



Standards Committee – 24 January 2011

Member Attendance at Committee – 2010/11

Purpose of report

This is the sixth report that has been submitted to the Standards Committee relating to elected member's attendance at meetings. Data relating to attendance has been analysed for the half yearly period May 2010 to December 2010 and is presented in analysis that is included as appendices to this report.

Recommendations

That the Standards Committee

- (1) notes the contents of this report.
- (2) request the Assistant Director (Legal & Constitutional Services) and Monitoring Officer to forward a copy of this report to each of the Group Leaders so that they are aware of Member attendance at Council and committees.

Resource and legal considerations

Financial

None arising from this report.

Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Staffing

None arising from this report.

Citizen impact

None arising from this report.

Community Safety

None arising from this report.

Environmental impact

None arising from this report.

Performance and risk management issues

Risk Management

None arising from this report.

Performance Management

None arising from this report.

Equality implications

None arising from this report.

Consultation

None arising from this report.

Background papers

All published

Signed:A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B Gill', is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Bhupinder Gill
**Assistant Director Legal &
Constitutional Services and Monitoring
Officer**

Date: 10 January 2011

Contact officer

Bhupinder Gill
Assistant Director Legal & Constitutional Services and Monitoring Officer

☎ 01922 654820

✉ gillb@walsall.gov.uk

Prior to the Local Government Act, 2000, Members received allowances on an “attendance basis” which meant that they were paid an allowance based on the number of meetings they attended during a four week period. Those rules were changed by national legislation save that, should a Member be absent from meetings of the authority for a period of six months, they could be suspended from the Council and their allowance stopped.

Following the change in entitlement all local authority members are paid an allowance that takes no account of attendance at meetings into consideration. However, members still have a duty to represent their constituents and to attend meetings of Council and other fora.

Analysis has been undertaken of member’s attendance at committees of the council from the start of the municipal year for a six month period.

Types of meetings and fora

Council meets on an eight week cycle and has three types of meetings; the annual meeting, ordinary meetings and extraordinary meetings which are conducted in accordance with Council Procedure Rules as included within the Constitution.

Scrutiny and Performance Panels - the authority has six such panels which meet on a six weekly cycle. These are Children and Young People, Community Services, Environment, Health, Social Care & Inclusion, Regeneration and Corporate.

Cabinet (or the “Executive”), meets every four weeks and consists of ten Executive members appointed by Council.

Certain functions, such as planning, licensing, personnel, health and safety and elections are delegated to Committees such as;

- Audit Committee (meeting every six weeks)
- Appointments Board (adhoc)
- Development Control Committee (meeting every three weeks)
- Employment Appeals Committee
- Licensing and Safety Committee (meeting every six weeks)
- Standards Committee (meeting every quarter)

The analysis in Appendix 1 is split by Committee and provides a brief overview of the Committee including the number of meetings that are held each year followed by a breakdown of member’s attendance levels.

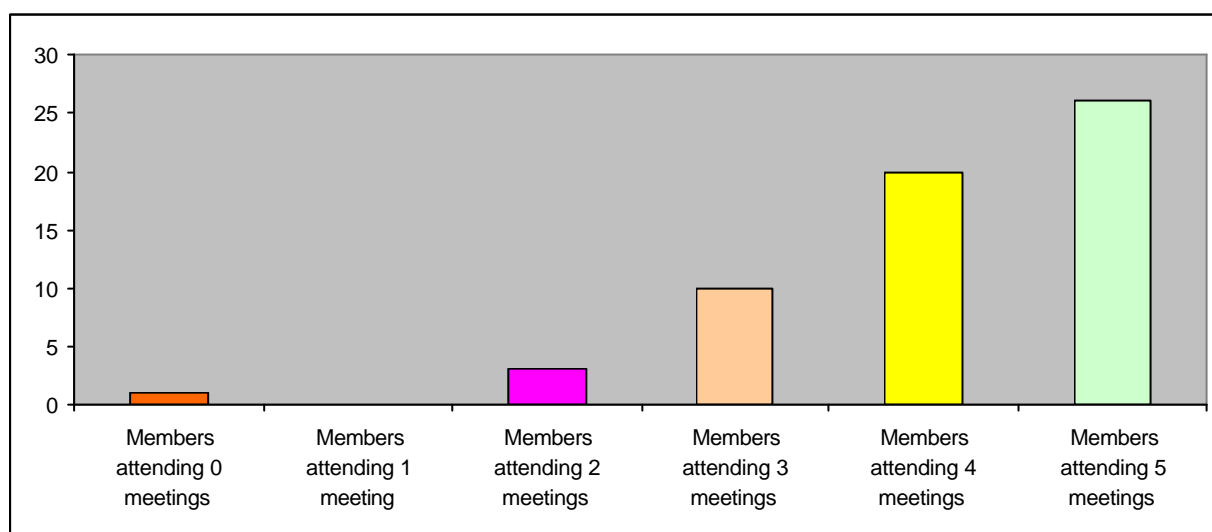
Member attendance at Committees – 2010/11 (half year)

(1) Council

Council consists of all sixty elected Members of the authority who are collectively the ultimate policy makers carrying out a number of strategic and management functions. Councillors represent their communities and bring their views into the decision making process as well as participating in the governance and management of the Council. As well as responding to individual constituents enquiries and representations Councillors also maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

Number of meetings in period: five

Member attendance:



