

STRATEGIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday 20 November 2025

Time: 5.30 pm

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

Members are invited to attend the above meeting.

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Liz Smith, Democratic Services Manager on 01392 265425.

Entry to the Civic Centre can be gained through the rear entrance, located at the back of the Customer Service Centre, Paris Street.

Membership -

Pole (Chair), Mitchell, K (Deputy Chair), Atkinson, Haigh, Harding, Miller-Boam, Moore, Rolstone, Wetenhall and Williams, M

Agenda

1 Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

2 Minutes (Pages 5 - 10)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee held on 11 September 2025.

3 Declarations of Interest

Councillors are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests that relate to business on the agenda and which have not already been included in the register of interests, before any discussion takes place on the item. Unless the interest is sensitive, you must also disclose the nature of the interest. In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, you must then leave the room and must not participate in any further discussion of the item. Councillors requiring clarification should seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer prior to the day of the meeting.

4 Local Government Act 1972 - Exclusion of Press and Public

It is considered that the Committee would be unlikely to exclude the press and public during the consideration of the items on this agenda, but if it should wish to do so, then the following resolution should be passed:

"RESOLVED that, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the particular item(s) of business on the grounds that it (they) involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1, of Schedule 12A of the Act."

5 Questions from Members of the Public Under Standing Order No.19

Details of questions should be notified to the Democratic Services Manager via the <u>committee.services@exeter.gov.uk</u> email by 10.00am at least three working days prior to the meeting. For this meeting any questions must be submitted by 10.00am on Monday 17 November.

For details about how to speak at Committee, please click the following link - https://exeter.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-meetings/public-speaking-at-meetings/overview/

6 Questions from Members of the Council Under Standing Order No.20

To receive questions from Members of the Council to the relevant Portfolio Holders for this Scrutiny Committee. The Portfolio Holders reporting to this Scrutiny Committee are:

Councillor Bialyk - Leader

Councillor Patrick - Portfolio Holder City Development

Councillor Vizard - Portfolio Holder Climate and Ecological Change and

Communities

Councillor Wood - Portfolio Holder Leisure Services and Physical Activity
Councillor Wright - Portfolio Holder, Culture and City Centre Strategy

Councillor Foale - Portfolio Holder Arts, Culture and Tourism

Advance questions from Members relating to the Portfolio Holders above should be notified to the Democratic Services Manager.

7 Portfolio Holder report - Councillor Wright

(Pages 11 - 18)

To receive a report from Councillor Wright, the Portfolio Holder Culture and City Centre Strategy.

8 Air Quality (Pages 19 - 26)

To receive the report of the Strategic Director for Operations which can be found

within the Executive Agenda pack from page 61: (Public Pack)Agenda Document for Executive, 04/11/2025 17:30

9 Motion referred by Council

(Pages 27 - 32)

To receive the motion referred by Council at the meeting held on 14 October 2025.

10 Forward Plan of Business and Scrutiny Work Plan

(Pages 33 - 52)

Please see for noting a link to the schedule of future business proposed for the Council which can be viewed on the Council's web site. This on-line document is a source for Members to raise issues at Scrutiny on forthcoming Executive agenda items:-

https://exeter.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-meetings/forward-plan-of-executive-decisions/

Also attached is a draft work plan of future scrutiny items.

Should Members wish to raise issues in respect of future business please notify Liz Smith in advance of the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Thursday 15 January 2026** at 5.30 pm in the Civic Centre.

Individual reports on this agenda can be produced in other formats on request to Democratic Services on 01392 265425.



STRATEGIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 September 2025

Present:

Councillor Pole (Chair)

Councillors Mitchell, K, Atkinson, Haigh, Harding, Hussain, Ketchin, Knott, Palmer, Wetenhall and Williams, M

Apologies:

Councillors Miller-Boam and Rolstone

Also present:

Strategic Director for Place, Head of Service - City Centre and Net Zero, Net Zero Project Manager, Programme Manager City Wide - Net Zero and Democratic Services Officer (LS)

In attendance as Portfolio Holder:

Councillors Bialyk, Vizard, Wood and Wright

9 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2025 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

10 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

11 Questions from Members of the Public Under Standing Order No.19

There one question submitted by a member of the public. The Chair invited Mr Cleasby to read his question:

"In view of the forthcoming transfer of local transport responsibilities to the County Combined Authority, does the Leader agree that only by creating an Exeter-centric unitary authority – which would be a full voting member of the CCA Board - will Exeter's interests be properly represented in CCA transport decisions?"

