



## **MyCouncil Configuration**

By default the MyCouncil web application shows you the Northampton configuration, however reconfiguring MyCouncil to show the details of any other location is a simple process.

All of the code which runs MyCouncil is separate from the location based information, so you can reconfigure MyCouncil without having to amend or even be able to understand the code which runs the page. As a result reconfiguring a MyCouncil installation can be done by anyone.

All of the configuration settings are held in one file. This file is written in the JSON ([JavaScript Object Notation](#)) format which is an easy to read text file. It can be found in the following location:

**C:\Program Files\Apache Software Foundation\Tomcat 6.0\webapps\mycouncil**  
**mycouncil.json**

‘**mycouncil.json**’ is the configuration file we are going to amend. It looks huge, but in reality the majority of the file is the same information repeated multiple times. Each section of information relates to a specific ward.

Open up the **mycouncil.json** file in the editor of your choice, notepad or WordPad are fine. You will see a note at the very top “Ensure Wards are in alphabetical order”, please do so, some of the logic routines in MyCouncil rely on this.

If you look at the json file you should notice that it follows a simple format:

**“parameter-name”:” parameter-value”**

With that in mind, let’s just plough on and explain all those parameters so that you can reconfigure MyCouncil to your own area.

**Parameter : ‘environment’**

Values : ‘local’, ‘test’, ‘dev’, ‘live’

Notes : Defines which instance of a typical production lifecycle MyCouncil is running in. The value is then used to pass in the correct settings from elsewhere in the JSON file.

**Parameter : ‘debug’**

Values : ‘true’, ‘false’

Default : ‘false’

Notes : When set to ‘true’ this will display debug messages to help you define what the parameter values should be for the parameters **googleDefaultLatLng** & **googleDefaultLocationName**.

**Parameter : ‘version’**

Values : Do not amend.

Notes : Displayed on the map (bottom right) to show which version of MyCouncil is currently running.

**Parameter : ‘showOperationalInformation’**

Values : ‘true’, ‘false’

Default : ‘false’

Notes : When MyCouncil is in OperationalMode (button on top left of map) the councillors are still shown when the mouse moves around the map. If set to ‘true’ the map will instead show the Chief Exec of the council and the neighbourhood co-ordinators.

**Parameter : ‘showContactScreen’**

Values : ‘true’, ‘false’

Default : ‘true’

Notes : This declares if you want to show the ‘contact your councillor / coordinator’ menu option. The integration settings need to be setup for emailing to work (see **MyCouncil Integration Guide**).

**Parameter : ‘showReportIt’**

Values : ‘true’, ‘false’

Default : ‘true’

Notes : This declares if you want to show the ‘Report a problem’ menu option. The integration settings need to be setup for reporting to work (see **MyCouncil Integration Guide**).

**Parameter : ‘showViewIt’**

Values : ‘true’, ‘false’

Default : ‘true’

Notes : This declares if you want to show the ‘View a problem’ menu option. The integration settings need to be setup for reporting to work (see **MyCouncil Integration Guide**).

**Parameter : ‘showExternalPages’**

Values : ‘true’, ‘false’

Default : ‘true’

Notes : This declares if you want to show the social media (facebook, twitter, etc) menu options for the councillors.

**Parameter : ‘mapCenter’**

Values : new google.maps.LatLng(latitudeValue, longitudeValue)

Default : new google.maps.LatLng(52.237178, -0.894635)

Notes : This is the location for the center of your map, the default values are for the center of Northampton. Your GIS unit should be able to provide you with this information, or alternatively various website such as the one below can:

<http://www.gorissen.info/Pierre/maps/googleMapLocation.php>

**Parameter : ‘defaultZoom’**

Values : 1 thru 18

Default : 12

Notes : This sets the default zoom level for the map; adjust this figure until it shows all of the area to be covered by the map.

