

Check-up: Governing body decision making processes



Apply all of these statements to the decision making in your community, organisation or group, and tick your level of agreement or disagreement with each. This will help you identify and analyse any problems with your decision making.

Statements	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Priority (low/med/high)
The loudest voices in the governing body have the biggest say when making decisions.						
The governing body regularly calms the noisiest members of the community when making decisions.						
The governing body does not consult all its members before making important decisions.						
The governing body doesn't give much feedback to community members about its decisions.						
There is no framework of principles or policies to guide the governing body's decision making.						
Decision-making processes are not reviewed for their openness and transparency.						
Board members are often absent, which leaves the organisation without a quorum to make decisions.						
Decisions are made too early or 'on the run' without having all relevant details and advice from all members.						
The governing body does not receive briefing papers from management alerting it to options, implications and risks for key decisions.						

Decisions on the most important issues are left until the very end of the meeting.						
Individual members of the governing body withdraw their support for a decision once they are back in the community.						
Only some of the board members speak up to discuss issues before a decision is made.						
Members on the governing body do not understand the financial reports given to them.						
The governing body avoids making difficult or unpopular decisions.						
The governing body doesn't review its ineffective decisions and will not admit to mistakes.						
The governing body operates in secret and doesn't open up their decision making to external scrutiny.						
The governing body fails to maintain the confidentiality of decisions that are 'commercial in confidence'.						

There might be other signs of poor governance within the governing body that you can add to this list.