

REPORT TO: EXECUTIVE & COUNCIL
Date of Meeting: 7 October 2014 & 15 October 2014
Report of: Corporate Manager, Democratic Services and Civic Support
Title: Scrutiny Review Working Group Update Report

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

To update the Executive as to the implementation of the new Scrutiny arrangements one year on following the report of the cross party Scrutiny Review Working Group dated 9th April 2013.

2. Recommendations:

- That the Executive note this report.
- That the Executive recommend to Council that the new Scrutiny arrangements as set out in the cross party report dated 9th April 2013 have been implemented successfully.
- That there is no need to revise or change these arrangements which should continue.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

- To ensure that Members remain fully informed of the changes to the operation of the Scrutiny function during the past year and that the new arrangements have been successfully implemented.
- That the new arrangements have been reviewed in line with the recommendations of the cross party working group report dated 9th April 2013 approximately one year following implementation.
- That there is no need to revise or change the new arrangements which should continue to ensure the continued smooth and effective running of the Scrutiny Function at Exeter City Council.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources:

None.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

This report raises no issues for the Section 151 officer to consider.

6. What are the legal aspects?

None.

7. Monitoring officer Comments

This report raises no issues for the Monitoring officer to consider.

8. Report Details:

Members will recall that in April 2013, Council agreed to some new arrangements regarding the future of Scrutiny within the Council. These included:-

- The formation of an Audit and Governance Committee;
- A realignment of the services which reported to each Scrutiny Committee so that they better matched the revised senior management structure;
- The appointment of a part time Scrutiny Programme Officer;
- An annual meeting to discuss Scrutiny's work programme so as to ensure
- An annual review of these arrangements so as to ensure that they still met the Council's requirements

All of the above arrangements have been successfully introduced, with a full range of Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups having taken place including:-

- Cost of Living in the City
- Financial Reporting
- Housing Allocation
- The Future of Exeter Quay
- Income Generation Measures

These meetings have been facilitated and led by the Scrutiny Programme Officer and have included engagement with outside organisations who have been able to bring their expertise and knowledge to the matter. This work would not have been undertaken without this dedicated officer.

The formation of a separate Audit and Governance Committee has been welcomed by all, particularly both internal and external auditors, therefore raising the profile of audit matters within the authority, and separating it from its previous inclusion in the remit of the Scrutiny Resources Committee.

For ease of Members reference, a flow diagram showing the scrutiny reporting lines, is attached as Appendix A.

9 What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, Economy safety and the environment?

Not applicable.

John Street : Corporate Manager, Democratic Services and Civic Support

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

None

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