

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 30 June 2025

Question from: Clive Wilkinson

Question to: Councillor Scullion, Leader of the Council

QUESTION

I attended the place scrutiny panel meeting that convened on the 30th of January 2025. From this meeting a recommendation was made to the council pertaining to how permitting decisions are made and asking that the council explore the potential to amend the constitution to redefine the way future determinations of this type are arrived at.

This recommendation was voted through by all members sitting on the Place Scrutiny Panel, regardless of political affiliation, clearly the elected members sitting on the panel felt this was a justifiable request. I appreciate implementing changes to the constitution is a complex process, and would take time.

With this in mind, I still feel an update is overdue. Could I please ask what work has been done since the recommendation was made and when it will take effect?

Response

This issue was brought to a Leader's Briefing (a meeting of Cabinet Members and the Corporate Leadership Team) in March of this year. Members were advised by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that the authority for taking decisions on matters for which the Council was responsible was set out in the Council's Constitution. That authority is given to Cabinet, Council, Council Committees and Officers of the Council, dependant on the particular decision required and taking into account, where relevant, statutory requirements.

The recommendation received from Place Scrutiny Board needed to be considered fully 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 structure was appropriate. A Members' Constitutional Working Party is currently undertaking a review of the Constitution and will report later in this calendar year with recommendations for amendment.

However, I have agreed with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that this is something that will be dealt with at the next Cabinet meeting.