

GOVERNANCE REVIEW – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

These recommendations from the Scrutiny review of area forums were agreed by the City Executive Board on 5th December 2012:-

- On area structures -

That an informed debate takes place between councillors in their area groupings and community development officers to agree how councillors community leadership roles can best be delivered and supported in their areas within the councillor, officer and likely resident resources available. (Note: Deployment of community development workers has been discussed at XPWG)

- On linking area structures and community views to the Organisation -

That the council considers within its governance structures how the “community voice” can be heard in a way that allows:-

- ***Ideas and solutions from communities to be heard by decision makers through their ward councillors in a timely manner.***
- ***For service and officer protocols to exist that link community views within service construction and outcomes***

In all circumstances for the views and challenges of communities to be responded to via their local ward councillors or decision makers whichever is more appropriate.

- On the powers already available to ward councillors -

That the various mechanisms already available to members to champion the views of their communities within the organisation are detailed in protocols and made clear to all.

- On councillor’s roles and skills -

That the Chief Executive facilitates a cross party debate on the various roles played by elected councillors as ward representatives and members of the Council. The aim of these debates would be to get broad agreement on the expectations and requirements to allow training and

support programmes to be designed, put in place and command the respect and engagement of all.

This table shows which Service Area is primarily responsible for progressing the decisions, and an indicative timetable.

Recommendation	Responsible	Implementation date
Area structures	Community Development	February - June
Linking area structures	Democratic Services	April - June
Powers available to ward councillors	Democratic Services	April - June
Councillor roles and training and support systems	Democratic Services	April - June