

CARE SERVICES PDS COMMITTEE
5th September 2017

WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE CARE SERVICES PDS COMMITTEE

Written Questions to the Care Services PDS Committee received from Mrs Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group

1. How does this Committee expect members of the public who rely on printed copies of the agenda to be able to read, digest, prepare and submit public questions, when on most occasions, they do not receive the agenda until the day of the deadline, or the day after?

Reply:

There is no legal obligation on the Council to offer a facility for public questions. Agendas are available online at least five working days prior to each meeting and Officers require time to consider and adequately respond to questions.

2. If the Council genuinely welcomes public involvement, instead of restricting it, why did it change the deadline time to 5pm, instead of 10am the following day?

Reply:

A comprehensive review of Council arrangements was undertaken during 2008 by the Constitution Improvement Working Group which included a review of questions from members of the public. The final report of the review made a number of recommendations including Recommendation 6: that public questions be submitted three working days before each meeting with provision for urgent questions, at this would give Officers sufficient time to consider and adequately respond to questions.

The report of the Constitution Improvement Working Group was considered at the meeting of Full Council on 19th January 2009, at which a motion to agree that public questions be submitted four working days before each meeting (with provision for urgent questions) was proposed, seconded and adopted.

The new arrangements have now been in place for over eight years.

3. Are officers routinely working on these questions overnight, and with the Friday deadlines, over the weekend?

Reply:

When necessary, Officers routinely work flexibly in the evenings and weekends in meeting the needs of the Council and residents.