

Dear Councillors

Development of Voluntary Ward Councillor Compact and Action Plan – Councillors Questionnaire

Earlier this year, Council asked the Scrutiny Committee to set up a Panel to take forward the development of a voluntary Ward Councillor Compact and Action Plan and to report back to Council.

The compact is intended to be a voluntary two-way agreement between the Council and councillors which:

- sets out the Council's expectations of the role, encouraging basic minimum standards of activity in each of the dimensions and functions of the job, combining specific tasks with suggested approaches, skills and behaviours;
- helps to define best practice for ward councillors, suggests how to take that forward and addresses issues about support, development, and performance standards; and
- sets out the Council's commitment to provide guaranteed minimum levels of support and training for councillors.

The Scrutiny Panel has now held its first meeting and has devised the attached questionnaire the results of which will help inform the Panel in its development of the compact. Responses would be welcomed before Friday 7 November 2008 and should be sent to david.feintuck@lewes.gov.uk or to him at Lewes House. The questionnaire is also being circulated to all officers who might wish to make suggestions for further improving their working with councillors, in particular on ward issues.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or David Feintuck (01273 484201) should you have any queries on this matter – or, indeed, to contact any of the other Panel members Councillors Ian Eiloart, Jackie Harrison-Hicks, Eileen Russell and Bob Sinclair.

If you prefer to speak to the Panel in person, or to expand on your responses, you are welcome to attend its next meeting on 20 November at 9:30am in the Garden Room, Lewes House. It would be helpful if you could let David Feintuck know if you will be attending.

Thanking you in advance on behalf of the Panel for your contribution,

Kind regards

Councillor David Gray
Chair of Scrutiny Panel

Attachments:

Document A – Draft Ward Councillor Compact

Document B – Draft Action Plan

Document C – Collated responses to Questionnaire