Table 1

session 1

Best Outcomes? Governance Model

Money to Night Shelter

People exposed to wrong decisions

insufficient challenge to any decision

too few people involved in decisions

Committees provide opportunity to engage

Choose not to take! +Representation under section 34

Training asking questions

      not enough members turning up to training

Repetition of questions

More balanced reporting needs to take all relevant views into account (including minority) - insufficient detail - often written to support recommendation

New issues are too slow to be recognised and worked on.

session 2

Council Open and Transparent?

Committee based systems lend themselves to greater discussion and more transparent decisions

Transparency to members, public? need both. Determined by circumstances - Relevance of Decisions to Public determine interest

Scrutiny Panel for Cabinet System?

Political Apportionment of Chairmanships?

Despair of Public at Party Whip - Decisions to be made at individual basis

Session 3

Hold Decision Maker to Account

No - Call in due to chief executive to decide validity

Call ins sometimes not followed up - comments / views not submitted

Questions need to be posed early enough in the process

Cabinet Scrutiny? previous incarnation failed due to lack of engagement

Evidence based scrutiny needed - scrutiny to be independent of Both Administration and Opposition

KPIs are reviewed by exception reports - more detail?

Scrutiny of setting KPIs required

Avoidance of silos - need to look at issues more holistically

Table 2

session1

+ve

wide knowledge base

several points of discussion

Cabinet members have specialised knowledge

Big decisions - Council

Comments of members at panel are minuted

Panels - good mix of knowledge / types of wards

Pre Council Briefings

need to recommend papers to be considered

-ve

Panels - recommendations not decisions

Chairs and Vice Chairs of Panels need to recommend papers to be considered (members able to request inclusion SO34)

Not all papers have to go to Panel (e.g. CIL) recommend everything goes via a panel

Timescales don't always allow for full (optimum) panel input

Need to Identify decisions earlier to allow input (allow officer comment on panel recommendations)

session 2

Decisions recorded but not easy to find on our website

Website not tailored for electorate - not intuitive

Training needed for new members and established councillors

Need to know about everything happening in the Council!

Press releases to Parish Councils?

session 3

Call in process

Training

CPP

Panel process

Elections cause us to be held to account

Table 3

session 1

Frequency of review?

All members can attend all panels

Is it stopping bad decisions?

Inclusion of stakeholders

Public Questions

Members and Public need time and patience to pursue and forward other suggestions

Public need to be made more aware about all of our meetings

Advice is required from legal etc.

Reliance on a core of Cabinet

session 2

Need to better understand the process/way the Cabinet and etc works

Enhance the induction

Yes …. but not obvious - have to dig and delve a lot/bit to uncover the pathway

Most issues come to Panels already thought through and formed by officers (in response to Cabinet member direction?)

Define a more inclusive process for a new policy - early views ?? panels

The system has worked on trust

Insufficient pre meeting questions

Partisanship

session 3

Call in - needs greater publicity - plus more simplicity / not easy Why not more call ins

Reports to E&C

      KPI

      Project Reports

      Do panels appreciate their scrutiny role

      Those not participating assume it is done

Should be - Ideas sold / risks

Consideration to risks of not doing something

Lack of member involvement and not reading papers

Debate exposed risks - KLIC?

Table 4

session1

subset making decisions (not Council)

Cabinet recommendations to Council (concern is party prevalence)

E.G. Art Gallery - Cabinet accepted subject to due diligence

Us v Them = adversarial, inhibits discussion, facing ranks

Scrutiny isn't working

Communication Style : How style - understanding the implications, - "What" are we deciding, "Governance Task Group - explicit description

Clarity of Decisions - ? - not good, cannot see quality decision

session 2

Information dissemination a problem

     councillor awareness

     too much information

     induction issues

     cul de sacs

     too rigid a framework for contributions

     unclear corporate plan - tracking of input

     time

Lack of awareness in role of primary legislation

     are Cabinet decisions simply rubber ????

     (not in rubber stamped if on ward issues

     not always even if experienced

Lack of Information Sometimes

     roller coaster - how do we stop and review?

     R & D break out groups - but what about officer time

     knowledge base for back benchers

     knowing the portfolio holder - area of responsibility

EXPERIENCE

session 3

Decisions - Accountable?

Insufficient Scrutiny before decisions

corn exchange cinema

KLIC Q. decisions made by Executive or Council?

BOVAL QUAY - asked for scrutiny of due diligence which didn't come back - who   decided?

Roller coaster - topics gert a momentum and difficult to slow down, more analysis is required

Not always clear at what level decision was made

weighting of decisions by officers often too great

new Borough Councillors need more training

not enough feedback after scrutiny questions

training in budget issues for new Borough Councillors

Table 5

session 1

Not for all members as not all on Panels (SO34?) (Newbies?)

Perhaps Panels should debate more than Q&A - alternatives

?? take advice of opposition member more proactive on Panels

Is there time at Panel for detailed analysis

Members do not take advice of the opposition they have

Members not inputting problem

Rushed/sufficient time / more information

S?? to amend

Minority Report

3)Yes, but perception out there may differ / officer driven?

4) Structure of presentation

5) Life experience Helps

session 2

+ve

generally yes

public questions at Council

Optimum time for meetings 2-3 hours

Frequency of meeting cycles 4 or 6 weeks?

Liaison with Parish Councils helps communications / awareness

-ve

use opportunity for debate at full Council - transparent

Will or time constraints on open debate?

Timing of meetings - more engagement if day time?

Public not clear re : decision making but often do not use channels/engage until decision actually made (e.g, planning)

Session 3

In full Council - yes

Restricted powers on Standards Committee

CPP is fulfilling scrutiny role

Chairperson of Panels to invite portfolio holders to the meetings

Not enough Political challenge

Looking at the day to day running of the Council

Public Questions in full Council

Yes - But don't forget

A "recommended reading list" might be useful especially for "backbenchers"

Public on line surveys

Key Themes

some important decisions miss pre scrutiny (should everything go through a panel?)

Members require assistance to "come up to speed" quicker … know how to use the constitution effectively, call in. full Council debates, forward plan.

Training for members and pre Council briefings

Time - busy question