

Extract from Members Attitude Survey 2012 – Results Summary

The member's attitude survey was sent to all members for completion, 28 member's responded. Not all questions were answered by all respondents and is reflected in the absolute and percentage totals.

Cabinet

1. Are you part of the administration group?

Yes	13 (43%)
No	17 (57%)

2. Were you a Councillor prior to May 2011?

Yes	19 (63%)
No	11 (37%)

3. How has the change in governance affected your involvement in policy shaping and/or decision making?

Not affected	8 (27%)
Less involved	15 (50%)
More involved	7 (23%)

4. The Cabinet system has been in place for one year. How do you think the system is working? (Please tick the relevant box(es))

▪ The speed of decision making is faster	25 (83%)
▪ The speed of decision making is slower	5 (17%)
▪ The speed of decision making has not changed	4 (13%)
▪ The quality of decision making has improved	9 (30%)
▪ The quality of decision making has declined	11 (37%)
▪ The quality of decision making has not changed	10 (33%)

5. Please list the improvements that you have seen?

- Things are much quicker than before.
- Invitation declined
- I feel that the process allows for necessary input and scrutiny to be placed around all the decision within the council

6. What would your suggestions be to accelerate and/or to improve the governance process?

- I don't necessarily believe that anything major needs to be considered by way of changing the process. It is up to members to make themselves aware of the issues if they feel left out.
- Reports published earlier. Simple and v clear. Use more bullet points
- to involve others
- There are aspects of the Cabinet that I find worrying and some members of the Cabinet seem to think they are all powerful

- Committee systems are more democratic as it will allow all elected councillors to play their part in decision-making at committee meetings
- Wider member involvement.

7. Are you able to take a role on the committees/working groups you would like?

Yes 26 (90%)
No 3 (10%)

8. What could be done to ensure you are included?

- not in working hours
- ask me nicely?

9. Do you feel that there are too many committees/working groups?

Yes 6 (21%)
No 23 (79%)

10. How many cabinet members do you feel there should be (currently there are 7)?

More than currently 9 (31%)
Same as currently 15 (52%)
Less than currently 5 (17%)

11. Please specify how many?

Out of the 13 responses it was suggested that there should be 9 cabinet members.

5
6
10
5
9
3
15
5
minimum 10
Do not agree with the cabinet system. Localism Act means should be more democratic
10
8
9

12. Do you think the Cabinet-style governance has affected the way Full Council works?

Yes 25 (83%)

No 5 (17%)

13. Please state your reasons in the space below:

- Less important than it was previously.
- Much less "grand-standing", and the advocacy has become much more focussed
- Full council always seems a rubber stamp job.
- Full council has become formulaic. Party system controls even more.
- Decisions seem to be made by a select few regardless.
- By definition it will make a change but you do not ask if the change is for better or worse.
- Members who are not in the Cabinet feel detached.
- Invitation declined.
- The Council is now more businesslike.
- Management of the Council appears to be more efficient and decisive.
- Less interaction.
- Less democratic - few people making most of the decisions.
- Full Council is now nothing more than a formality.
- Shorter meetings which inform rather than involve and tend to be more a 'rubber stamping' exercise. Little or no involvement for opposition groups.
- More management success though less democratic.
- Less cllr input.
- It is less democratic, with members removed from the decision making process.
- I feel the structure lends itself to offering an efficient decision-making process of Governance for both Councillors and the general public.

14. Given the choice, which governance system would you prefer?

Cabinet	13 (43%)
Committee	12 (40%)
No preference	5 (17%)

15. If you believe the cabinet system could be improved, please specify below:

- More shared roles.
- Individual reports to all members by individual cabinet members as to developments and possible future developments within their portfolios.
- Reduce the portfolios to more manageable/member inclusive levels.
- Pre cabinet discussions should be open to all. Cabinet members commission own working groups, strictly time limited and of short sharp duration
- more involvement from Councillors - information is not involvement
- not to ignore others opinion in the decision process
- Fewer members, why suddenly add another? Perhaps it would be nice if cabinet members were selected on ability. What's the point of deputies?
- Issues come to scrutiny >48hrs before cabinet meetings
- Invitation declined
- Member of the Cabinet act in a more considerate way rather than just talk about doing so.
- Individual Cabinet Members could hold separate workshops at which items within their particular portfolios could be raised and discussed.
- Share out the power too few people making most of the decisions
- Working groups should not be private to other Councillors as was the case with LDF from last summer to January this year
- Dispense with current 'collective' approach to decision making by Cabinet members and give portfolio holders greater power to make decisions in their areas of responsibility.
- By giving less responsibility to so few cabinet members and increasing delegation to other member