

Okehampton Youth Council Constitution



1. Introduction

Okehampton Town Youth Council (OYC) has been set up to give our youths a voice, a connection to their town and to each other, with a view to creating their legacy within our community.

Youth Councillors will represent the views and opinions of their generation whilst influencing and inspiring change and introducing them to democracy.

OYC will work alongside Okehampton Town Council (OTC).

2. Aims and Objectives

- a) To assist OTC by identifying issues affecting young people and providing recommendations for possible solutions or action that could be taken.
- b) To respond to enquiries from OTC on specific young people related issues.
- c) To encourage and engage the younger generation to get involved in projects and events in Okehampton.
- d) To work with other organisations in the town to help promote the views of young people and to make other services aware of young people's views and needs.
- e) To encourage a sense of community and pride amongst the younger generation in the facilities and services available within their community.
- f) To represent the views of younger residents.
- g) To work as a team in both decision making and actions arising.
- h) To create opportunities for learning.
- i) To promote the importance of a youth voice and the influence this can have on wider decision making.
- j) To make democracy and local government accessible to everyone.

3. Membership

The membership and structure of OYC will, as far as possible, mirror that of Okehampton Town Council.

- a) There will be 14 Councillor seats on the Youth Council.

b) Eligibility is open to all young people between the ages of 10 and 18 **and** who live, work or attend an educational facility within the Okehampton Town Boundary. The boundary includes the area to the east of Okehampton that will become part of the town boundary as approved by West Devon Borough Council following the Community Governance Boundary Review.

4. Meetings

- a) OYC will meet at least 4 times per year in the Council Chamber or location as agreed.
- b) Meetings will not be filmed or recorded and will not be open to members of the public with the exception of parents or carers of Youth Councillors.
- c) At least two adults representing OTC will be present at meetings or activities of OYC, as observers/responsible adults and to advise and can participate if requested to do so by the OYC. Other young adult members of the community linked to community groups such as Room 13 may also be present as agreed by OYC.
- d) Minutes will be taken and distributed before the next meeting for approval at that meeting.

5. Youth Councillor Duties

- a) Attend meetings and to send apologies if they are unable to attend.
- b) Work together with other members.
- c) Treat each other and all other people with civility and respect.
- d) Assist with the formation of groups if needed, support activities and events that may be arranged by OYC.
- e) Raise awareness of issues affecting young people
- f) Assist with events, projects and issues affecting or arranged by OTC, including community engagement.
- g) OYC will present its public image under the guidance of OTC.

6. Okehampton Town Council Support

- a) Provide meeting facilities and refreshments.
- b) Provide administrative support.
- c) May provide the OYC with a budget to support activities.
- d) A nominated Town Councillor will regularly liaise with the OYC and attend its meetings.
- e) Recommendations from the OYC will be considered by the Full Council or the appropriate committee.