

Responses Received from	Details of Response	Officer Comments	Suggested Amendments
Rochford District Chamber of Trade and Commerce	The Chamber considers three working weeks, as a consultation period is too short to secure a meaningful response back to Rochford District Council. Chamber would prefer a six-week timeframe.	Other business representatives/bodies consulted on the Business Protocol have not adversely commented on this aspect. The three week period is seen as a minimum and longer will be given whenever possible. The Council itself is often under pressure to take decisions as expediently as possible. Therefore no change to the document is proposed.	No change
Rochford District Chamber of Trade and Commerce	The Chamber would like the Council to give an explanation of decisions made by the Authority and feedback on whether their views have influenced the Councils decisions or policies.	Agreed. This would be good practice.	The protocol to be amended accordingly to confirm that groups will be informed of the Councils decisions and policies.

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Rochford District Chamber of Trade and Commerce	Whilst respecting the final democratic decisions of the District Council. The Chamber requests clarification that this does not apply to the planning and highway process where the Chamber may wish to lend support to an appeal against the Council as local Planning Authority or the County Council as Highway Authority	The Council respects that the Chamber and other bodies may not always agree with decisions made by them on planning and highway matters. The Protocol will be amended to clarify this aspect.	The protocol to be amended accordingly to confirm that business community may hold differing opinions particularly in connection with Planning and Highway matters.
Rochford District Chamber of Trade and Commerce	The District Council should notify the business community of consultation to be undertaken by them and to include an agenda item on the regular quarterly meetings with the Council's representatives to cover that issue.	Agreed. This would assist the communication process with the business community.	The protocol to be amended accordingly. The Council will include a standing agenda item for the quarterly meetings whereby the Chamber and other business representative groups will be informed of forthcoming consultation to be undertaken by the Council.