

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The Sustainability Commission has been replaced by a Committee internally and a Partnership externally, doubling the workload.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.
7. Are there any aspects of the constitution you need clarified? If so, please give details	8. Are there any further issues you would like to raise?
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.	