



Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee
5 December 2012

**Responses from the Cabinet to Issues Referred by the
Committee**

Purpose of the report: Policy Development and Review

To provide feedback from Cabinet on issues and comments raised by the Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 14 November 2012.

Introduction:

1. The Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the Select Committee Task Group Tracker at its meeting on 14 November 2012, and made a recommendation to Cabinet in relation to the outcomes from the work of the Localism Task Group.
2. The Committee's recommendation was considered by the Cabinet on 27 November 2012, and this report provides an update on the Cabinet response.

Localism Task Group:

3. At its meeting in November 2012, the Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee received a report updating progress on the work of current and recent Select Committee task groups. The report included details of the work of the Communities Select Committee's Localism Task Group, the recommendations of which were presented to the Cabinet on 24 April 2012.
4. The Task Group's report contained 12 recommendations, all of which were accepted by the Cabinet. However, the Cabinet agreed at that time that implementation of the recommendations should not be taken forward pending the outcomes of the Community Partnership Public Value Review (PVR). This was to ensure that any links between the outcomes from the two pieces of work could be managed effectively. As the PVR has now concluded, the Council Overview &

Scrutiny Committee is keen to ensure that the work of the Task Group is taken forward.

5. Therefore the Committee recommends:

That the Cabinet provide a statement as to the current status and proposed timetable for implementing the recommendations of the Communities Select Committee's Localism Task Group.

MR MEL FEW

Chairman of the Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet Response:

6. The Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games, in her response to the Localism Task Group Report presented to the Cabinet in April 2012, committed to considering some of the recommendations in the report as part of the work being conducted by the Public Value Review (PVR) of Community Partnership.

7. The Cabinet Member believes the PVR has built on the conclusions of the Localism Task Group Report, particularly with regard to:

- supporting the role of the individual divisional member as a community leader
- reviewing where decisions should be taken, or influenced, more locally
- strengthening local priority setting and the advisory role of SCC's Local Committees
- implementing an e-communications strategy
- strengthening the role of the Community Partnerships Team to facilitate partnership, engagement and democratic support.
- implementing a culture change programme to deliver the Leader's vision of a member led, customer focused Council.
- recognising that each committee may need to adopt a different approach

8. The Community Partnership PVR has been accompanied by a detailed action plan which the Cabinet Member has committed to take forward with the Local Committee Chairmen and the Chairman of the Communities Select Committee.

9. The Cabinet Member was pleased to note that there was support for the PVR's recommendations from the Local Committee Chairmen following her attendance at Local Committee Chairman's informal meeting on the 10 October 2012 and 23 November 2012.

10. The Cabinet Member was also pleased to note that the Communities Select Committee, who reviewed the Cabinet report and action plan on 21 November 2012, also generally welcomed the recommendations and felt that it was informed by effective consultation with Members and other stakeholders.

Helyn Clack

Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games

27 November 2012

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to consider the responses and agree any next steps as appropriate.

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