The Leader responded that he agreed and that both budgets were kept separate for this year and amalgamated next year. The Leader also stated that he attends CCA meetings as a non-constituent member rather than a member with voting rights and that in order for Exeter to hold a seat it was necessary to become a unitary authority.

12 Questions from Members of the Council Under Standing Order No.20

There had been two questions submitted by Councillor Wetenhall to the Portfolio Holder for City Management who was unable to attend therefore the questions were deferred until the next meeting of the committee.

13 Portfolio Holder report - Councillor Vizard

The Portfolio Holder for Climate, Ecological Change and Communities, Councillor Vizard presented his report drawing attention to the following points:

- the breadth of work being undertaken spanned directorates, the Council and outside bodies;
- the path to net zero included all aspects of council work;
- thanks were offered to Freya Branley who had now left the council but had been an excellent officer. Recruitment to the post was underway;
- the strategic vision of the council in the shape of the new corporate plan was in place and other opportunities with partners were being explored which was timely with regard to local government reorganisation and the need for Exeter to have a say in topics such as transport;
- the successful PSDS funding for Riverside Leisure Centre had now successfully procured and awarded contracts for the works; and
- electrification of the fleet was a key project but Riverside was top of the list.

Councillor Vizard and the Net Zero Project Manager responded to Members' questions in the following terms:

- there would hopefully be more homes retrofitted with solar panels;
- two companies had been secured to provide design and project management for Riverside;
- teams would likely be happy to provide a report regarding joined up working on damp and mould issues although housing was a different portfolio;
- incorrect grants information listed should be sent to the Portfolio Holder and he would ask officers to review;
- next steps and timescales regarding PV feasibility study would be put to SMB in the near future and there would be a report to council seeking funding, from the public loans board, with a business case;
- with regard to the Regional Energy Strategic Plan recommendations of the net zero team the Portfolio Holder would respond outside the meeting:
- the cost of heating the civic centre was not optimum but he would press hard to reach optimum with any move and to meet some of the climate emergency challenges;
- heat pumps on council land was a good concept and funding would remain the issue as well as challenges around infrastructure, planning and connectivity;
- the timescale for retrofit was difficult as there was not definite funding due but 920 homes had been retrofitted to date which equated to approximately 20% of the stock and funding bids were being submitted;
- the number one priority was decarbonising housing and buildings in general;
- there was a hope that the district heat network would connect with residential homes in future;
- it was expected that there would be funding from Government to replace the PSDS and the Portfolio Holder would look for announcements; and
- the communities aspect of his portfolio reported to the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee but there was work through Safer Exeter Partnerships with Councillor Miller-Boam as Member Champion

reaching out to diverse communities in order to bring questions back to the council.

The Strategic Scrutiny Committee noted the report of the Portfolio Holder for Climate, Ecological Change and Communities.

14 Exeter City Council's Costed Organisational Carbon Footprint Projections to 2030

The Strategic Director for Place introduced the report and invited the Research Fellow to the table and made the following points:

- this was a powerful report with scenarios from across council services;
- this was the first report in the country to provide true costs to a council for their carbon reduction; and
- the report was ground-breaking and thanks were given to the Research Fellow and the team at South West Energy and Environment Group (SWEEG) for giving such rich information without charge.

The Research Fellow gave apologies from the author who was unable to be present, and presented the report making the following points:

- social housing was very important to footprint;
- the net present value was not included due to a short timescale;
- F gases often included but relatively small and bundled with buildings for the purposes of this report;
- Business as Usual(BAU) included those things which were already planned or committed to;
- the Max position would just get the council to net zero by 2030 and was the best case scenario;
- insulation was planned at the point of change of tenancy to avoid disruption to tenants;
- electricity usage was going down despite the increased use of devices;
- heating by heat pump was more efficient than electric heating;
- capital expenditure was needed for social housing;
- operational expenditure would decrease over time with non-domestic properties but there would be a spike in capital expenditure;
- transport required capital cost due to leasing of vehicles;
- renewable energy would be achieved by installing PV at greater rates on home with some non-domestic but the Max would be achieved by installing larger ground-mounted PV;
- land use change was limited to tree planting to increase canopy cover and the Max option would be 100% cover which would be unrealistic, however, planting new trees could also disturb carbon;
- net zero would not be achieved without addressing housing which was costly and not necessarily easy;
- electrification of traffic could happen quickly as the infrastructure was already in place; and
- BAU and Mid options would not achieve net zero by 2030, the Max option would but it was ambitious.