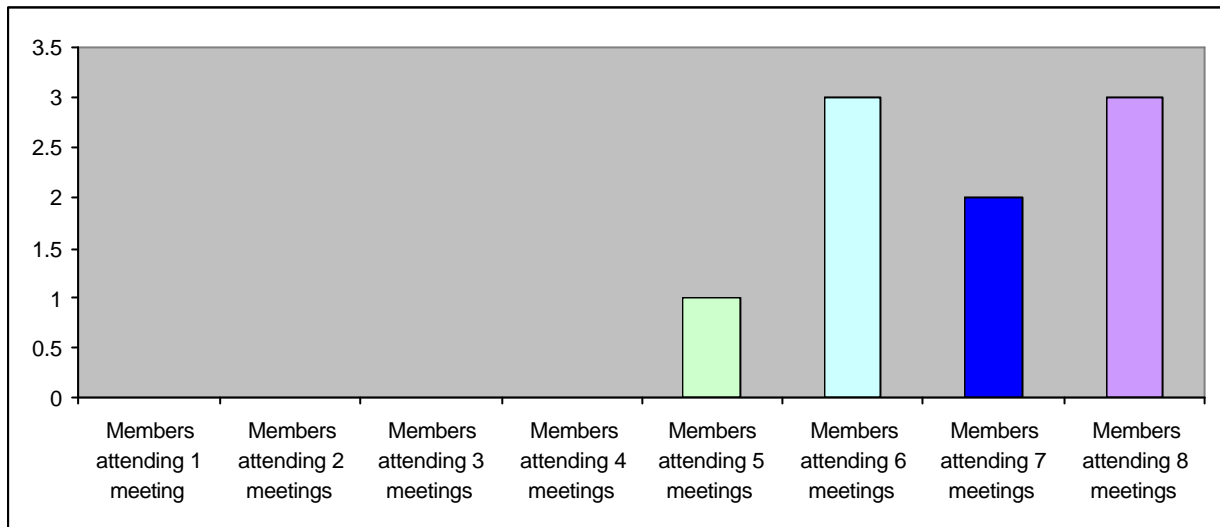
(2) Cabinet

Cabinet consists of ten Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

Cabinet is at the heart of the day to day decision making process and has a key role in proposing budget and policy framework to the Council. Cabinet consists of the Leader of Council with nine Councillors who have been appointed by Council. These Councillors have their own portfolios which include; Children's Services, Communities and Partnerships, Environment, Finance and Personnel, Leisure and Culture, Procurement, Transformation and Performance Management, Regeneration, Social Care, Health and Housing and Transport.

Number of meetings in period: eight

Member attendance:



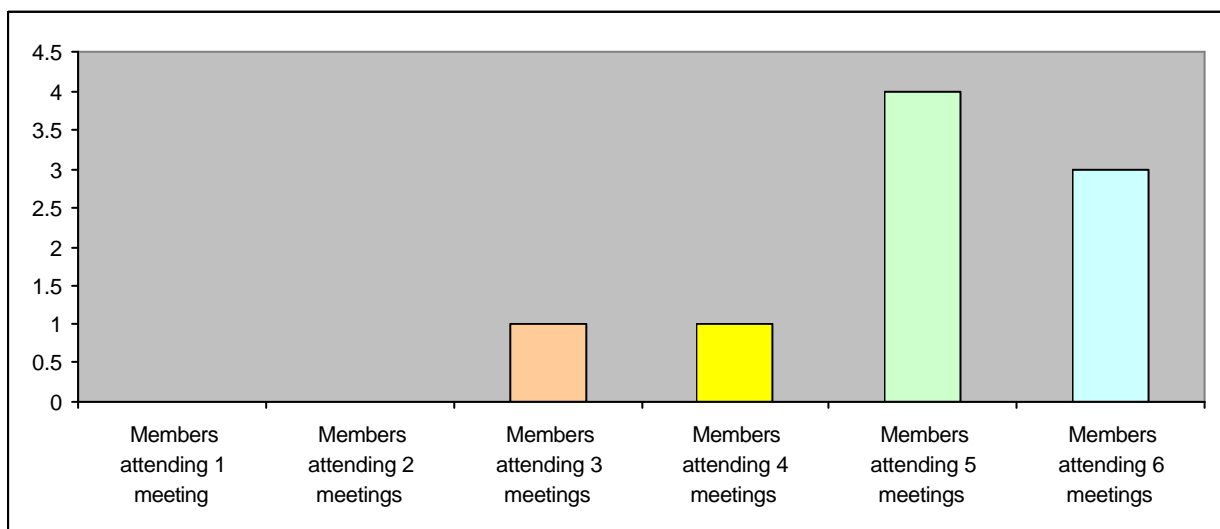
(3) Children's and Young People Scrutiny & Performance Panel

Children's and Young Peoples Scrutiny & Performance Panel consists of nine Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

Scrutiny and Performance Panels are powerful bodies that meet in public to discuss and make recommendations on the development of policies and hold the executive to account for their decisions as well as considering matters of local concern. The Children's and Young People Scrutiny & Performance Panel has a remit that covers; education, children's services, youth services, children and young people partnership, communications and procurement.

