

# Responses to Questions, Representations and Statements of Case

Response 1 - Scrutiny meetings are held in public but are not meetings of the public. They are for elected Members to discuss items on the agenda, which will be consistent with the Work Programme agreed the the relevant Commission. The purpose of the agendas are for the elected Commission Members to scrutinise proposals, which includes doing so on behalf of the public. Where scrutiny feels greater public involvement is required they do invite members to give further information in relation to the specific items on the agenda. Publishing of agendas is written in law (Local Government Act 1972) and that is not something we can amend. The timeframe for representations/questions from the public is also written in the Council's constitution and is there to permit the public to raise any issue (within the terms of reference of the Commission) that they want to raise, regardless of whether it is otherwise on the Agenda for that meeting. Also to allow enough time to generate a response to the questions received. Work programmes are always on agendas for scrutiny meetings and do give an indication as to what the agenda items for future meetings might be. Chairs retain discretion to invite contributions from the public on agenda's items where appropriate, but within the overall understanding that the meetings are primarily a forum for elected Member scrutiny

Response 2 – Some of our meetings are webcast and all of them are minuted, so if you are unable to attend meetings you will be able to know what has happened at the meeting this way. There are many affordable forms of public transport into the City Centre and the venues for the meeting are central to allow the public the best opportunity to attend if they wish, although we recognise this may not be suitable for everyone. Reimbursement of fees to attend Council meeting's is not something that would be viable for the populous of the city but we remain committed to allow people every opportunity to be involved in our governance processes.