



Enhancing Local Democracy Conference 2010

Workshop discussion: Effective Working with Councillors

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What makes an effective Councillor?

- Clear grasp of local authority business
- Clear understanding of both officer and councillor roles
- Using information to make decisions
- Having an open mind
- Set of core beliefs
- Decision making skills
- Effective conduit between council and constituents
- Good blend of strategic and front line councillors
- Communication – talking and listening
- An understanding of member and officer role definitions
- Need enthusiasm
- Member needs to understand different means of communication
- Flexibility in roles – tiers of authority
- When to be 'political' or not
- Recognition of support mechanisms
- Team working ie multi-member wards
- Pragmatism
- Willingness to learn and develop
- Inclusivity
- Executive and scrutiny roles

How can we help members become even more effective?

- What kind of member do they want to be?
- IT provision
- Mix of skills – media etc
- If it isn't broke, don't fix it!
- Should be member led
- Ask councillors their needs
- What role does the group want them to perform?