

### Summary of consultation responses - Officers – January 2009

| 1. What has worked well under the new constitution?  | 2. What has improved as a result of operating a Leader & Cabinet system?   |
|--|--|
| Decision making appears easier and quicker   | Clearer about public info being available (published) and access to meetings   |
| Scrutiny has potential/is improving  | Clearer leadership on issues   |
| Licensing Panels   | Created an advisory committee to the executive to assist licensing councillors   |
| Focus on Sustainability in new Sustainability Cabinet Committee  | Cabinet Support Team is strong and good to work with.  |
| Webcasting   | New Audit Committee working well   |
| 3. What major changes have you noted and how have these impacted on your work?   | 4. What has not worked so well?  |
| The lead in time is longer than before in many cases and this feels like the system is less flexible                           | Cabinet Member meetings lack debate, do not appear inclusive or accessible. Are they a good use of resources?                          |
| Too much duplication of systems and processes – adding further workload  | Scrutiny has not developed a transparent way to deal with issues members want to challenge   |
| Difficulty in identifying key decisions  | Some meeting have thin agendas (Central Services CMM/ Licensing Committee/Finance CMM). Need to review meetings timetable              |
| The Sustainability Commission has been replaced by a Committee internally and a Partnership externally, doubling the workload. | Scrutiny appear to be weak with many items going to Council rather than scrutiny   |
| More meetings and a lot of uncertainty about what decisions should be taken where.   | Report template need improving   |
| 5. What have been the challenges?  | 6. What changes do you think should be made to the constitution to improve its operation and to help you do your job more effectively? |
| The Forward Plan could be more accessible and user friendly  | More time is needed for this to bed in and for us to get more experience   |
| Helping Members to understand the distinction in roles between Scrutiny and the Audit Committee                                | Review CMM portfolios and operation of CMM meetings  |
| Defining what a key decision is  | Develop Area Panels to involve and include a wider base of community interest  |
|  |  |

## Appendix Three

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Workload; learning and understanding new ways of working; more oppositional and less consensual decision-making, arguably.                    | Less frequent meetings – Licensing/Contra Services/Finance      |
| Understanding the executive and council functions and where to take issues for decision.  | Encourage more debate/public questions at Cabinet Meetings.     |
| <b>7. Are there any aspects of the constitution you need clarified? If so, please give details</b>  | <b>8. Are there any further issues you would like to raise?</b> |
| Difference between cabinet member and cabinet meetings  |   |
| More clarity around key decisions – what are they – how do you decide   |   |
| Learning through exposure and attendance would probably deal with this, though workload makes it difficult to attend many meetings regularly. |   |
|   |   |