

CLLR MIKE EVANS

**WHITELEY TOWN COUNCIL &
COUNCILLOR COMMISSION**

Introduction

- The Commission and our Research
- The main challenges facing councillors
- Councillors and public accountability
- A 24-hour a day job
- Why do it: An overview
- How councillors see their role
- Information
- Governing locally

The Commission

- Professor Colin Copus (Chair) -Professor of Local Politics, Local Governance Research Unit, De Montfort University
- Heather Jameson -Editor, The Municipal Journal
- Lord Gary Porter -Chairman of the Local Government Association, Leader of South Holland Council
- Councillor Mike Evans -Chairman of Whiteley Town Council, Vice-chairman of Hampshire Ass. Local Councils
- Sir Merrick Cockell -Chairman, UK Municipal Bonds Agency and London Pensions Fund Authority
- Anthony Zacharzewski -Director, Democratic Society
- Jessica Crowe -Head of Customers, Commissioning and Governance, London Borough of Sutton
- Jacqui McKinlay - Chief Executive, Centre for Public Scrutiny
- Rachel Wall (Researcher to the commission) - PhD Research Student, De Montfort University

Our Research

- Started taken evidence in December 2015 – finished evidence collection December 2016
- 31 round table discussions with councillors
- 10 round table with just parishes
- Number of councillors attending round tables (total) – 336
- Number of written submissions – 128
- NALC Survey: 81 responses

A 24 hour-a-day job

- Proximity to the community
 - Based within the community (but may be not the ward or division)
- Ease of access for citizens
 - Visible, contactable, approachable
- Few boundaries between personal, political, council, social or work life
- Use of proximity as a representative tool
- Underestimates of the hours councillors work
- But there's always the 'A' team councillor (the one if you can work with)



Why Do It? 1

- **Public service:**
 - motivated by a deep sense of public service, of pursuing public well-being, of giving up their time, energy and resources to provide a service to fellow citizens
- **The democratic spirit:**
 - linked to public service, councillors' often have a deep-centred belief in the democratic system and in deliberation and the democratic way of resolving political differences. Also to advance the political party and its views and interests.

What do Councillors Want?

... We want information



it

..... By hook, or by crook, we will