

Committee(s): Residents' Consultation Committee	Date(s): 9 February 2015
Subject: Revised Procedure for Members' Written Questions	
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	Public For Discussion
<p>Executive Summary</p> <p>This report, which is for discussion, reviews the current Pre Residents' Consultation Committee Questions procedures and offers some suggestions for a more formal setting up and running of the process.</p> <p>There should be an open and transparent process for running the Pre Residents' Consultation Committee Questions procedures which helps both members and Officers, with the objective of ensuring that members are able to submit questions that are relevant to the RCC and its Terms of Reference.</p> <p>A protocol was set up a couple of years ago for the Residents' Consultation Committee which has been quite successful and following comments a more formal process has been drafted and it is for this committee to agree this. This protocol would then be adapted by the RCC at their next meeting.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>That the Committee discusses the draft protocol for the Pre Residents' Consultation Committee Questions so that it can be implemented at their next meeting in 2015.</p>	

Background

1. There has been a mechanism for RCC representatives to be able to ask Pre Committee questions and for the Barbican Estate Office to provide written answers which are then published with the minutes.
2. It is a very valuable service and it has resulted in the meetings being able to focus much more effectively on the reports and items on the agenda and for officers to have advance warning of questions coming their way so that the time in the meeting can be spent on having discussions and members indicating their agreement and reaching consensus.

3. It has been noticeable that increasingly members present at the RCC are more engaged in questions and discussion at some point during committee.
4. Generally the Pre Committee questions have been relevant to the RCC and its Terms of Reference, but clearly some are less urgent than others. The format has provided a way to lessen the burden prior to the meeting and also to spread the load. The RCC meeting has often acted as a focal point for Pre Committee questions and therefore the increasing number of questions.

Proposals

5. The RCC Chairman and the BEO Manager have reviewed the current Pre Residents' Consultation Committee Questions procedures and have considered a more formal setting up and running of the process. A protocol has therefore been drafted by the RCC Chair and the Barbican Estate Manager and it is for this committee to agree this – see Appendix 1. This protocol would then be adopted by the RCC at their next meeting in 2015.

Conclusion

6. The current Pre Residents' Consultation Committee Questions has been very much appreciated by members and the answers are available for other residents to see via the website and email broadcast. This reviewed protocol will help formalise the current position.

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