

REQUEST AND RESPONSE

Rural Infrastructure Project – Freedom of Information request

I would like to see a copy of the report that was presented to the Cabinet detailing the need for such an initiative.

No Officer report was submitted as the issue of rural infrastructure was introduced by the Leader of the Council at the Cabinet meeting held on 13 June. At this meeting he invited the Chairmen of Parish Councils, Group Leaders and other Members present in the public gallery to join in the discussion of this matter with him and Cabinet colleagues.

If no such report was produced by Officers of the Council then I would ask what information was made available to members of the Cabinet in order that such a decision could be made.

The initiative came from the Leader of the Council who did not request any information from Officers of the Council prior to making his announcement.

In the absence of such an officer report what are the parameters by which the success or otherwise of this initiative will be judged?

The Rural Infrastructure project was set up at the request of the Leader of the Council and it was resolved at the Cabinet meeting that he establish a cross-party working group to work with all of the Town and Parish Councils in the District to investigate the issue of the rural infrastructure of the District.

I understand that a questionnaire has been produced for completion by Parish Councils. Please may I have a copy of this questionnaire or if it is not yet finalised then a copy when it is?

Following consultation with Town and Parish Councils further consultation is now taking place with residents living in the rural areas and a copy of the questionnaire is available on the Tendring District Council website at www.tendringdc.gov.uk

Please feel free to complete and return the questionnaire should you wish. If you would like a hard copy of the questionnaire we would be pleased to send one to you.

I am given to understand that financial provision, in the amount of £100,000, has been set aside for this initiative. Will you please confirm the manner in which the decision was taken to commit this amount.

Full details are explained in item 6 of the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 June, please follow the link below. If you would like a hard copy of the minutes we would be pleased to send them to you.

<http://democracy.tendringdc.gov.uk/akstendring/users/public/admin/kab12.pl?cmte=CAB&meet=23&arc=71>

During a period when staff resources are being cut as well as the level of services being reduced what service or staffing resource has been cut to facilitate this funding being made available for this initiative?

To facilitate not only the Rural Infrastructure project but also a number of additional projects and areas of work an officer has been seconded to work in these areas. His work is being covered by colleagues and no cuts in service or staffing resources are being experienced.