



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

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NEW ALLIANCE FOR COUNCILLORS TAKES SHAPE

Organisers say the public could soon start to see the benefits of a new association set up to support Local Government councillors, after the success of its first forum held last weekend.

Cambridge Mayor Keri Shannon led the first briefing for newly elected councillors, which drew an attendance of 45 keen participants. Another session called “Getting Things Done” will be staged in the new year and it is planned to take these forums to regional centres.

The Local Government Elected Members Association was set up in August to provide resources for councillors to help them become more effective representatives and combat the rising power of CEOs and senior staff, who have their own association the Local Government Professionals.

LGEMA Deputy Chair Sandra Boulter said in many cases councillors were not aware of the tools at their disposal to ensure proper management of resources and to keep Local Government administrations accountable.

“It was rewarding to see the animated exchange of helpful information between current and former councillors,” Ms Boulter (former Cottesloe councillor) said.

“We heard helpful tips about what experienced councillors wish they had known when they started.”

“I think we will start to see more councillors with the know-how to manage their oversight role and challenging the status-quo where it is needed, while doing so in a respectful way and following proper procedures,” she said.

One attendee at Sunday’s session said, “I found the meeting inspiring and LGEMA a resource that I will find extremely useful in my councillor journey. I was beginning to feel overwhelmed, just 3 weeks from the election – feeling the job was bigger than “Ben Hur”. I am relieved that there is somewhere where I can go for advice.”

For more information, contact Sandra Boulter on 0427 508 582 or check out www.lgema.org

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