

Perception and Experiences of the revised constitution

Taking Part

As you know, the Council agreed a revised Constitution on 30 April 2013.

We are now taking the opportunity to review and take stock of how the Constitution has enabled the Council to prepare and respond to challenges and opportunities over the intervening period.

This survey has been put together to enable all Members to provide anonymous feedback on their perceptions and experiences of the new democratic arrangements.

This feedback will inform a full review of the Constitution that will be undertaken in January 2014. It would be appreciated if you could complete this questionnaire by no later than 5.00pm on 7th January.

Full Council

1. To what extent do you agree that you understand the role and purpose of Full Council?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

2. Since the Constitution was revised, do you feel that you understand the role of Full Council:

- More
 Less
 About the same

3. How effective is Full Council in fulfilling its role?

- Very effective Fairly effective Fairly ineffective Very ineffective

4. Thinking about meetings of the Full Council prior to the new Constitution, do you feel that:

- New Full Council meetings are better
 New Full Council meetings are worse
 Full Council meetings are about the same

Full Council

When considering Full Council, how important do you consider the following:

5. Portfolio Updates

- Very Important Fairly Important Fairly Unimportant Very Unimportant

6. Reports from the Chairs of Policy and Performance Committees

- Very Important Fairly Important Fairly Unimportant Very Unimportant

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7. Notices of Motion

- Very Important Fairly Important Fairly Unimportant Very Unimportant

8. Policy Council

- Very Important Fairly Important Fairly Unimportant Very Unimportant

Full Council

9. To what extent do you agree that changes to the Constitution provide better opportunity for challenge and healthy debate at Full Council?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

10. Do you have any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of Full Council meetings?

Cabinet

11. To what extent do you agree that you understand the role and purpose of Cabinet?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

12. Since the Constitution was revised, do you feel that you understand the role of Cabinet:

- More
 Less
 About the same

13. How effective do you feel that Cabinet is in fulfilling its role?

- Very effective Fairly effective Fairly ineffective Very ineffective

14. Thinking about Cabinet meetings prior to the new Constitution, do you feel that:

- Cabinet meetings now are better
 Cabinet meetings now are worse
 Cabinet meetings now are about the same

Cabinet

15. To what extent do you agree there is accountability and an audit trail of decision making at Cabinet?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

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16. To what extent do you agree that Cabinet is open and transparent?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

17. To what extent do you agree that Cabinet is capable of making quick and effective decisions?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

18. Do you have any recommendation to improve the effectiveness of Cabinet?

Executive Delegated Decisions

19. To what extent do you agree that Executive Delegated Decisions are open and transparent?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

20. To what extent do you agree that Executive Delegated Decisions are clear and understandable?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

21. To what extent do you agree there is accountability and an audit trail of Executive Delegated Decisions?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Policy and Performance Committees

22. To what extent do you agree that you understand the role and purpose of Policy and Performance Committees?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

23. How effective do you feel that Policy and Performance Committees are in fulfilling their role?

- Very effective Fairly effective Fairly ineffective Very ineffective

24. Thinking about meetings of Scrutiny Committees prior to the new Constitution, do you feel that:

- Policy and Performance Committee meetings are better
 Policy and Performance Committee meetings are worse
 Policy and Performance Committee meetings are about the same

25. To what extent do you agree that Policy and Performance Committees provide the opportunity to influence policy?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Policy and Performance Committees

26. To what extent do you agree that Policy and Performance Committees provide the opportunity to undertake pre-decision scrutiny?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

27. When thinking about the information available to Policy and Performance to hold the Cabinet to account, do you think that it is:

- Too much
 Too little
 About right

28. How do you think Scrutiny can be improved?

Audit and Risk Management Committee

29. To what extent do you agree that you understand the role and purpose of the Audit and Risk Management Committee?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

30. Since the Constitution was revised, do you feel that you understand the role of the Audit and Risk Management Committee:

- More
 Less
 About the same

31. How effective do you feel that Audit and Risk Management Committee is in fulfilling its role?

- Very effective Fairly effective Fairly ineffective Very ineffective

32. Thinking about meetings of the Audit and Risk Management Committee prior to the new Constitution, do you feel that:

- Audit and Risk Management Committee meetings are now better
 Audit and Risk Management Committee meetings are now worse
 Audit and Risk Management Committee meetings are about the same

Audit and Risk Management Committee

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33. Do you have any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Audit and Risk Management Committee?

Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee

34. To what extent do you agree that you understand the role and purpose of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

35. Since the Constitution was revised, do you feel that you understand the role of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee:

- More
 Less
 About the same

36. How effective do you feel that the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee is in fulfilling its role?

- Very effective Fairly effective Fairly ineffective Very ineffective

37. Thinking about meetings of the Standards Committee prior to the new Constitution, do you feel that:

- Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee meetings are now better
 Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee meetings are now worse
 Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee meetings are about the same

Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee

38. Do you have any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee?

Behaviour and Conduct

This question explores your opinion on the standard of behaviour and conduct which exists within the Council. Please give us your view on the following statements.

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39. I treat fellow Councillors with dignity and respect

- Always Most of the time Sometimes Hardly ever Not at all

40. I treat Council officers with dignity and respect

- Always Most of the time Sometimes Hardly ever Not at all

41. I am treated with dignity and respect by other Members

- Always Most of the time Sometimes Hardly ever Not at all

42. I am treated with dignity and respect by Council officers

- Always Most of the time Sometimes Hardly ever Not at all

Behaviour and Conduct

Being able to express views and opinions in relation to Council policies, services and operations is a key role for elected members. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

43. I am encouraged to express my views on issues which are important to me, irrespective of the forum

- Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree
nor Disagree Disagree Strongly
Disagree

44. At times I been discouraged from effectively expressing my views on issues

- Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree
nor Disagree Disagree Strongly
Disagree

45. I feel I have personally discouraged a fellow Councillor or officer from expressing their views in the course of my role

- Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree
nor Disagree Disagree Strongly
Disagree

46. I have witnessed or am aware of a fellow Councillor or officer being discouraged to express their views

- Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree
nor Disagree Disagree Strongly
Disagree

Summary

47. To what extent do you agree the revised Constitution promotes and fosters good relationships between Members?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

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48. To what extent do you agree that the revised Constitution promotes and fosters good relationships with Officers?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

49. Overall, to what extent do you agree that the revised constitutional arrangements promote democracy in action?

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

50. Please Provide any further comments that you would like to make about the revised Constitution: