

REPORT TO: PEOPLE SCRUTINY, PLACE SCRUTINY, CORPORATE SERVICES
SCRUTINY AND EXECUTIVE
Date of Meetings: 2nd June, 9th June and 29th June 2016 and 12th July
Report of: The Scrutiny Programme Officer,
Democratic Services and Civic Support
Title: Annual Scrutiny Review Report 2015/2016

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

To provide an annual update to the respective Scrutiny Committees as to the Scrutiny work achieved during the municipal year 2015/2016.

2. Recommendations:

The Annual Scrutiny Report 2015/2016 is acknowledged and approved.

3. Reasons for the recommendations:

- a) To track the progress of the Scrutiny function and process at Exeter City Council.
- b) In order that Members may comment as to the progress and direction of Scrutiny over the past year, together with proposals for the forthcoming year.
- c) To ensure that the Scrutiny Committees are kept fully up to date as to the Task and Finish Groups and what they have achieved.
- d) To illustrate how effectively Scrutiny continues to work at Exeter City Council contributing towards an accountable, transparent and democratic process.
- e) To acknowledge the results achieved through Scrutiny during the municipal year 2015/2016.
- f) To raise the profile of Scrutiny at Exeter City Council and to promote confidence in the democratic process.

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

None.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

There are no financial implications contained in this report

6. What are the legal aspects?

None identified.

7. Monitoring officer Comments

This report raises no issue of concern to the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report Details:

This report concentrates on providing Members with an overview of the work and achievements of Scrutiny over the past municipal year together with the proposed direction of Scrutiny for the forthcoming year.

The detail of this report appears in the attached Appendix and can be divided into eight main areas:-

- The Scrutiny Work Programme
- Task and Finish Group priority topics
- Follow up on previous Task and Finish Group recommendations
- Summary of Task and Finish Group work
- Training and profile
- Current improvements
- Future improvements
- Timetable for the forthcoming municipal year

Through the Annual Scrutiny Work Programme Meeting in June 2015, Members identified priority topics for Task and Finish Group investigation as follows:-

- Homelessness
- The University and its impact on the City
- Equality and Diversity
- Empty Commercial Properties
- Growth and Marketing Exeter
- Water Ingress in Council Properties
- Parking Review

Topics identified as suitable for Member Briefings included:-

- Transport
- Rough Sleepers
- Universal Credit
- Integrated Care Exeter

In addition to this, updates tracking the progress of approved recommendations from previous Task and Finish Group were provided to the relevant Scrutiny Committees in respect of:-

- Income Generating Measures
- Cost of Living Forum
- Future of Exeter Quay
- Financial Reporting
- Council's Role in the Community and Tackling Isolation
- Social Media

The topics of training, profile, current improvements, future improvements and timetabling for the forthcoming year are also detailed within the Appendix accompanying this report.

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.

**Anne-Marie Hawley : Scrutiny Programme Officer,
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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)**

Background papers used in compiling this report: None

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