

Question from C Gwilliam

I would like to present a deputation to the Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 13th August 2020.

My deputation refers to - Agenda item 8 - Statement of Community Involvement

My Name is Catherine Gwilliam

I am speaking on my own behalf.

My Question is as follows:

It is good that RCC have clearly listened to Edith Weston Parish Council and undertaken an equality screening on the policy changes in the revised Statement of Community Involvement but I question if the screening document presented to scrutiny by cabinet and the Monitoring Officer has adequately assessed the impacts and I ask scrutiny to consider the following points.

The purpose of the report at the top of the document seems woefully inadequate as it does not include any summary? The author of the screening document must surely qualify and summarise the changes to the SCI in order to support his assessment as to the degree of impact, ie the categories- None through to varied?

Secondly the only notable actions mentioned in the comments as having been taken to lessen the impact of changes to policy are:

- the inclusion in the SCI that limited telephone information is still available as an alternative to email and face to face*
- the SCI needs to make clear that non-electronic representations can still be viewed or made with or without the standard form.*

How useful is an acknowledgment in the SCI that limited telephone contact is available and is this evidence enough to satisfy the duty on Local Authorities?

This document requires the full attention of scrutiny and an experienced eye as scrutiny are tasked with overseeing the work of the cabinet. I look forward to hearing your response to my questions during the debate on Thursday.