

Report to:	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager.
Date of Meeting	17 September 2015

PUBLIC SPEAKING

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider any applications from members of the public to speak at the meeting.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider and respond to representations made to the Committee by members of the public.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To encourage public involvement in the scrutiny process.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 N/A

5.0 Background Information

5.1 At the meeting of full Council on 29th June 2011, a formal scheme was agreed in relation to public speaking at Council meetings. Listed below is the criteria in relation to meetings of the Scrutiny Committee.

5.2 **General**

- 5.2.1 Subject as follows, members of the public may make representations at ordinary meetings of the Council, the Planning Committee and Scrutiny Committees.

With regard to Council, Scrutiny Committee meetings not more than five people may speak at any one meeting and no persons may speak for longer than five minutes. These meetings can also consider petitions submitted in accordance with the Council's approved scheme, but will not receive representations, petitions or questions during the period between the calling of and the holding of any election or referendum.

5.3 **Request to Participate at a Scrutiny Committee Meeting**

- 5.3.1 A person wishing to make representations or otherwise wish to speak at a Scrutiny Committee must submit such a request in writing to the Head of Democratic Services, for consideration.

The deadline for applications will be 5pm on the day prior to the dispatch of the agenda for the meeting at which their representations, requests or questions will be received. (The Chairman in exceptional circumstances may allow a speaker to speak on a specific agenda item for a Scrutiny Committee, no later than noon, one working day prior to the meeting).

Those submitting representations, requests or questions will be given a response at the meeting from the Chairman of the Committee, or other person acting as Chairman for the meeting.

5.4 **Reason for Refusing a Request to Participate at a Scrutiny Committee Meeting**

- 5.4.1
- 1) if it is illegal, defamatory, scurrilous, frivolous or offensive;
 - 2) if it is factually inaccurate;
 - 3) if the issues to be raised would be considered 'exempt' information under the Council's Access to Information Procedure rules;
 - 4) if it refers to legal proceedings in which the Council is involved or is in contemplation;
 - 5) if it relates directly to the provision of a service to an individual where the use of the Council's complaints procedure would be relevant; and
 - 6) if the deputation has a financial or commercial interest in the issue.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

None.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 To ensure that the opportunity to speak at Scrutiny Committee meetings is open to all members of the public.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.