The research Fellow, Strategic Director for Place and Portfolio Holder for Climate, Ecological Change and Communities responded to Members' questions in the following terms:

- the report was transparent on the sources used and methodology could also be seen with factors available from Government as they were those used by the Climate Change Committee;
- data was pooled with other authorities through SWEEG;
- Cornwall were look at a shared ground look;
- the amount of money needed for housing meant that supportive policies would be needed and direct incentives for people to move to heat pumps;
- there was a toolkit for householders, community groups and businesses on the council website;
- there was support for Exeter Community Energy;
- figures regarding housing were taken from discussion with the Housing Team and maybe based on the cost to the council rather than market value but he would look into this;
- 'current trajectory' rather than BAU would be taken back to the author and Cornwall used 'best outlook pathway'
- the author was a certified Passivhaus designer and it was a myth that Passivhaus' were hermetically sealed rather ventilation was managed and these home were better insulated to keep warm or cool when needed'
- the need to keep internal doors open or closed would depend on the way the individual house was set up and its individual sensors;
- it was important that those living in a Passivhaus understood the house and that they were given information about how the house worked otherwise energy bills would remain high;
- the Strategic Director would respond outside the meeting regarding leased out assets on page 25 and whether some of these could be in scope 1;
- it was an aspiration for all new houses to be built to Passivhaus standard and some had been with Vaughn Road as a great achievement;
- Passivhaus was one approach and design solution to achieve a high level of energy efficiency but there were others as well;
- as a stock owner and landlord the council must also consider costs to tenants and it was currently cheaper to hear with gas;
- the report was informative but wouldn't be used to make decisions; and
- all issues must be considered including but not limited to maintaining design excellence and carbon reduction.

Following a unanimous vote the Strategic Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

15 Citywide Net Zero

The Strategic Director for Place introduced the item and the Programme Manager City Wide - Net Zero who presented the report making the following points:

• the report highlighted the collaborative efforts with partners, especially the university, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the city;

- there were many initiatives including sustainable travel and biodiversity;
- the new stakeholder group had been successful with goof attendance and engagements from the public sector, businesses and community groups and there was a desire and enthusiasm to work together;
- priorities had been identified in March and in June it had been agreed to focus on active and sustainable travel and a meeting next week would focus on nature and biodiversity;
- links would be made with the county nature recovery strategy; and
- funding from GWR Customer and Community Improvement Fund had enabled a successful project improving signage and way finding to railways stations from the Green Circle.

The Strategic Director for Place and Programme Manager City Wide – Net Zero responded to Members' question in the following terms:

- the civic sustainable travel group was led by the university therefore questions regarding their minutes would need to be put to the university
- Exeter Partnership notes were shared on the council website but no minutes were taken;
- Phase 1 of the bike hubs project was focused on secure staff bike parking on a variety of council sites and some on council-owned housing;
- proactive work with others to place bike hubs was in the scope of the project but not in Phase 1 or 2;
- the planning pre-application service, for which there was a cost, could be utilised for those wishing to put in bike hubs;
- at present there wasn't a timescale for this work but a report would go to SMB and the Executive in due course;
- the new maps made it clear where the railway stations were and there
 were new maps available as well as maps at the railway stations
 showing how to get to the Green Circle;
- a response would be given outside the meeting as to whether the new electric double-decker buses were in service;
- the net zero team were working closely with the Live and Move team who were on the steering group delivering the Green Circle project;
- promoting to stakeholders was an important aspect of the project, an article had been included in the Citizen and there would be more activity towards the end of September;
- the new maps and way finding focused on the Green Circle areas adjacent to the stations of St David's, Marsh Barton and Polsloe Bridge;

The Chair stated that she had worked with a community group to put in a bike hub and the planning team had been amenable and explained the process.

Councillor Vizard, as Portfolio Holder for Climate, Ecological Change and Communities stated that his report to the committee explained the Phases of the bike hub project and that logistics and potential providers would be part of this work. Devon County Council had a role to play with regard to anything on the highways.

The Chair moved, seconded by Councillor Atkinson, the recommendation as set out in the report and following a unanimous vote was CARRIED.

16 Forward Plan of Business and Scrutiny Work Plan

During discussion on the scrutiny work plan Councillor Knott proposed, seconded by Councillor Atkinson that an item on South West Water be added to the plan following referral from Council on 2 September and following a vote was unanimously CARRIED.

The Chair shared information regarding the Air Quality Action Plan from the Head of Service – Environment and Waste:

"we first have to consider the Air Quality Management Area and this has to be subject to consultation before it can be presented to Council to become an order. At the point the order has been approved by Council (likely to be March 2026) the Council then has 18 months to draw up and consult upon an Air Quality Action Plan based upon the new Air Quality Management Area.

The law requires us to conduct it in this way and to do it any other way would be predetermining the consultation of the Air Quality Management Area.

The timetable in my forthcoming report has been presented to DEFRA who have accepted that this meets the requirements."

The Chair proposed, seconded by Councillor Atkinson that the item be timetabled for scrutiny at the meeting in March 2026 which following a vote was unanimously CARRIED.

Following a vote the draft Scrutiny Work Plan as amended was AGREED.

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.45 pm

Chair

PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORT TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

REPORT TO STRATEGIC and CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Date of Meetings:

Customer Focus Scrutiny: Thursday 25th September 2025

Strategic Scrutiny: Thursday 20th November 2025

Report of COUNCILLOR Laura Wright, Lead Councillor for Corporate Services (including Digital Transformation and HR) & City Centre Strategy.

Council Committees: Executive and Council

Board member/Trustee (council appointments): InExeter, Exeter Canal and Quay

Trust, Exeter Business Centre

Member of: Devon and Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner's Panel

Member of: Exeter Community Safety Partnership including working groups; ASB

and Gender Safety

Devon & Cornwall Police Cllr Advocate

Relevant training and CPD undertaken this year;

LGA Conference, Liverpool, July 2025

ECC online certified training; County Lines, Domestic Abuse, Equality Diversity and Inclusion, GDPR, Introduction to Safeguarding Thematics, Misogyny and Incel subculture, Risk Assessment, Serious violence and Knife Crime, FGM.

Other relevant training: Level 2 Safeguarding, Prevent, ECC's EDI training.

1. Delivering our strategic priorities: as per our published

Corporate Plan 2025-28

Local Economy

City Centre Strategy

The consultations involving business, elected members and residents have now concluded. All responses are being considered in the next stage of the development of a new vision, strategy and action plan. The action plan will be owned by key stakeholders and partners as well as ECC and will have measurable and timed outcomes.

The development of the vision and strategy is underway and will come back to myself, the Director and Head of Service early November. The final vision and strategy will come to Council for adoption Spring '26.

As the strategy work progresses, we will be in a strong position to work at national and regional levels to bring forward investment and encourage economic growth to Exeter.

There is a business, economy and growth sub-group of the Exeter Partnership which will sense check draft documents as and when received.

I continue to sit on the board of InExeter which provides feedback from city centre businesses and their priorities.

People A safe and thriving city with great things to do for everyone

Community Safety & Anti-Social behaviour

The Exeter City Centre PSPO was renewed this year and includes the St Thomas area of the Exe Bridges retail park and Cowick Street precinct. This Order gives police powers to remove alcohol from anyone displaying anti-social behaviours. Specific powers have also now been given to the Community Safety Team following their CSAS training and accreditation.

The 4 Community Safety Team (CST) officers (jointly funded by ECC, InExeter and the Police & Crime Commissioner) to patrol the city centre and PSPO area, supporting D&C Police in their hotspot policing initiative and undertaking various other duties. The team also address stray dogs and encampments across the rest of Exeter.

The main purpose of the CST is to contribute to community safety and to combat crime and disorder, public nuisance and other forms of antisocial behaviour in co-operation with the police through their Hotspot policing initiative. The areas covered include; Sidwell Street, High Street, Cathedral Yard, Queen Street, South Street and Mary Arches Street.

The CST also undertake business engagement to provide reassurance to the City Centre business community. Since the introduction of the CST, there has been 563 business engagements.

From data submitted by the CST to D&C Police, the following outputs have been achieved as part of the Hotspot policing initiative.

Hotspot Outputs (01/04/2024 - 30/10/2025)	
Foot patrol hours delivered	2968
Interactions with members of the public	8717
Premises visits executed	4650
ASB incidents attended	365
Items of Intelligence submitted to community intelligence systems	84
CSAS powers exercised	116
Safeguarding referrals made	15

The CST has been run on a pilot scheme which is now coming to an end in March 2026. Joint funding has been committed from InExeter but the Police and Crime Commissioner's grant received for the last two years has not been extended. Therefore, work is ongoing to investigate funding from Devon & Cornwall Police, as well as other organisations to ensure the permanence of this project.

Data from the CST, the Police and InExeter is currently being collated to form one central data portal to log, assess and ascertain the effectiveness of all aspects of targeted action against ASB in the city. This work to form a data portal is being undertaken by Exeter College.

