. I don't know where we would be without them."

"I have worked with the staff in Democratic Services for a number of years and I have always found them to be most helpful and forward thinking. Nothing is too much trouble for the team and they have diversified in areas which go beyond their core business."

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Winning streak!



Confident Place, C

It has been a very successful few years,
it has taken it's toll though...

2013

2017



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Time Out

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Any Questions ?

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