Number of meetings in period: six

Member attendance:



(4) Community Services Scrutiny & Performance Panel:

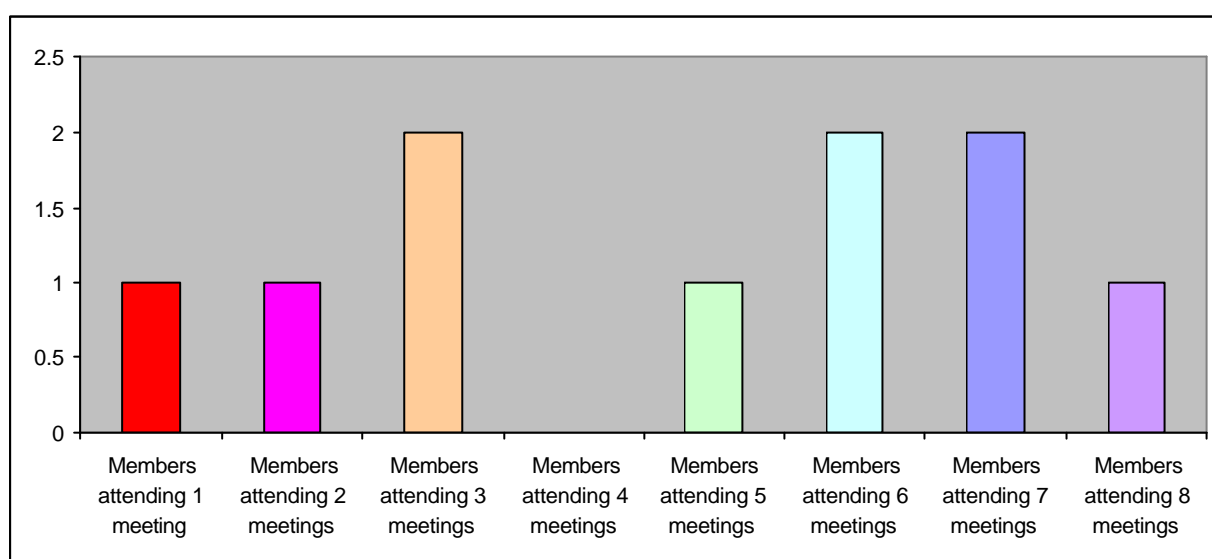
Community Services Scrutiny & Performance Panel consists of nine Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

Scrutiny and Performance Panels are powerful bodies that meet in public to discuss and make recommendations on the development of policies and hold the executive to account for their decisions as well as considering matters of local concern.

The Community Services Scrutiny & Performance Panel has a remit that covers; community safety, leisure and culture, the local strategic partnership, third sector co-ordination and crime and disorder matters.

Number of meetings in period: eight

Member attendance:



(5) Corporate Scrutiny & Performance Panel

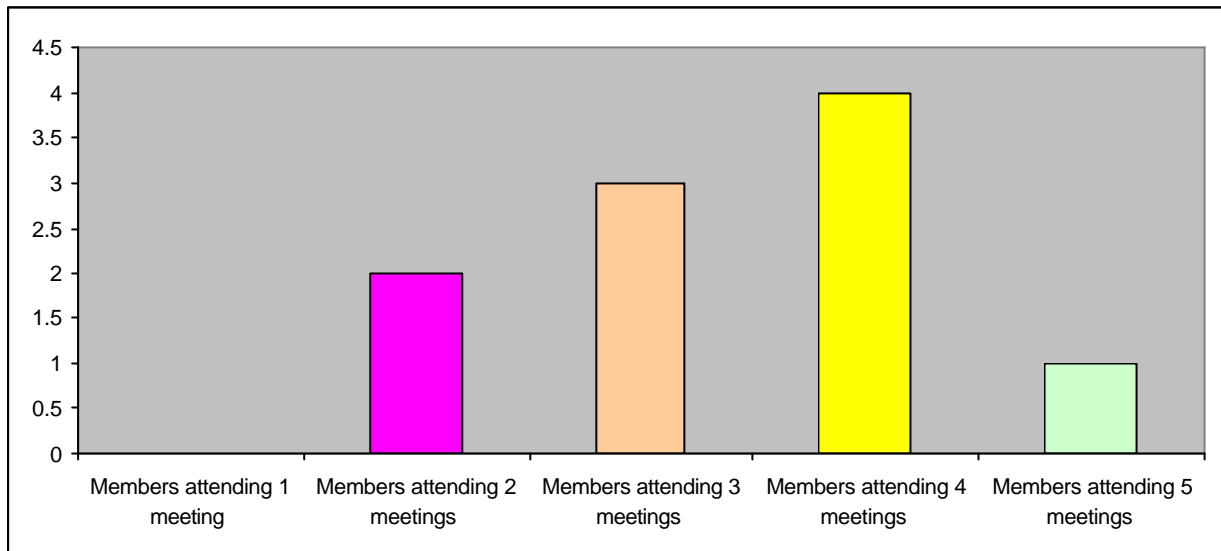
Corporate Scrutiny & Performance Panel consists of nine Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

Scrutiny and Performance Panels are powerful bodies that meet in public to discuss and make recommendations on the development of policies and hold the executive to account for their decisions as well as considering matters of local concern.

The Corporate Scrutiny & Performance Panel has a remit that covers; Finance, Corporate Performance Management, Governance and Strategic Transformation.

Number of meetings in period: five

Member attendance:



