



Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board

Date: 22nd July 2013

Subject: Strengthening the Council's relationship with local parish and town councils – formal response to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. In June 2012, the Executive Board Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services made a request for the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board to review the Council's relationship with local Parish and Town Councils and explore how this can be strengthened.
2. In agreeing to undertake this review, the Board recognised the associated links with the Council's wider review in relation to area working relationships. In acknowledging that relationships between Area Committees and local councils are not consistent across the city, the Board agreed to focus its review around strengthening such relationships in the future.
3. The review concluded in March 2013 and a report setting out the Scrutiny Board's findings and recommendations was published in May 2013. However, some recommendations have been amended to reflect new post titles in relation to the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) and the Chief Officer, Communities.
4. It is the normal practice to request a formal response from the relevant Directorate(s) to the Board's recommendations once a report has been published. Details of the formal response to the Board's recommendations are attached for Members' consideration (see appendix 1). A further copy of the Scrutiny Board's report is also attached for information (see appendix 2).

Recommendations

5. Members are asked to consider the formal response to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Board's review around strengthening the Council's relationship with local Parish and Town Councils.

Background papers¹

6. None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.