

CABINET – 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

QUESTION FROM MS DILLON TO COUNCILLOR R BLUNT

My question arises from scanning various management documents presented at the August Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting and this Cabinet meeting, in particular the Council Development Plan.

The people of NWLD can be termed in various ways, such as residents or customers. These terms imply different types of relationships, suggesting there may be different levels of importance for the voices of people of NWLD.

In a prior question at Council, it was agreed that elected persons should represent the interests of their constituents.

In the development of your Plan, what weight is given to the voices of the people of NWLD in comparison to stakeholder groups, NGOs and government diktats?

REPOSENSE FROM COUNCILLOR R BLUNT TO MS DILLON

Many of the reports and documents presented to the committees of the Council are informed after consultations and discussions with stakeholder groups and individual members of the Council.

Members of the council are elected as representatives of their local communities to be a voice in those discussions.

The Council delivery plan is a good example of how members have been consulted across the political spectrum, and the process allows good public visibility of the plan as it progresses from the scrutiny committee to Cabinet and then on to full Council over a period of several months.

We have outlined our approach in the introduction to the Council Delivery plan, which is about being realistic about what we can deliver, working with stakeholders wherever possible, listening to feedback about our services and measuring our progress through the performance indicators.

We do sometimes refer to people differently depending on the interaction or relationship that they have with the council. That doesn't mean that they are or more or less important, but reflects their interaction.

The Council delivery plan does consider the plans of other stakeholder groups, government directives, legal considerations, likely future developments, and financial sustainability.

It is difficult to assess the weight given to each of these groups, but our aim is always to achieve the best outcomes within our limited resources for the many communities of North West Leicestershire.