



Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Thursday 6th April 2017

Report of: Policy and Improvement Officer

Subject: Written responses to public questions

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Summary:

This report provides the Committee with copies of written responses to public questions asked at the Committee's meeting on Thursday 16th February 2017.

The written responses are included as part of the Committee's meeting papers as the way of placing the responses on the public record.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Note the report

Background Papers: None

Category of Report: OPEN

Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee
Thursday 16th February 2017
Public Questions

Response to the public questions raised by Mr Alan Kewley from Sheffield for Democracy at the meeting held on Thursday 16th February 2017.

Question 1: Neighbourhood Working

So I ask this committee to ensure this new system is vetted and implemented as soon as possible to fill the present vacuum?

At its February meeting the scrutiny committee received an update on the proposed new approach to neighbourhood working in Sheffield. The report outlined the initial thinking and aimed to give members of scrutiny the chance to consider the proposals and provide comment on how the new approach could enhance community resilience and enable Councillors to meet the needs of their local communities.

The report stated that a Cabinet paper will be developed in the coming months to establish this new way of working and that the model will then be reviewed after 12 months.

The scrutiny committee felt that they would like to receive an earlier update, around 3-6 months into implementation. This was agreed and has been added to the draft work programme for 2017-18. The work programme will be discussed and agreed by the Committee at its first meeting of the municipal year in July.

Responses provided by: Cllr Tony Damms, Chair of the Safer & Stronger Communities Committee

Question 2: Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership Board

So I ask this committee to clarify how the public can engage more easily with this Partnership Board in future?

The Partnership Board meets four times per year and is open for members of the public to attend.

- Members of the public can ask questions at Board meetings. These should be asked in advance where possible, to allow for a response to be provided. Where questions are submitted on the day of the meeting, they will be answered in the meeting at the Chair's discretion; otherwise they will receive a written response.
- Papers for meetings have previously been published on the Sheffield First (now Sheffield City Partnership) website, as soon as they are available. Whilst officers have endeavoured to ensure these are published 5 working days in advance of the meeting, this is not always possible due to the timescales involved and increasing pressures on officers.
- There is currently a freeze on all Council based websites due to a corporate upgrading of the technology, so papers for the meeting to be held on 6th February will be emailed to board members and to interested members of the public on request.
- The freeze on new website content is expected to continue until at least April 2017. Once the new Council website is running, we expect to be able to make papers for the meetings available around 5 working days before the meeting, subject to availability of officers.

Responses provided by: Julia Cayless, Partnership and Performance Manager

Response sent by email on: 28th February 2017