

Question from Councillor David Whittington All Member Briefing – New Political Governance Arrangements

“At October Council it was agreed that an all member briefing would be arranged on the new political governance arrangements agreed at that Council meeting, with the briefing being led by a suitable independent person. Can the Leader please confirm when this briefing will take place & the name of the person who will present the briefing?”

Response:

Training and development sessions for members and officers will be delivered by the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny on behalf of the LGA, between February and May 2024.

The overall focus of member training and development during this period will be:

- To introduce members to the new governance system overall;
- To introduce members to practical ways of working in the new system, including:
 - What will change, what will not;
 - Members’, and officers’, roles overall and how relationships may change;
 - Likely decision-making arrangements = for example, how cross-cutting issues will be managed and arrangements for officer delegations to make decisions;
 - Agenda management and forward planning;
 - The management of information;
 - The role of chairs;
 - Systems for member oversight: performance, finance and risk and how they will be owned and managed in a new system;
 - Questioning skills needed to support decision-making and oversight;
 - Conduct and behaviour.

Parallel officer training and development will need to be undertaken on these and related issues.

Member Sessions have been scheduled as follows:

Session title	Date:
Committee system essentials	7 February 2024
Understanding new decision-making arrangements	21 February 2024
Member oversight	13 March 2024
Questioning skills	27 March 2024
The role and responsibilities of chairs	24 April 2024
Behaviours	22 May 2024