



## Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**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 4th February 2016.

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 and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Written response to public questions asked by Mr Alan Kewley from Sheffield for Democracy.

### ***Question regarding the Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership Board***

*Assuming the public can attend these Partnership Board meetings, and submit questions, how can we get prior notice of their agenda & minutes of their previous meeting?*

### **Response provided by Maxine Stavrianakos, Head of Neighbourhood Intervention & Tenant Support**

- Papers, including the agenda for the next meeting and draft (i.e. unapproved) notes from the last meeting go on the website, a week before the next meeting is held.
- Included in the published papers is an outline 'forward plan' for the current financial year which highlights agenda topics that are going to be considered at future Board meetings.
- There is a link to the Sheffield First website from the Safer Neighbourhoods Team page on the SCC website – [Safer Neighbourhood Team](#)
- Guidance for public questions to the Board is included on the "Board Meetings" page, Sheffield First site and available to view from SSCP Board February 15 papers.

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Written response to public questions asked by Mr Fitzmaurice from Sheffield for Democracy.

### **Question**

*How do the members of the committee see their roles in scrutinising the effectiveness of Locality Management and should the public be involved in contributing towards any review and the emergence of a new Neighbourhood Strategy?*

### **Response from Cllr Tony Damms, Chair of Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee:**

- Scrutiny Committees reflect the political proportionality of the local authority. The Safer & Stronger Communities Committee has Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green and UKIP members
- It is convention that politics is left at the door of scrutiny committee meetings.

- All Elected Members are committed to Sheffield Council having effective mechanisms for community engagement.
  - The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods is currently leading a review which will look in detail about how we work with local communities; time needs to be given to enable this piece of work to be done properly.
  - The Committee has a number of options available in terms of how it could choose to scrutinise or maintain oversight of an issue, one of which would be to receive regular written updates.
  - Due to the likely timescales of the review the Safer & Stronger Communities Committee may choose to look at this topic as part of its work programme for 2016/17.
  - Following the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February the understanding of the Chair is that representatives from Sheffield for Democracy met with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards in early February to discuss a number of issues including locality management.
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