

# Good practice event

## Councillors Support: top of the wish list

**Friday 7 November 2008**

**10:30-15:30**

**Venue: LGiU Offices, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0TB**

### Rates

LGIU Affiliated Organisations:

£150.00 (£176.25 inc VAT)

Others:

£250 (£293.75 inc VAT)

### Description

The Councillors Commission found that a request for basic forms of support came top of a 'wish list' of requirements to help councillors perform their role. The support councillors may get from their council is varied across the country. Support can also be a make or break issue for councillors considering whether to stand again or indeed whether to resign mid-term. The Commission suggested that authorities provide a minimum standard of support for all elected members and that the IDeA could support this by means of a charter.

This seminar invites officers and members to walk in each others shoes and increase their knowledge of each others roles. Delegates will also consider how authorities could meet the Commission's suggested minimum standard of support.

Sharing knowledge and experience with each other delegates will be invited to consider how they might develop cross-service support packages for councillors that provide the support that members are looking for and that make best use of a councillor's time.

### Speakers

- **Cllr Brenda Arthur, Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services, Norwich City Council**
- **Charles Leslie, Principal Consultant - Leadership, IDeA**
- **Chris Farquhar, Member Training & Development Officer, Calderdale Council**

### Who should attend

- Chairs and lead members with responsibility for Member Support and Development
- Officers with responsibility for Democratic Services and Member Support
- Members considering their own member support needs

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### PROGRAMME

**10:00 REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS**

**10:30 Welcome to LGiU**

**10:40 Introduction to the day**

Tracy Gardiner, Policy Analyst, Local Government Information Unit

**10:50 My wish list.....why support matters to councillors**

Cllr Brenda Arthur, Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services,  
Norwich City Council

**11:15 Providing the Tools for the Job - identifying the support needs of councillors**

Charles Leslie, Principal Consultant - Leadership, IDeA

**11:45 Panel discussion**

**12:15 LUNCH**

**12.45 Case study presentation from Calderdale**

Helping Members realise their potential in their many roles - through  
innovation and commitment

Chris Farquhar, Member Training & Development Officer, Calderdale Council

**13:10 Questions and discussion**

**13:25 Small group discussions**

- i) Understanding individual members support needs; and
- ii) Developing cross-service member support packages

**14:30 Report back and key messages**

**15:15 Concluding remarks**

Tracy Gardiner, Policy Analyst, LGiU

**15:30 CLOSE**