(6) Environment Scrutiny & Performance Panel

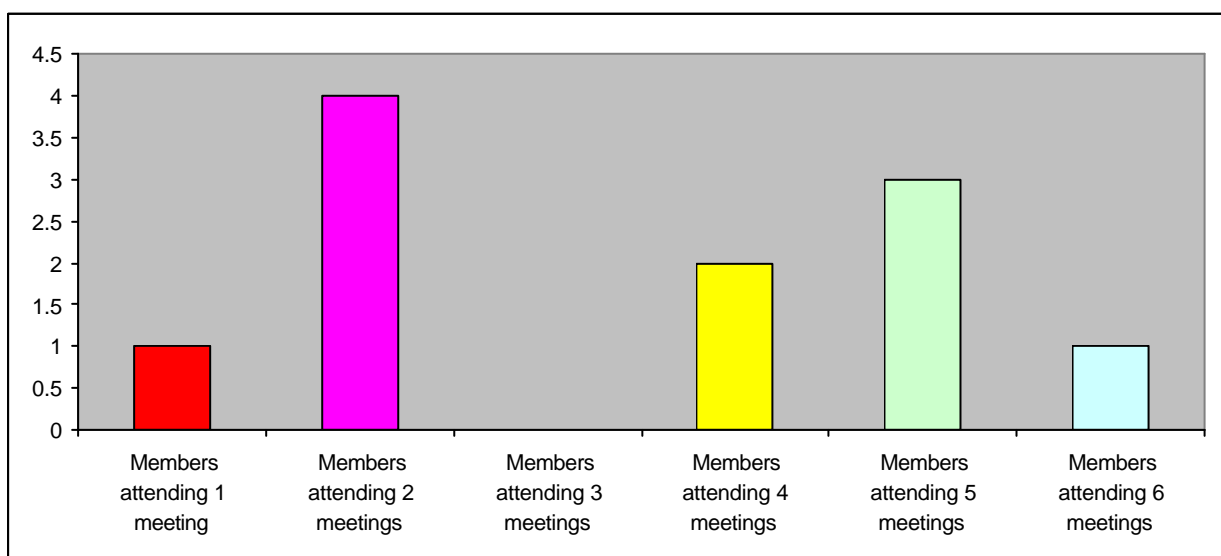
Environment Scrutiny & Performance Panel consists of nine Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

Scrutiny and Performance Panels are powerful bodies that meet in public to discuss and make recommendations on the development of policies and hold the executive to account for their decisions as well as considering matters of local concern.

The Environment Scrutiny & Performance Panel has a remit that covers; waste management, highways maintenance, grounds maintenance and traffic management.

Number of meetings in period: six

Member attendance:



(7) Health Scrutiny & Performance Panel

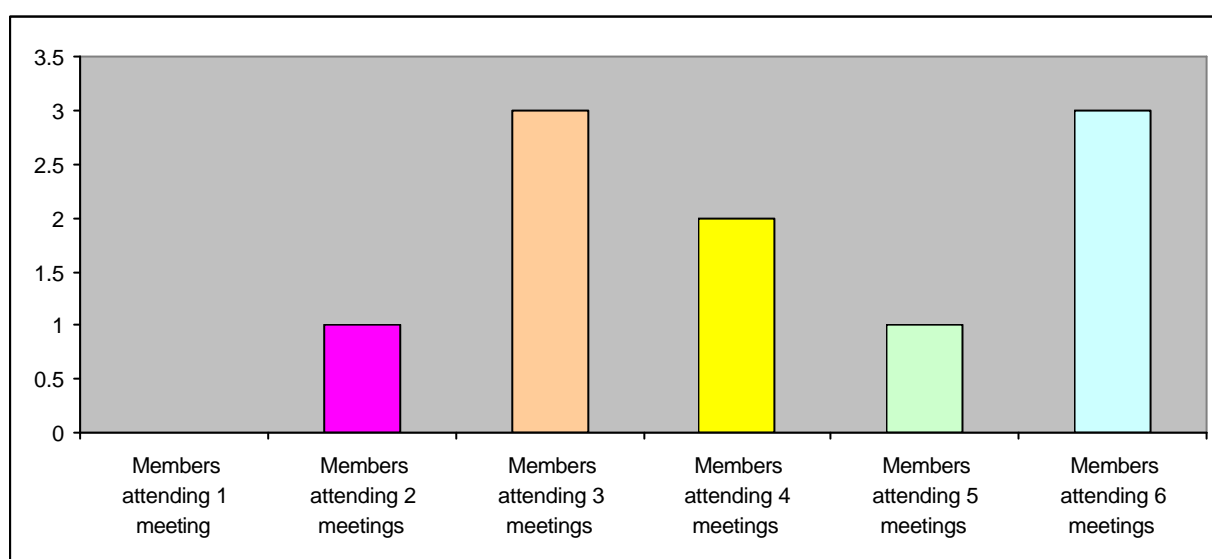
Health Scrutiny & Performance Panel consists of nine Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

Scrutiny and Performance Panels are powerful bodies that meet in public to discuss and make recommendations on the development of policies and hold the executive to account for their decisions as well as considering matters of local concern.

The Health Scrutiny & Performance Panel has a remit that covers all aspects and general services related to health service matters, for example; health partnership matters and the public health agenda

Number of meetings in period: six

Member attendance:



(8) Joint Walsall & Dudley Scrutiny & Performance Panel

The Joint Walsall & Dudley Health Scrutiny & Performance Panel is part of the Health, Scrutiny & Performance Panel consisting of four Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

Scrutiny and Performance Panels are powerful bodies that meet in public to discuss and make recommendations on the development of policies and hold the executive to account for their decisions as well as considering matters of local concern.

