

Policy Development and Assurance

Policy development and assurance are important day-to-day aspects of the councillor role. Councillors need to act as a critical friend by identifying opportunities for constructive challenge inside and outside the organisation and provide feedback to others. To be effective in this role, councillors need to analyse information quickly and present arguments that are concise, meaningful and easily understood.

I will ...	I won't ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Identify potential policy development areas and involve citizens and communities in the process✓ Quickly understand and analyse complex data and information✓ Present arguments concisely and in a meaningful way which is easy to understand✓ Understand the relevant processes, seek clarity and check that recommendations have been implemented✓ Remain fair, objective and rigorous when challenging process, decisions and people✓ Ask challenging but relevant and constructive questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Be poorly prepared, fail to check facts or come to conclusions which are biased✗ Be too reliant on officers or tend to back down when challenged✗ Fail to see development and assurance of policy as part of the role✗ Get too focused on detail or fail to distinguish between good, poor and irrelevant information✗ Use resources inappropriately (e.g. on issues over which I have no influence)✗ Be overly aggressive: prefer political 'blood sports' to collaboration or use challenge for political gain