**Parameter : ‘mapSWBounds’**

Values : new google.maps.LatLng(latitudeValue, longitudeValue)

Default : new google.maps.LatLng(52.184668, -0.969543)

Notes : This is the location for the South-West limit of your map, the default values are for the South-West of Northampton. This then limits the area users are able to view on the map and prevents them from moving the map from its intended area. Enough room needs to be left for the menu window to open up outside of the main area of the map covered by the wards, a position 10 miles from the South West corner of the ward map should suffice. Your GIS unit should be able to provide you with this information, or alternatively various website such as the one below can:

<http://www.gorissen.info/Pierre/maps/googleMapLocation.php>

**Parameter : ‘mapNEBounds’**

Values : new google.maps.LatLng(latitudeValue, longitudeValue)

Default : new google.maps.LatLng(52.396218, -0.806122)

Notes : This is the location for the North-East limit of your map, the default values are for the North-East of Northampton. This then limits the area users are able to view on the map and prevents them from moving the map from its intended area. Enough room needs to be left for the menu window to open up outside of the main area of the map covered by the wards, a position 10 miles from the North East corner of the ward map should suffice. Your GIS unit should be able to provide you with this information, or alternatively various website such as the one below can:

<http://www.gorissen.info/Pierre/maps/googleMapLocation.php>

**Parameter : 'googleDefaultLatLng'**

Values : `new google.maps.LatLng(latitudeValue, longitudeValue)`

Default : `new google.maps.LatLng(52.2368744, -0.8973906)`

Notes : MyCouncil initially uses the Google Geocode service to attempt to convert a location entered into the search box atop the page into a geographical point. If the Geocoding services cannot find a match for the search term it often returns a default location somewhere in the middle of the map. By trapping for this default location we can then call Google LocalSearch which looks for places and businesses rather than addresses; this improves the success rate of locating the search term. The use of this parameter should depreciate as the quality of results from the main Geocoding service improves. If you notice inaccurate results for place names on your configuration then you'll need to identify what the default location being used is. Set the **debug** parameter value to **'true'**. Reload the MyCouncil webpage, run against search terms with inaccurate results and if a repeated Lat & Lng value can be found, this will be the default Latitude and Longitude values that you need to put into the value of this parameter. Reset the debug parameter value to **'false'** once this parameter has been set and the quality of the search results should improve.

**Parameter : 'googleOutsideLatLng'**

Values : `new google.maps.LatLng(latitudeValue, longitudeValue)`

Default : `new google.maps.LatLng(52.276928, -0.914783)`

Notes : This can be any location outside of the main area of the map covered by the wards, but within the boundaries of the map as a whole. The best location is just outside of an outer ward boundary. This is used when the 'Reset Map' button is clicked to force the showing of the default left panel information (council leader, mayor, council breakdown) by making the map think the mouse is outside of the ward areas. Your GIS unit should be able to provide you with this information, or alternatively various website such as the one below can:

<http://www.gorissen.info/Pierre/maps/googleMapLocation.php>

**Parameter : 'googleDefaultLocationName'**

Values : The name of the area being shown

Default : `'Northampton'`

Notes : This is the name for both the area being shown (used in error messages) and also the name which Google returns from the geocode when it uses the default location (as discussed in the **googleDefaultLatLng** parameter). If you notice inaccurate results for place names on your configuration then you'll need to identify what the default location being used is. Set the **debug** parameter value to **'true'**. Reload the MyCouncil webpage, run against search terms with inaccurate results and if a repeated location value can be found, this will be the default location that you need to put into the value of this parameter. Reset the debug parameter value to **'false'** once this parameter has been set and the quality of the search results should improve.

**Parameter : 'boundaryType'**

Values : `'Borough', 'County', 'District', etc`

Default : `'Borough'`

Notes : This is used for messages displayed by the MyCouncil page.

**Parameter** : 'callCenterNumber'

Values : Any valid telephone number

Default : 01604 837837

Notes : This is used for messages displayed by the MyCouncil page.

To be continued....