Number of meetings in period: none

(9) Regeneration Scrutiny & Performance Panel

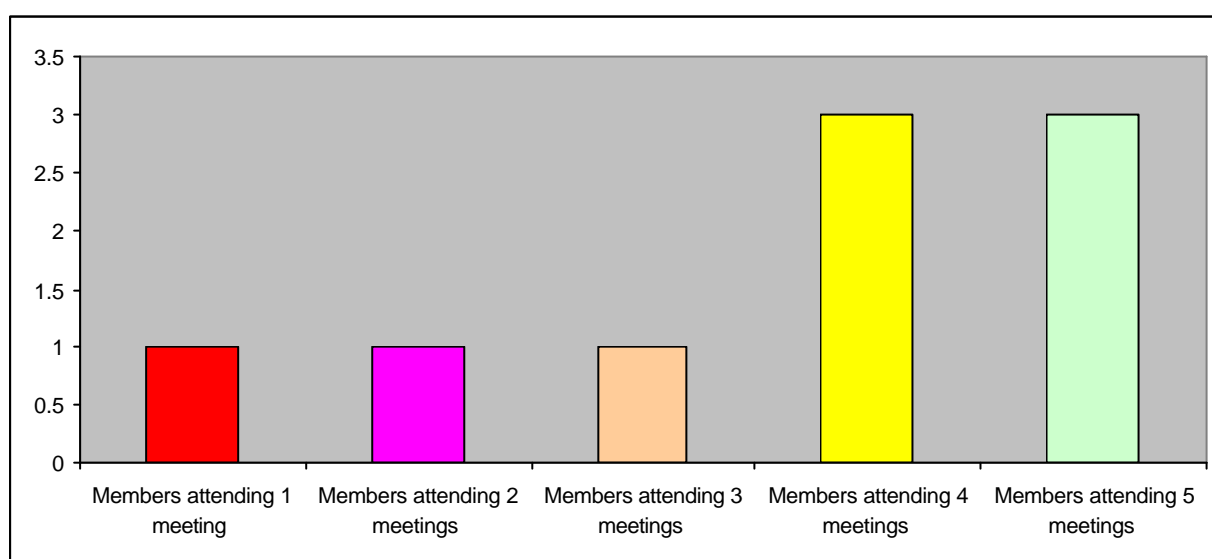
Regeneration Scrutiny & Performance Panel consists of nine Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

Scrutiny and Performance Panels are powerful bodies that meet in public to discuss and make recommendations on the development of policies and hold the executive to account for their decisions as well as considering matters of local concern.

The Regeneration Scrutiny & Performance Panel has a remit that covers; economic, environmental, physical, New Deal for Communities, Walsall Strategic Borough Partnership, planning, policy and Black Country Consortium (West Midlands Groups).

Number of meetings in period: five

Member attendance:



(10) Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny & Performance Panel

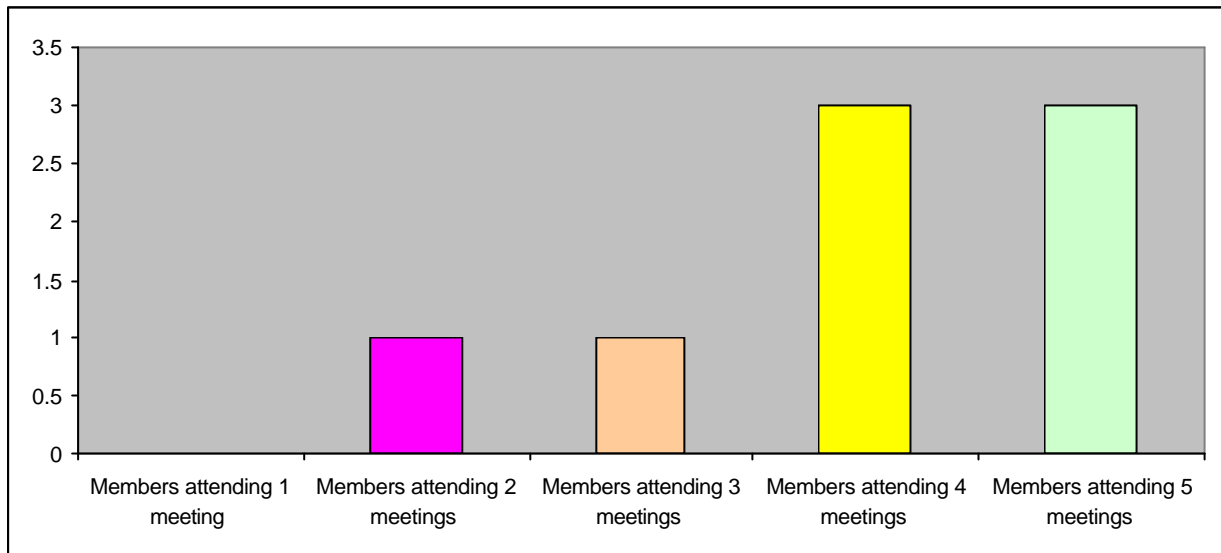
Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny & Performance Panel consists of nine Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

Scrutiny and Performance Panels are powerful bodies that meet in public to discuss and make recommendations on the development of policies and hold the executive to account for their decisions as well as considering matters of local concern.

The Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny & Performance Panel has a remit that covers; adult health, strategic housing and health.

Number of meetings in period: five

Member attendance:



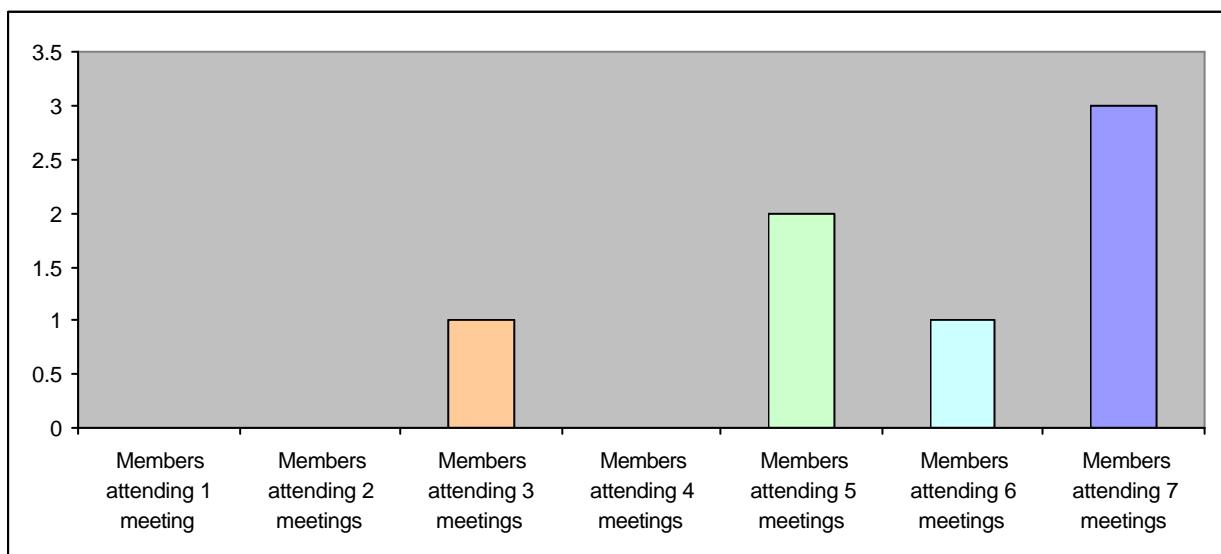
(11) Audit Committee

The Committee consists of seven Members of the authority and one co-opted independent member (non-voting) who are appointed by Council.

The remit of this Committee includes contributing to the Council's governance by ensuring an effective internal control environment is maintained and reviewing the mechanisms for the assessment and management of risk. The Committee agrees a work plan for the Internal Audit Service and considers recommendations and reports from external auditors. The Committee also approves the Council's Annual Statements of Accounts.

Number of meetings in period: seven

Member attendance:



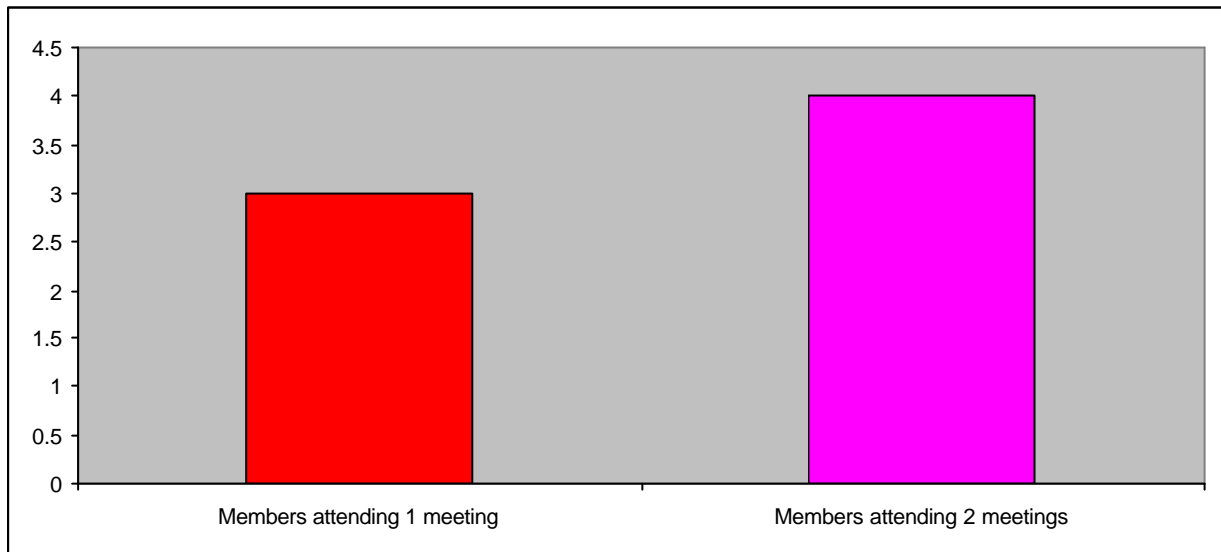
(12) Employment Appeals (A)

Employment Appeals Committee consists of seven Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

The remit of the Committee is to consider appeals in connection with disciplinary action in the case of Chief and Deputy Chief Officers only, grading, grievances or dismissal of employees, in accordance with the policies approved by the Council.

Number of meetings in period: two

Member attendance:



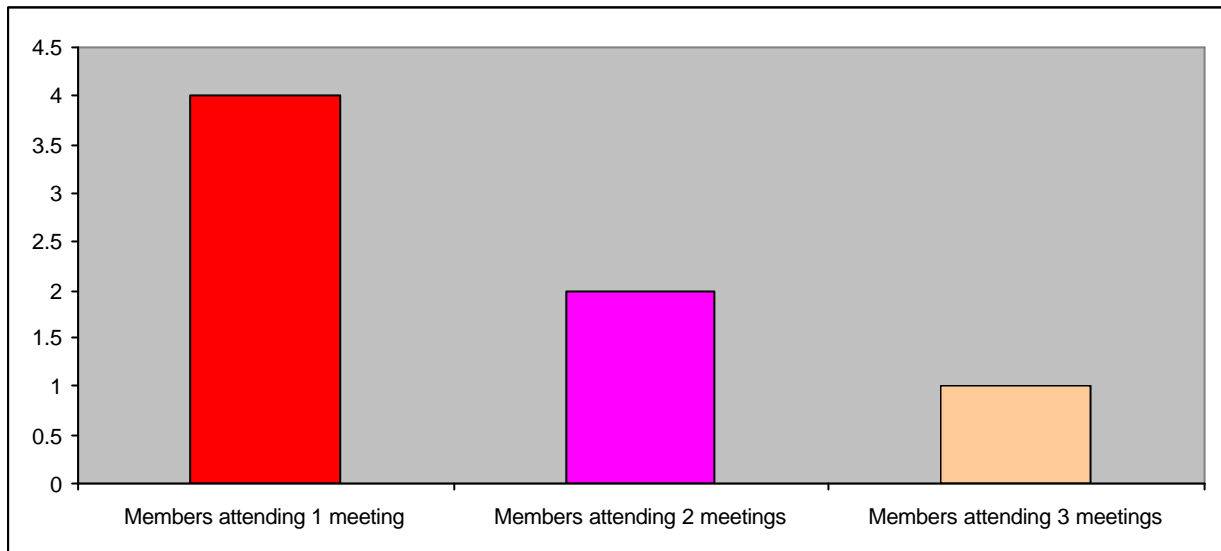
(13) Employment Appeals (B)

Employment Appeals Committee consists of seven Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

The remit of the Committee is to consider appeals in connection with disciplinary action in the case of Chief and Deputy Chief Officers only, grading, grievances or dismissal of employees, in accordance with the policies approved by the Council.

