

MAYOR AND CABINET			
Report title	Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on legal advice pertaining to Cabinet Member Question and Answer sessions		
Contributors	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Item No.	4
Class	Part 1	Date	13 March 2019

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on legal advice pertaining to Cabinet Member Question and Answer sessions, arising from discussions held at its meeting on 7 March 2019.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the comments of the committee as set out in section 3 below.

3. Overview and Scrutiny Committee views

- 3.1 At the Committee's meeting on 7 March 2019 the Committee noted that written reports had not been provided by the Cabinet Members present as requested; the letters sent to the Cabinet Members who attended the last Question and Answer Session had not been published; and formal responses from those Cabinet Members had not been received and published. It was noted that the receipt of legal advice pertaining to Cabinet Member Question and Answer sessions had prevented this from happening in time for the meeting, but that a procedure would be developed to allow written reports to be received for future meetings, with legal and financial implications as required. Letters sent to Cabinet Members and their responses would also be published.
- 3.2 The Committee requested that a report be prepared by the Head of Law explaining what had happened in this instance, including a timeline of events; outlining the current legal advice pertaining to Cabinet Member Question and Answer Sessions; and explaining the procedure going forward.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

6. Further Implications

- 6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Charlotte Dale, Overview and Scrutiny Manager (ext. 48286)