

### Briefing Sessions with Councillors

Two briefing sessions were held to inform councillors about the outcomes of the scrutiny review. The first targeted chairmen and vice chairmen of scrutiny groups and regulatory committees; the second was open to all councillors. In total, 20 councillors attended including all chairmen and vice chairmen of current scrutiny groups and one Cabinet member.

The discussion points raised included:

- better reports with clear and actionable recommendations
- new candidates are standing on the understanding that meetings happen in the evening – changing them all at this stage would not be advisable however, more flexibility could be encouraged for individual groups once established
- whether four meetings in the first year would be sufficient for the Corporate Overview Group given its extensive remit during the transition phase
- concerns about bringing in a new system for scrutiny at the same time as new councillors
- general agreement for the reduced number of scrutiny groups
- better training is required
- proposed system is more flexible
- new groups will be more focused and effective
- proposed a different timetable with transition being half way between this coming election and the next to allow time for the new system to be developed and then bed-in
- training needs to be better for all members of scrutiny.

There was general agreement in both briefing sessions that scrutiny meetings should be limited to 2hrs duration.