

Council 14 November 2016: Questions submitted from Members of the Public

Question No.	Question from	Question:	Question to:	Responsible Officer:
1.	Mr Greenhill	Having regard to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's own Constitution, why and under what and whose authority were members of the Public excluded from and refused admission to the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 29 November 2016 before Item 4 on the Agenda was reached, discussed and resolved?"	The Leader	Mark Radford - Director of Corporate Services

Response: It is not correct to suggest that members of the public were refused admission to the meeting.

It was at very short notice that officers were made aware of a number of members of the public who had arrived in Reception wishing to attend the meeting, literally moments before the meeting was due to start. As it is a standard expectation that all meetings should start at their published time, the Chief Executive communicated clearly to the Chair of the meeting and two other members that he would personally arrange for those members of the public to be admitted to the meeting should the meeting not resolve to go into private session, which it did so within two minutes of the meeting starting.

It is clear that this was a pragmatic solution given that, had a member of staff gone down to the Reception Area to arrange for the members of the public to be brought up to the Council Chamber, the resolution to go into private session would have already been passed by the time they had arrived, and the members of the public could not then have been admitted.

In any case, it is clear that the public were not disadvantaged by their late arrival such that they were not in the Chamber in time for the start of the meeting as, other than hearing apologies and declaration of interests, they would have been excluded as soon as the substantive business commenced.