

Councillor Compact - Draft Action Plan DOCUMENT B

Communicate

Action: Increase your ability to communicate with residents by setting up own website through the www.councillor.info site by contacting Kalpna Dice at LDC. kalpna.dice@lewes.gov.uk

Some examples of LDC councillors sites already up and running can be seen by following these links:

<http://www.councillor.info/lewes/lhallett/0/Default.aspx?init>
<http://www.councillor.info/lewes/jmaccleary/0/Default.aspx>

Training

Action: Think about what elements of your role as a councillor you have found particularly challenging, or that you could improve, and suggest that a training session is set up in this area.

You can make suggestions through your group leader, or directly to John Clark at LDC.
john.clark@lewes.gov.uk

Some example areas of training that are already offered to LDC staff that could be relevant to councillors are:

- Communication skills
- Diffusing aggression
- Media skills
- Negotiating skills

Scrutiny

Action: Engage with the scrutiny process and make suggestions for areas of council activity or policy that could be scrutinised.

The Scrutiny Committee is the principle way in which backbench councillors can hold the Executive to account. Any suggestions can be sent to Scrutiny Secretary David Feintuck.
david.feintuck@lewes.gov.uk

Some areas that the committee have looked at this year include cemetery provision in the district, and staffing levels for health and safety enforcement. **Remember** – topics for scrutiny do not have to be direct responsibilities of LDC.

Community engagement

It is essential that councillors find ways to engage their communities effectively. A good way of doing this is by actively participating in community organisations such as residents associations, neighbourhood watch or voluntary charitable groups.

Action: Locate a local group or organisation that you are not currently involved with and arrange a meeting to establish how you can help them better connect with council services and resources.