Role of Members and sources of information and support

The role of a local Member is complex. Members need to give careful consideration to a wide variety of sometimes competing issues to make balanced decisions of benefit to those who live, work and visit the borough. All Members are here to represent their ward. But you will have other responsibilities ranging from making high-profile decisions, scrutinising those decisions, reviewing policy, conducting regulatory hearings or championing issues of local significance or importance. The community places great trust in those they elected and have the highest expectations of conduct and ethical standards.

There are various published resources for Members to support you in the various aspects of your role. In particular, you might find the information published by the LGA a useful guide:

www.local.gov.uk/our-support/guidance-and-resources/councillors-guide-201718/councillors-role

The webpage above also links to a range of “workbooks” covering a large range of topics including handling casework, effective scrutiny and influencing skills. It can be accessed directly here:

www.local.gov.uk/councillor-workbooks