

QUESTIONNAIRE TO OUTSIDE BODIES REGARDING COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION – JANUARY 2009

1. Is it a written requirement of your Constitution that a councillor has to be involved in some way in your organisation?
2. If so, is the Constitution prescriptive as to the role of the Councillor?
3. If not a requirement of your Constitution, would you still wish to have a councillor involved in your organisation?
4. What particular contribution does a councillor make to your organisation?
5. Are you aware that your councillor representative is unable to take part, and even be present, when the Council, Cabinet or other committee is considering something which affects the financial position of your organisation or relates to some permission, registration, licence etc e.g. a planning application by the organisation?
6. Is this a major consideration for your organisation or is it accepted as par for the course and, on balance, not significant bearing in mind the other benefits the councillor brings to the organisation?
7. If the answer to 6 is that it is a major issue for your organisation, that the Councillor is unable to represent your organisation's interests within the Council, would you wish to consider another way of bringing your concerns to the attention of lead councillors ie Cabinet members.?
8. Could the benefits the councillor brings to your organisation be provided in another way? For example, could better communications between the Council and voluntary organisations provide for mechanisms giving direct access to officer and member advice and guidance, without that person being directly involved in your organisation?
9. Do you have any comments on how this might be achieved and would work for your organisation?
10. How many councillors are required or you would like to be involved in your organisation?
11. What role does the councillor play within your organisation? Do they sit on the management board with full voting rights, or is the role purely advisory with no voting rights?
12. What length of term of office is required by your constitution or you would prefer?

13. Currently, we contact you in May/June at the start of the new municipal year to inform you which councillors have expressed interest in serving your organisation? Is this a convenient time for changes to take place?
14. Would you like more information on councillors before you make a decision as to whether to accept the nomination?
15. Meetings –
- How often do you meet?
 - Where are meetings held?
 - What time of day are meetings held?
16. Do councillors have particular responsibilities within your organisation, in addition to attending meetings?
17. Councillors have an active training programme and we try to identify unmet training needs. Do you have any suggestions in this respect?
18. If the councillor is a trustee or in a position of management or control on a charitable body, does your organisation provide indemnity insurance for the councillor?
19. Does a conflict of interests often arise between the councillor's role as councillor and his/her role within your organisation? How is such a conflict addressed in practice?