Number of meetings in period: three

Member attendance:



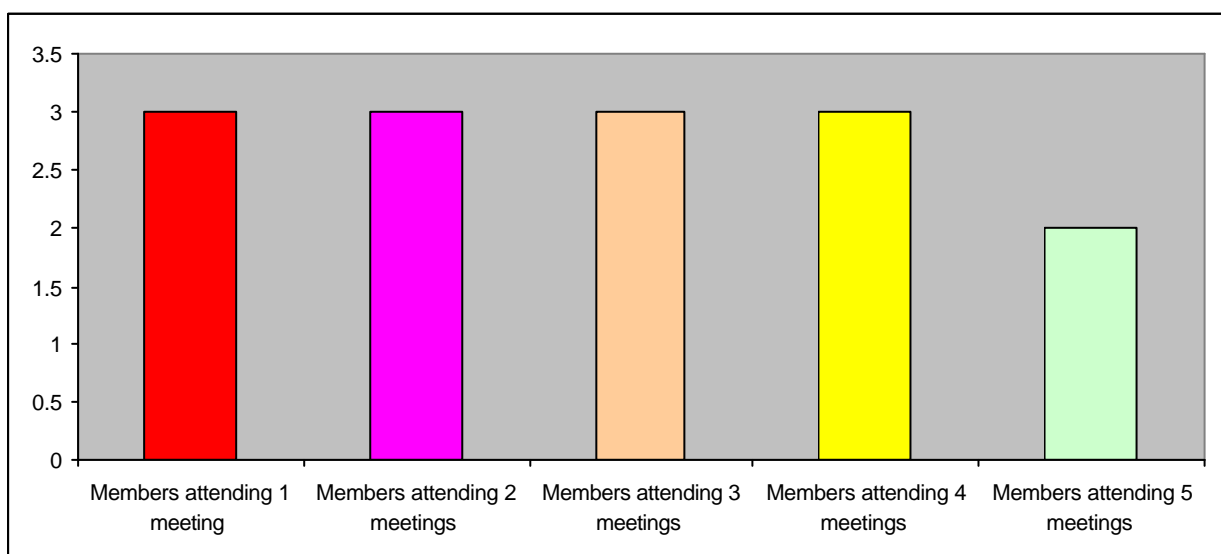
(14) Licensing and Safety Committee

Licensing and Safety Committee consists of fourteen Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

The remit of the Licensing and Safety Committee is to carry out functions relating to taxi, gaming, entertainment, food and miscellaneous licensing in addition to health and safety at work.

Number of meetings in period: five

Member attendance:



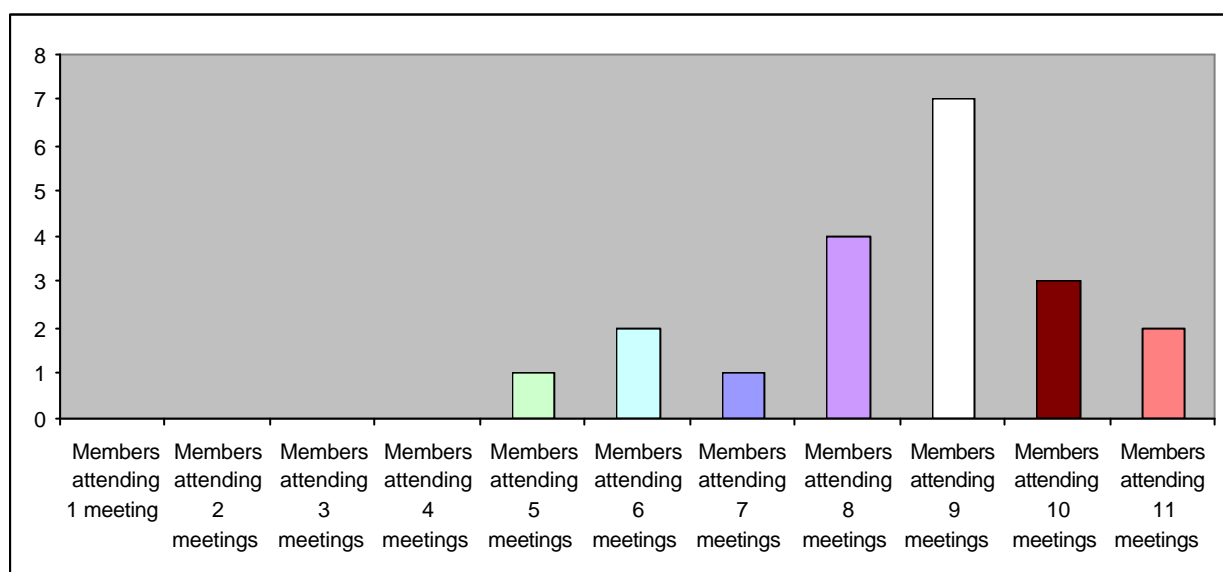
(15) Planning Committee

Planning Committee consists of twenty Members of the authority who are appointed by Council on the basis of one member per ward.

