

Cabinet Responses to aspect raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of the 4th February 2013

No	Comment/Proposal	Cabinet response
R1	<p>Business case – Community Services & CEO Cabinet considers the New Homes Bonus be used only for New Homes and not to tackle issues such as pluvial flooding etc;</p>	<p>New Homes Bonus is deliberately designed to be flexible. It gives the Council the opportunity to enable development, strengthen communities and the environment. Our work so far has gained us national recognition for our creativity, using the funding as part of wider plans – in particular in Northumberland Square in North Shields.</p> <p>Cabinet intend to keep an open mind and deploy this funding where we see it can make the biggest difference. That will include, but not be restricted to, the actual building of new homes.</p>
R2	<p>Members raised their concerns at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s ability to hold Cabinet to account. They expressed their disappointment that the Elected Mayor and Cabinet Members were not in attendance for the duration of the meeting.</p>	<p>Cabinet Members are happy to attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, if invited, subject to relevant Members’ availability and appropriate notice being provided. When invited to attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2012/13 Cabinet Members have attended.</p> <p>Cabinet Members received invitations to attend the postponed Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, which took place on 4 February, on 28 January 2013 and the Elected Mayor attended that meeting together with other available Cabinet Members, namely, Cllr Judith Wallace and Cllr David Lilly. A prior engagement meant that the Elected Mayor and the Cabinet Members were only able to attend the meeting until 7.30pm.</p>