

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 04 August 2025

Question from: Jane Pugh

Question to: Councillor Scullion, Leader of the Council

QUESTION

I refer to my question of Monday, 17 March 2025 when I asked about the two recommendations made by the Group Place Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 30th of January 2025, and where it was agreed that these two recommendations be sent to Cabinet.

Your reply was:

‘Dear Mrs Pugh,

Thank you for your question.

I can confirm that both matters are scheduled for initial discussion at our Leader’s Briefing sessions in April. They are meetings of the Cabinet and senior officers.

Cabinet will need to be briefed on the issues arising from the proposals and to direct the next stage of the process.’

I ask again if these two recommendations have been debated by Cabinet or Council; if so, what was the outcome and if not, when will they be debated or have they been adopted already?

Response

Thank you for your question. As advised at Cabinet Questions, this matter was dealt on the main Cabinet agenda (agenda item number 6).

Recent changes implemented to the way in which Cabinet responds to recommendations from Scrutiny Boards mean that this item on the Cabinet agenda is used to respond to both formal scrutiny reports and to recommendations made to Cabinet.

As I’ve already said in responses to questions put to Cabinet and Council the issue from Place Scrutiny Board was discussed at a Leader’s Briefing (a regular meeting of Cabinet Members and the Corporate Leadership Team) in March of this year to ensure that any amendment to an existing decision making route did not risk infringing any statutory requirement and that Members were satisfied that an amendment to the current decision making route was appropriate.

Within the Council’s Constitution there already exists the ability for decisions delegated to officers to be taken by Elected Members and following further consideration of the recommendation from Place Scrutiny Board Cabinet does not

consider it needs any amendment. However, we will be providing further guidance to members to ensure that the routes for referrals and variation to the scheme of delegation are clear.

Similarly, there already exist mechanisms for Members to refer matters to Committee and/or Scrutiny Boards and Cabinet do not consider any amendment is needed to that process. It must however be pointed out that a referral by Members of a matter does not automatically mean that the decision required will be taken by the body to whom the referral is made.