The remit of the Committee is to execute functions relating to; planning and conservation, commons registration and highways use and registration in all potential developments that are put before the Committee.

Number of meetings in period: eleven

Member attendance:



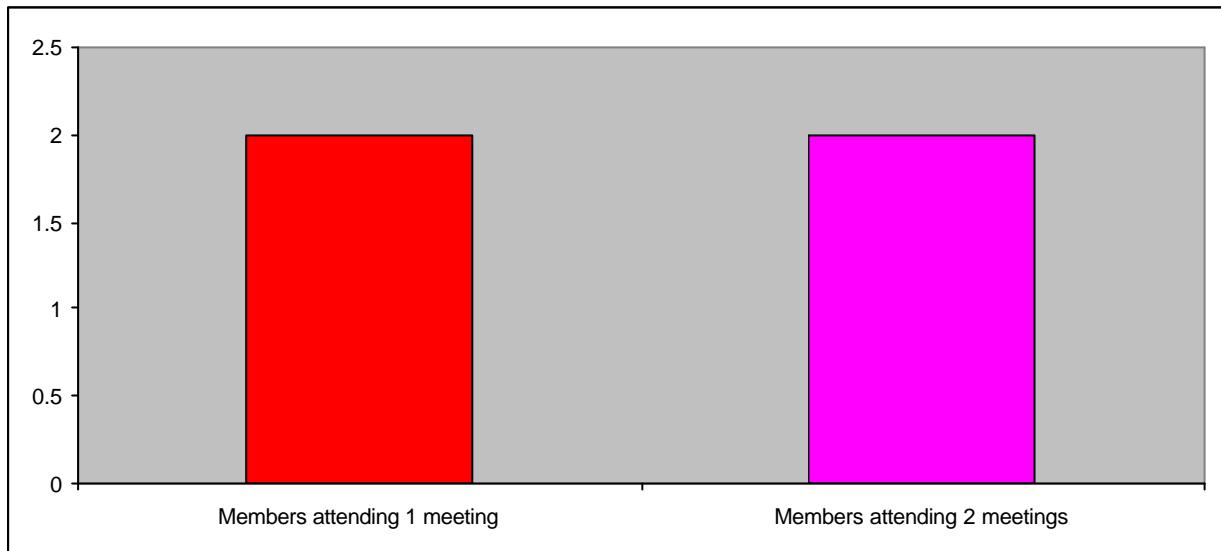
(16) Standards Committee

The Committee consists of four Members of the authority and six co-opted independent members (non-voting) who are appointed by Council.

The remit of the Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct of elected members and co-opted voting members ensuring that they observe the Members' Code of Conduct and deal with complaints/misconduct relating to breaches of the Code, grant dispensations to elected Members from requirements relating to interests and dealing with any case tribunal or interim case tribunal or from the Standards Board for England. The Standards Board also consider reports and policies as well as deal with breaches of protocol.

Number of meetings in period: two

Member attendance:



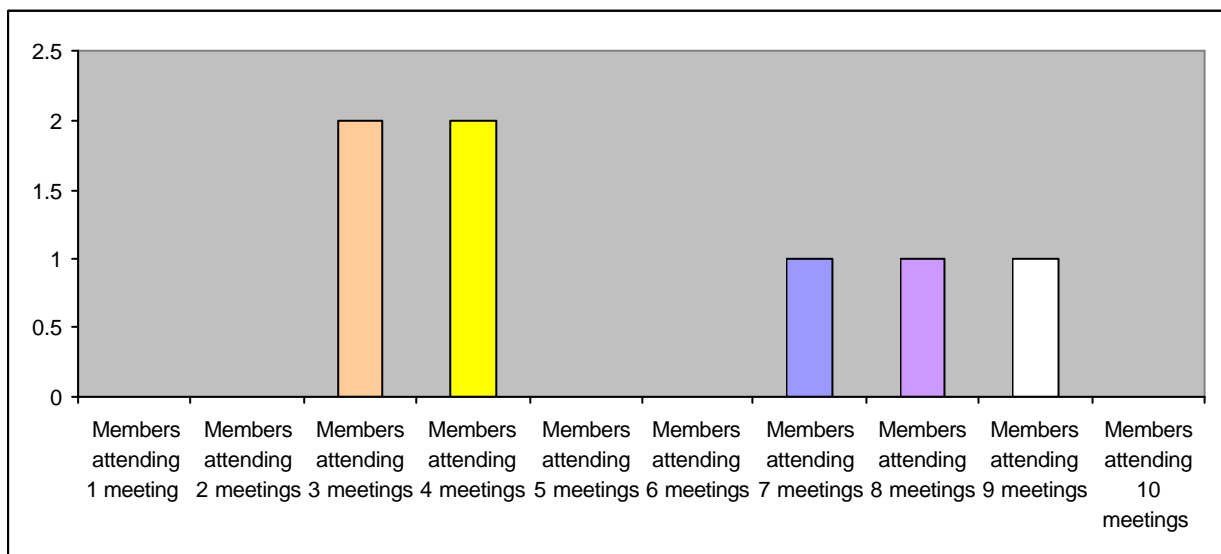
(17) Taxi Licensing Sub Committee (A)

The Committee consists of seven Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

This is a sub-committee of the Licensing and Safety Committee with the power to license hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, the power to license drivers of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles and the power to license operators of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

Number of meetings in period: Ten

Member attendance:



(18) Taxi Licensing Sub Committee (B)

The Committee consists of seven Members of the authority who are appointed by Council.

This is a sub-committee of the Licensing and Safety Committee with the power to license hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, the power to license drivers of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles and the power to license operators of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

Number of meetings in period: nine

Member attendance:

