

SCRUTINY Committee - Community

Date: Tuesday 17 June 2014

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Rennes Room, Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business.

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Howard Bassett, Democratic Services Officer (Committees) on 01392 265107.

Entry to the Civic Centre can be gained through the Customer Service Centre, Paris Street.

Membership -

Councillors Shiel (Chair), Newby (Deputy Chair), Branston, Brimble, Bull, Clark, Foggin, George, Holland, Mitchell, Morris, Raybould and Robson

Agenda

Part I: Items suggested for discussion with the press and public present

8 Portfolio Holders' Statement

Councillors R.M. Hannaford (Portfolio Holder for Housing and Customer Access) (Pages 3 -
and Councillor K. Owen (Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing) 12)
to present priorities for 2014/15. – Report to follow.

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Scrutiny Committee - Community will be held on **Tuesday 9** September 2014 at 5.30 pm in the Civic Centre.

A statement of the executive decisions taken at this meeting will be produced and published on the Council website as soon as reasonably practicable.

Find out more about Exeter City Council services by looking at our web site <http://www.exeter.gov.uk>. This will give you the dates of all future Committee meetings and tell you how you can ask a question at a Scrutiny Committee meeting. Alternatively, contact the Democratic Services Officer (Committees) on (01392) 265107 for further information.

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Agenda Item 8

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (COMMUNITY)

17 June 2014

Portfolio Holder Priorities 2014/15 (Covering Note)

The work programme for the Portfolio Holders for Housing and Customer Access, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, City Development and Enabling Services is set out in the attached document (Appendix A).

Members should note that the document sets out the broad priorities for 2014/15 and that Portfolio Holders will be working closely with officers to refine and develop these priorities over the coming months. The refined list of priorities for 2014/15, which will also include outcomes and targets, will be published in September 2014 in the Council's Corporate Plan.

The document also shows the priorities for 2012-14, which were reported previously to this Committee, and a list of priorities and initiatives which have been completed.

Contact for enquires: Howard Bassett
Democratic Services (Committees)
Room 2.3
01392 265275

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Scrutiny Committee (Community)**Portfolio Holder Priorities for 2014/15**

Priority	Assistant Director/ Corporate Manager	Portfolio Holder
Continue to invest in community projects through Community Grants and the Local Infrastructure Grants schemes, and work with communities to build the capacity for new projects in the future	Richard Short	Cllr Edwards
Build 20 new council houses on Council owned land and continue to look for funding to increase this number	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Explore new solutions to providing affordable homes, including co-operative housing and self-build housing	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Introduce specific schemes to improve the standards of private rented accommodation.	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Work with the Plough and Share Credit Union and other partners to increase access to affordable and ethical credit	Bindu Arjoon	Cllr Hannaford
Work with communities and local organisations to maintain our parks and play areas and explore new business models to protect them for the future.	Sarah Ward	Cllr Owen
Explore ways to reduce costs for local community groups through collective purchasing of insurance, energy, maintenance and other goods and services.	Sarah Ward	Cllr Owen
Protect existing allotments, look for opportunities to provide new allotments and explore the use of public open spaces for community food production.	Sarah Ward	Cllr Owen
Work with the Exeter Health and Wellbeing Board and other partners to increase levels of physical activity in the city and promote the sustainable use of the river, canal and other green spaces for active lifestyles.	Robert Norley	Cllr Owen
Find new ways of improving recycling rates across the city	Robert Norley	Cllr Owen
Protect frontline services by reducing the Council's energy costs through a range of energy efficiency schemes	Mike Carson	Cllr Pearson
Continue to require that all new housing developments of three or more homes includes 35% social and affordable housing	Richard Short	Cllr Sutton

Promote the Register of Assets of Community Value which gives communities the first chance to bid for local facilities	Richard Short	Cllr Sutton
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Portfolio Holder Priorities 2012-14

Key

Grey shaded areas denote initiatives superseded by new manifesto

Initiative or project	Assistant Director/ Corporate Manager	Portfolio Holder
Work in partnership with other agencies to ensure we are developing the best services for communities in the City	Bruce Luxton	Cllr Edwards
Seek to introduce innovative solutions to building new housing, such as a co-operative and mutual model of home ownership where people are given stability and equity	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Implement the recently approved Empty Homes Enforcement Policy to return privately owned empty homes to use and ensure they are fit for habitation	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Assist in the development of 150 Extra-Care homes	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Develop a new Housing Strategy in consultation with our residents, communities, tenants and wider stakeholders.	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Deliver at least 5% of all new affordable homes to meet the council's wheelchair design standards, produce a wheelchair housing strategy for the city and cut down the time it takes to install Disabled Facility Grant adaptations in private dwellings by use of approved builders lists and modular	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Grow the Private Sector Leasing and Extralet schemes to improve access to affordable private sector tenancies and drive up standards in private rental properties	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Provide financial assistance to those most in need to make private sector homes fit for habitation, safe and decent	Bob Norley / Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Set fair and affordable council rents and use increased flexibility to decide how we allocate housing in Exeter	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Continue to offer a professional and flexible approach to developers seeking to build new homes in the City and to negotiate the provision of affordable housing that meets the identified housing needs of local residents.	Richard Short	Cllr Hannaford

Initiative or project	Assistant Director/ Corporate Manager	Portfolio Holder
Provide new affordable homes across the city and in the urban extensions at Newcourt, Monkerton and Alphington.	Richard Short	Cllr Hannaford
Where viable, make 25% of all new homes built across the City affordable	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Continue to investigate and encourage innovative schemes to deliver affordable housing without public subsidy	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Review and monitor the pressures on the council's existing housing stock and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) from the new discounted Right To Buy proposals.	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Ensure that we make best and prudent use of any funding that becomes available through the new HRA, to maintain existing stock and build and acquire new units.	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Maintain and enhance our existing good work through the Tenants and Leaseholders Committee, Exeter Homes Partnership and Performance Review Committee.	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Manage additional pressures and work loads from the cuts and changes to housing benefit, government imposed reductions in council tax benefits, and the Coalitions back to work agenda.	Bindu Arjoon	Cllr Hannaford
Work with the Environmental Health staff to monitor and drive up standards in private sector properties, especially for vulnerable groups and young people.	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Run training sessions for Landlord up to four times per year.	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Ensure that the new powers under the Mobile Homes Act 2013 are incorporated into current policy	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Make the best use of the new funding streams from the revised planning systems for both housing and community initiatives.	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Develop our approach to reducing street begging including the introduction of an alternative giving scheme, improved access to accommodation and treatment services and more robust enforcement	Bruce Luxton	Cllr Hannaford

Initiative or project	Assistant Director/ Corporate Manager	Portfolio Holder
Transform how the council maintain its properties and provide a better service with improved value for money	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Continue to work to strengthen to Protocol all the Devon Councils have with Registered Providers (Housing Associations) through which they undertake to contribute to the cost of disabled adaptations to their homes. New	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Build on our existing good work with the private sector to expand our portfolio of private properties which we manage on behalf of private landlords and use to proactively prevent homelessness.	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Use increased flexibilities with allocations policies to ensure our social housing always goes to those most in need with a strong local connection to Exeter.	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Continue to work in partnership with E.on to deliver energy efficiency grants and loans schemes to maximise take up of Green Deal and Energy Commitment Obligation (ECO).measures.	Roger Coombes	Cllr Hannaford
Improve the way we deal with visitors to our Customer Service Centre who have financial and housing problems so that they receive timely and cost effective advice	Bindu Arjoon	Cllr Hannaford
Continue to work in partnership with Wessex Home Improvement Loans to develop innovative loan products and provide debt advice to clients in need	Bob Norley	Cllr Hannaford
Local Welfare Support	Bindu Arjoon	Cllr Hannaford
Prepare for the household benefit cap	Bindu Arjoon	Cllr Hannaford
Proactively work with businesses to reduce negative impacts on the public/public realm through the use of licensing and regulatory tools, and greater engagement with them over: - Food Hygiene Rating System - Waste management - Business litter - Customer nuisance	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen
Replacement of Flowerpot Skate Park	Sarah Ward	Cllr Owen
Improve existing play areas, consult residents about developing new ones and refurbish water play facilities at Heavitree and St Thomas	Sarah Ward	Cllr Owen

Initiative or project	Assistant Director/ Corporate Manager	Portfolio Holder
Proactively work with businesses to increase the number engaging with the Council as their Primary Authority. In addition, work with Trading Standards to enhance the Primary Authority offering.	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen
Support Fairtrade Fortnight and raise awareness of social and environmental concerns about goods and services	Bruce Luxton	Cllr Owen
Implement a project in conjunction with Gas Safe, to encourage and ensure regular maintenance of gas appliances using qualified gas engineers.	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen
In preparation for a revision of Licensing Policy due 2014, work with Licensing Committee Members on 4 key elements to enhance outcomes: - Pool of conditions - Special licensing tools - Voluntary schemes - Late night economy	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen
Progress multi-agency actions to reduce alcohol-related violence, disorder and nuisance through the introduction of schemes such as: - Taxi marshals - Safe Zones - Taxi rank provision and siting - Under-age sale of alcohol testing	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen
Introduce and co-ordinate a multi-agency Exeter Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) to ensure that public safety is appropriately safeguarded at large events.	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen
Comprehensively review the key factors contributing to Exeter's recycling rate and seek to re-invigorate recycling by a variety of actions including:	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen
Progress development of a low emissions strategy which will contribute to the Air Quality Action Plan for Exeter.	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen
Explore the use of licensing tools available to allow the management of concentration of gambling premises in a locality.	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen
Conduct a review of the purposeful system of keeping people and the environment, safe and healthy.	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen
Review the opportunities for greater income generation and increased commercial awareness across the Environment, Health and Wellbeing portfolio	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen

Initiative or project	Assistant Director/ Corporate Manager	Portfolio Holder
Through the Joint Waste Management Board, proactively engage with exploring the potential for joint working in clusters across Devon in partnership with other councils.	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen
Review the MRF operation over the medium to longer term will be carried out to identify potential benefits.	Bob Norley	Cllr Owen
Assist with formulating the council's street enforcement policy which sets out how to deal with rough sleepers and beggars and associated anti-social behaviour.	Bob Norley	Cllr Pearson
Bring forward outline and full planning permissions for proposed new communities at Monkerton and Newcourt and prepare a development brief for growth at Alphington in partnership with the local community	Richard Short	Cllr Sutton
Work with the private sector to deliver 600 homes per year required by the Core Strategy and maintain a five year housing land supply	Richard Short	Cllr Sutton
Fund community activities at a local level and across the City through Community Grants and the New Homes Bonus	Richard Short	Cllr Sutton
Introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy to ensure funding is captured from development to pay for required infrastructure and maintain an up to date Infrastructure Delivery Plan.	Richard Short	Cllr Sutton

Completed initiatives/projects - April 2014

Initiative or project	Portfolio Holder
Improve the council's existing housing stock to high energy efficiency and sustainability standards	Cllr Hannaford
Introduce flexible tenancies in our own stock to optimize the potential for council-owned homes to be available for people in most housing need	Cllr Hannaford
Install solar panels on up to 55 council-owned homes in Hawthorn Road	Cllr Hannaford
Review the late Thursday opening until 7pm, after 6 months of promotion.	Cllr Hannaford
Achieve a target collection rate of 98.5% for business rates in the year	Cllr Hannaford
Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy	Cllr Hannaford
Ensure that affected residents are aware of the changes under the Welfare Reform Act and support them in dealing with these (Council Tax Support Scheme incorporated)	Cllr Hannaford
Review of Anti-Social Behaviour in Council Housing	Cllr Hannaford
Work with partners to combat fuel poverty, including the installation of solar panels on council houses across	Cllr Hannaford
Encourage lower emissions in Exeter's taxi fleet	Cllr Owen
Extend Higher Cemetery Garden of Remembrance, develop natural burial options and organise a programme of memorial and other events in the City's three cemeteries	Cllr Owen
Take action to improve the appearance of the children's burial area in Higher Cemetery	Cllr Owen
Submit an Air Quality Action Plan to Defra and seek to increase awareness of the health impacts of poor air quality	Cllr Owen
In partnership with HSE, Public Health, D&SFR, CoC and Trading Standards, launch an 'Estates Excellence' programme in Marsh Barton, focussing on health, safety and welfare of employees.	Cllr Owen