

LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Candidates should complete the nomination form by 13 September 2019 and sent it to NALC at **nalccommittees@nalc.gov.uk**.

Title	Mrs
First name	Jane
Surname	Biscombe
Home address	[REDACTED]
Telephone number	[REDACTED]
Mobile number	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Council name	Weymouth Town Council
County association	Dorset
Occupation	Town Clerk
Professional qualifications	CiLCA, BSc (Hons), PGCert, PGDip
Are you a member of any professional bodies (if yes, please specify)?	I am a Fellow Member of the SLCC.

Position applied for (please mark appropriate box):	
Councillor	
Clerk	Y

Why are you standing for your selected position (include relevant experience, skills and qualification gained through work, home, community and/or voluntary activities. As well as details of other achievements to date that will support your nomination)?

I joined local government as a youth worker in 1990 and via a few years in community development, became a Local Committee and Partnerships Officer at Surrey County Council in 2001. 10 years later I moved to Hampshire County Council to manage their Action Teams, just a few months before Councillors decided they didn't want Action Teams anymore. I was then offered the "enlightening" role of Crisis Project Manager and was parachuted into Council Services to deal with problems as diverse as legal process reengineering, religious education communications, complaints, highways planning and housing allocations. I returned to Surrey County Council as a Commissioning Manager in the Social Care Transformation Team before finding my way to Woking Borough Council as Change and Transformation Manager.

The call to be a Clerk became too strong to resist in 2015 and I moved to Yateley Town Council, gained my CILCA, and was awarded the New Clerk of the Year award by the SLCC in 2017. A chance email about the new Town Council being set up in Weymouth in 2018 led me to where I am now: Town Clerk to one of the country's largest Town Councils, serving a population of 52,000, with a budget of £4.2m, 3.5 miles of beach, 19 parks and gardens, 9 cemeteries, 11 allotments and over 1 million visitors a year. I have the same drive as I have always had to provide excellent services for local people and visitors alike, safeguarding the public purse whilst encouraging innovation and managed risk taking in the sector.

On a personal note I sometimes get frustrated with how negative we can sometimes be as a sector and I want to encourage a new enthusiasm to look beyond what we are typically thought of doing and moving us into a way of working as a sector that recognises our power and flexibility.

I enjoy working on a larger stage and was previously the first woman to be nominated to the board of The British American Football Association (BAFA), representing the sport at Parliament and in Europe and America. During my time there I led a restructure of the leagues system, brought in online registration and brought in rule changes to support the development of new teams and provision for the under 19's. I also managed three successful national championships in London and Sheffield.

I am passionate about our sector and about being a Clerk.

Outline three key achievements that are relevant to the work of the Larger Councils Committee

I took over the lead on the set-up of one of the UK's largest Town Councils in January 2019 and have successfully led the Council through the set-up phase into a highly effective, fully operational larger Council in just a few months. I used my skills and experience to fast track the planning of the Council to ensure effective, safe and legal operation from day one. I have subsequently used those skills to ensure the Council has quickly become known as a high performing organisation with sound structures and secure ways of working.

I am experienced at working on a National strategic level. Through my work with BAFA I have developed skills to form strategy, taking into account a wide range of partners and their respective needs. I have spoken at Parliament to All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs), at National conferences and consultative meetings and at meetings in Europe and America representing the UK. I was part of a team that succeeded in launching an APPG on American Football in the UK to develop the sport. This included Sport England, the NFL and Wembley Stadium.

I am skilled in systems process reengineering with a certificate in Organisational Analysis from Standford University. I also spent two years as a change and transformation Manager, as well as two years in a County-wide transformation team. These skills and experience mean that I am able to identify the need and opportunity for change, design change processes with the teams and communities concerned, help people navigate through the change process and realise tangible improvements that support improved service delivery for both the deliverer and recipient, best use of assets and happier people. I succeeded in transforming how Surrey dealt with Dementia care, realising over £2m of savings and investment in two years. I also brought in Council wide changes to document storage, data retention and introduced shared workspaces to a large Borough Council.

Set out your vision for NALC and how it can improve the service(s) it provides to members, specifically focussing on larger local councils

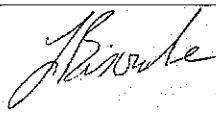

I want to help ensure that the voice of Town and Parish Councils is heard on the national stage. We need to be viewed as the local powerhouses that we are and recognised for our diversity and

inherent flexibility and adaptability. I also want to ensure NALC is best placed and can remain responsive to the needs to larger Councils. The Larger Council's Committee needs to do this in a way that supports Councils of all sizes and does not risk fragmentation of the sector.

Like all Councils, larger Councils need access to advice and support across a diverse range of issues. I would like to see clearer lines for requesting support and clearer information on how NALC can and can't support Councils.

NALC has a difficult role in dealing with both Councillors and Clerks. Clerks have SLCC as an additional support and I would like to see NALC lead on a more holistic and clearer set of support mechanisms for Councillors. I recognise that with Councillors only being in place for a number of years, and their role being unpaid, this is not an easy task to achieve, but I would like to see a form of national qualification or recognised training that we can instil as a national benchmark for well-informed Councillors.

However, I feel it's important for any new member to fully understand the existing work of the Committee and understand the projects in place first.

Declaration	
I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information given on this form is correct and can be copied and distributed to other NALC members.	
Signature	
Date	11/09/19
I declare that the nomination form has been endorsed by the local council and that it's a larger local council.	
Signature	
Date	11/09/19