

## Governance Changes

**Opposition Councillors request a comprehensive report on this work, which should be reported back to the first (and future) opposition briefing session and to the next (and future) Audit & Governance Committee meetings. We request that officers begin work on implementing these points to improve democratic governance, accountability and public involvement.**

1. An end to Cabinet Member behind-closed-doors decision sessions – all reports to be published in advance, a date set for meetings (not a one month window) and residents should be able to feed into the decision process.
2. The limit for delegated powers for officer decisions to be reduced from £500k to £250k immediately.
3. Democratic Services - All WYCA, LEP, NYLEP, York WOW and other relevant outside body meetings and papers to be included in the council timetable/added to the ModGov system.
4. Communications - all press releases and communications activities to be returned to a less political system whereby group leaders see all press releases/briefings on an embargoed basis before they are sent to the media so that they have time to digest and consider the issue prior to any media enquiry.
5. All reports to all committees to be written and presented by officers. All reports must have clear officer recommendations, cost implications and a timetabled implementation plan and report back to committee schedule.
6. Confidential 'salmon paper' content should be kept to a minimum with a clear explanation of why it is confidential and when it can be made public.
7. A common methodology is prepared for all consultations. The results of public consultations to published in full (information redacted where necessary to protect privacy), including recently conducted consultations on children's centres and Castlegate.
8. All complaints performance statistics (by department) to be submitted to Audit & Governance Committee quarterly as well as all other external performance reports (e.g. LGO, ICO) and FOI performance and, where possible, uploaded to the council website.
9. Travel and Appointments - all member/officer international travel and all appointments (including appointing interims) Grade 12 and above to be overseen through the cross-party Staffing & Urgency Committee. Unless in exceptional circumstance when an engagement is at short notice merely the emailed consent of group leaders –

10. In light of upcoming changes to Full Council ensure that a process exists for opposition councillors to ask Cabinet Members written questions with a suitable time limit for replies and that there is a fairer distribution of motions.

11. Officers to investigate the structure of the council post 2015 and present an all options paper to group leaders and Full Council.

12. Opposition councillors call on the Cabinet to respect the views of the resolutions passed at CSMC Call-In meetings.

13. Opposition group leaders and representatives are consulted on the forward plan and unless if an emergency any items not on it should not later be added.