



# What does good democracy and scrutiny look like?

#cfpscomplexity



## Carl Whistlecraft, Head of Democracy, Kirklees Council

Carl is the Head of Democracy at Kirklees Council. He has over 25 years' experience of working closely with elected councillors and citizens in the fields of policy and governance. He has a passion for local democracy and is fascinated by the opportunities presented by supporting, enabling and promoting democracy in a digital age. He is one of the organisers of #Notwestminster - and is currently facilitating the work of the Kirklees Democracy Commission. The Commission is looking at how local democracy in Kirklees is transformed for the next generation of citizens. Follow Carl on Twitter @Gr8governance



## Rachel Wall, PhD Researcher and Lecturer, De Montfort University

Rachel Wall is a PhD Researcher and lecturer within the Local Governance Research Unit and Department of Politics and Public Policy at De Montfort University, Leicester. Rachel has been the researcher to the De Montfort University and Municipal Journal Councillor Commission and has co-authored the commission's final report. She has also previously worked as a local government officer and served as a parish Councillor.



## John Cade - Visiting Lecturer, Institute of Local Government, University of Birmingham

A Cambridge economics graduate who quickly left the "dismal science" to forge a more intoxicating career in Local Government, culminating in the post of Director of Scrutiny, Birmingham City Council. Currently an Associate of INLOGOV (University of Birmingham), supporting Councils in their governance and scrutiny challenges. A Trustee of Birmingham Royal Institute for the Blind and an inveterate optimist, being an Aston Villa season ticket holder!"



# Kirklees Democracy Commission

Key drivers from our work:

- Active citizens
- Networked society
- Councillor role in a participatory and representative democracy
- Regional governance
- Engagement or consultation

What does this mean for governance, accountability and decision making?



# Councillor Commission

Councillors told us that there are three key factors that contribute to the quality and value of Overview and Scrutiny:

- Information - accessible, useful?
- Resources – time, financial support
- Relationships – officers and members

How can we make Overview and Scrutiny a valuable and meaningful process?



# Workshop activity

Having regard to the democratic drivers for change:

- How could / should scrutiny meaningfully respond?
- What needs to be different?
- What would / could you do?