

PQ01 Suzanne Audrey: Access to Information

Following recent discussions about members of Audit Committee not being given appropriate access to information in order to perform their role, it is not clear to me whether sufficient measures are now in place to ensure that members are given the same access as Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Question

Have formal measures now been put in place to ensure that members of the Audit Committee have timely access to reports and information required to undertake their role, at least on a par with members of Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board?

Answer:

The legal framework in which the rights of councillors to access information is set out in legislation. These rules are incorporated into the Council's Constitution and provide the framework within which the Council must operate. Officers advise the Council, Cabinet and committees on the scope and extent of the legal framework within which the Council operates, including the rights of councillors to access information. Officers are satisfied that the application of the legal rules set out in legislation relating to access to information is applied lawfully at Bristol City Council.