



**To/
Councillor Andrea Lewis
Cabinet Member for Homes &
Energy**

BY EMAIL

cc: Cabinet Members

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SPC/2018-19/6

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Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member for Homes & Energy following the meeting of the Committee on 12 November 2018. It is about a proposed cabinet decision on the Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2022.

Dear Councillor Lewis,

**Pre-decision Scrutiny of Cabinet Report:
Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2022**

The Scrutiny Programme Committee met on 12 November to consider the report that you are presenting to Cabinet on 15 November, and give a view on the proposed decision.

Homelessness is an issue which has been a big feature of our scrutiny work programme and we thank you and relevant officers for engaging with scrutiny councillors over the last year about services and activities to manage homelessness, performance, challenges and of course the way forward for the next four years.

The Committee was very pleased to see that the final Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan documents, that you are recommending Cabinet to approve, have taken on board views already provided both through the Scrutiny Working Group, which met in May & June, and the Committee's consideration of the consultation draft in early October.

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We are very happy to have been able to make a positive contribution and impact on the Strategy. As such, the Committee welcomes the proposed Strategy and Action Plan and its implementation, and well done to all involved in carrying out this important work. Indeed this shows the value of early engagement with scrutiny which we hope Cabinet can facilitate for future decisions that merit scrutiny, so that our input can be more meaningful.

We reviewed the key changes made to the Strategy informed by the consultation process. We found the consultation analysis (Appendix C of your report) to be very clear and helpful in showing how responses from various sources, not just from scrutiny, were considered. Turning to specifics, we particularly welcome:

- Recognition of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and children's voice, and plan to develop a separate Homelessness Charter for children and young people.
- That timescales for the development of a holistic 'solutions centre' have been revised and are clearer about what will be achieved e.g. the feasibility study will be carried out within a period of six months.
- That there will be an annual Cabinet progress report on the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan – something that we felt should be accessible to all councillors and the public.

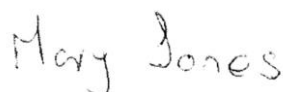
Finally we stressed the importance of engaging with the general public, who see homelessness but may not be sure how best they can help, in order to focus the good will that there is across the city, which will help our efforts as a Council.

Please note that I am unable to attend the Cabinet meeting on Thursday to feedback the Committee's views as contained in this letter. However, the vice-chair, Councillor Terry Hennegan, will attend in my absence.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any comments however we do not expect you to provide a formal response, unless there is any variation from the recommendations in your report in the decision taken by Cabinet on Thursday.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR MARY JONES

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

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