

WRITTEN QUESTIONS - JANUARY 2007

No	Rec/9 wd target to respond	Question by	Response from	Sent to Cllr	Published
2	<p>Received 11th January 2006</p> <p>Target response by 24th January 2007</p>	<p>Cllr. Dr Evans</p> <p>The Police and Justice Act 2006 brings new powers to scrutinise Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships as well as a growing demand to ensure democratic power over a wide range of services.</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Healthy Living please say whether the Council has began to use mainstream guidelines to prepare for the requirements of the 2006 Act and if so can she say what contributions to the debate will be made – if at all - by elected Members with specific regard to :-</p> <p>a) the new council scrutiny duty over CDRPs from the Spring 2008? And;</p> <p>b) the Community Call for Action for communities and ward councillors from spring 2008?</p>	<p>Councillor Mrs Schmitt, Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Healthy Living</p> <p>The Local Government White Paper aims to empower all those working in the community. This includes local councillors and community groups. Whilst the White Paper is not yet law, work has been progressed by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in the assumption it will become law in due course. The CDRP has recently been re-structured to take into account the forth coming White Paper. Elected member representation is currently on the Poilice Community Tasking Groups, Community Action Teams, Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) and the LSP. In addition, the new model of Neighbourhood Action Panels, which will be implemented later in the year, will also include elected Member representation.</p> <p>The new scrutiny duty has not yet been finalised because the White Paper only takes into account single tier authorities and this is one of the reasons why the White Paper has not been published. The implications for two tier Authorities is being assessed by the Home Office. The latest information from the LGIU states that new powers and responsibilities for local government overview and scrutiny are brought in by the Police and Justice Act 2006. These will be introduced during 2008 (subject to confirmation). This briefing gives an introduction to the new roles for scrutiny introduced by the Act, so councils can start to prepare, and contribute to the debate about how the new roles are defined. This paper does not aim to cover the whole of the implications for councils of the Police and Justice Act, only the scrutiny issues.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In England, a new council scrutiny duty over Crime and 	12/01/07	24/01/07

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disorder Reduction Partnerships, from Spring 2008 ▪ Changes to arrangements for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships by summer 2007 ▪ A Community Call for Action for communities and ward councillors, from spring 2008 		
3	<p>Received 11th January 2006</p> <p>Target response by 24th January 2007</p>	<p>Cllr. Dr Evans</p> <p>The Essex Trust Charter was set up about 2 years ago with the key objective of providing for the proper management and exchange of confidential information. Could the Leader of the Council please confirm that along with other Essex District and Borough Councils this Council has signed up to the Trust Charter?</p> <p>Would he also please confirm that the 54 Braintree District Parish and Rural Parish and Town Councils are not embraced by the Charter, and could he also please confirm that no protocol which relies on the terms of the Charter is in place for elected members' use in their key democratic role and function?</p>	<p>Councillor Butland, Leader of the Council</p> <p>Braintree District Council signed the Essex Trust Charter on 14th September 2004.</p> <p>Parish and Town Councils are not currently embraced by the Charter however, it has recently been agreed by the Charter Group that they be invited to sign up to it. There are currently no protocols in place under the terms of the Charter which Braintree District Council is a party to and accordingly which elected members should use in their democratic role and function. To date reliance has been placed on our duties and responsibilities in relation to data sharing arising from the Data Protection Act, Freedom of Information Act, Human Rights Act, and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act.</p>	12/01/07	24/01/07
4	<p>Received 12th January 2006</p> <p>Target response by 25th January</p>	<p>Cllr. James Abbott</p> <p>It is now a year since the Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and adopted as policy the Sustainable Energy</p>	<p>Councillor Mrs Scattergood, Cabinet Member for Planning and Rural Affairs</p> <p>It is not possible to be precise in answering the question raised by Councillor Abbott. His question has indeed highlighted the need to be able to readily identify developments where energy efficiency and renewable energy installations are proposed. This</p>	12/01/07	24/01/07

	<p>2007</p>	<p>Strategy (SES). It is 18 months since the Local Plan was Adopted which (RLP 76) encourages renewable energy.</p> <p>In that time how many on-site renewable energy installations of any type have been built in housing, commercial, school or other new build or major extension developments in the District?</p>	<p>is something that will be progressed. At this stage, the following information can be provided:</p> <p>The Council has taken the decision not to require planning applications for most forms of solar and photovoltaic panels except when such installations are proposed on listed buildings or properties in Conservation Areas. Other technologies such as ground source heat pumps and biomass boilers are also unlikely to require planning approval. There is presently no way of knowing when such schemes have been installed within the District. Furthermore, whilst the Council can approve planning applications for certain micro renewable energy schemes that do require planning permission, it is unable to confirm the number completed.</p> <p>In terms of specific examples of approval being given, planning permission has been granted for numerous wind turbines in the district. Also, Witham Area Committee recently approved a large-scale housing development at Maltings that included a range of energy saving and renewable energy initiatives. Halstead Area Committee has taken a similar approach with a site in Sible Hedingham. The Council has also refused a number of planning applications when housing schemes have failed to address the issue.</p> <p>In addition, a homeowners' guide to micro renewable energy schemes has been produced and the Council will now be rolling out its newly produced sustainable design and construction advice and associated checklist for new development proposals.</p> <p>Of note, Cabinet will be considering a report on climate change at its meeting on 5 February 2007 that will set out all the actions that have been taken since signing the Nottingham Declaration.</p>		
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