CCTV and Control Room

Following a member of the control room staff being awarded a commendation from the Police & Crime Commissioner earlier this year, the team have made further crucial identifications of wanted criminals and been able to assist the police in their work. As I have seen myself when visiting the control room at night, the team also play a crucial role in spotting behaviours and

vulnerabilities to which they can then alert security staff, the police and the Community Safety Team.

The City Council have 311 City Centre CCTV cameras.

Additional budget has been allocated to replace any remaining old analogue CCTV Cameras across the City Centre and within car parks. Any surplus budget will be used to buy and install new CCTV Cameras in any areas of concern. Officers are working with D&C Police and InExeter to identify these locations. The team are working with procurement to purchase the CCTV cameras and should be installed this autumn. This has been funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

A new CCTV camera has recently been installed in South Street.

The CCTV Control Room is open 24hrs a day, 7 days a week.

New yellow 'Do you need help' signs with the phone number to the control room, have been installed over the summer. 140 are installed to date, with a further 24 to be installed when the additional new CCTV cameras are installed this autumn.

The City Council are working with Safer Exeter Community Safety Partnership, to raise awareness of the work undertaken by partners to address ASB within the city centre. A press event is being organised for November, where information on the CCTV network, the yellow help signs and the Community Safety Team will form part of the press event. The press event will also include work undertaken by partners in addressing ASB, including InExeter, the City Council and Devon & Cornwall Police.

Community Safety Partnership - Safer Exeter

The review of this partnership, its priorities and Operation Sub-Working Groups and potential outcomes is ongoing. The work of the partnership so far has been to bring key stakeholders together to share information, create specific focus groups to bring forward objectives, and to facilitate bids for relevant Home Office Funding for community safety.
The work of the Sub-Working Groups is having a positive impact on the city.

Sustainable Environment

Recent input through the Exeter Partnership has highlighted the need to include sustainability and environment in our work on the City Centre Vision and Strategy, as a golden thread. Parks and biodiversity within the city centre will be a focus as will working with business to reduce carbon footprint and take advantage of potential joint ventures to improve sustainability.

A Well-run Council

· Leading a well-run council

Effective investment and maintenance programme for the assets that underpin our business

Open and transparent decision making

Work is well underway to modernise and clarify our democratic processes and our Constitution. A cross-party governance sounding board and regular communications with group leaders has informed, shaped and checked the work in this area. So far, sections of the constitution referring to the Planning Committee have been adopted. In addition, full Council has approved the changes to Council meetings. Further work on Scrutiny committees and the Executive committee is underway. Once these changes have been approved by full Council, the provisions will be implemented as a whole.

The reduction of committees to eleven places and the provision of substitutes has been approved by the Audit & Governance committee and by Council and is now in place.

Councillor training and development continues to receive good feedback and is ongoing throughout the year. Specific briefings in addition to training have been welcomed by members many who have feedback that this aids their decision making.

Members are encouraged to undertake any specific individual training that they identify, and a recent email has set out the process for applying to do this.

The move to reduce the number of reports that come to Executive for noting before going to full council for debate and decision making has started to streamline and clarify accountability.

It has been decided by the Councillor Development Steering Group to continue with the online training platform available to members and work is ongoing to improve the take-up of this certified training.

IT & Digital

Officers continue to focus on delivering the Digital Customer Strategy, which guides our approach to making council services more accessible, secure, and responsive.

Digital Customer Services & Online Access

- The "My Exeter" online portal now has over 20,000 registered residents. It makes it easier to access council services, supports self-service, and improves the customer experience.
- Support was provided to assist the launch of the new consultation and engagement site, "Engage Exeter."
- Customer Feedback & Service Improvement

- New online processes for handling customer feedback and Freedom of Information (FOI) requests are being developed to improve compliance and responsiveness.
- Work is continuing with services to create new "report it" processes to make it easier for residents to interact with the council and track service requests.

Contact Centre & Telephony Modernisation

- A new phone and contact centre system is now in place, making customer communications smoother and more reliable.
- The new telephony system also provides comprehensive data and customer insights which will be used to monitor performance and identify areas for improvement.

Business Systems & Data Management

- Improvements are being made to the Idox Uniform system –case management system in City Development, Building Control, Environmental Health, Licensing and Private Sector Housing. A review highlighted gaps and underused modules, which is being addressed by updating system settings, training staff and improved reporting.
- A review of the iTrent HR system has led to automation of onboarding, offboarding, and internal movement processes. A new HR Business Intelligence Dashboard now provides real-time data for managers on absence, turnover, EDI indicators, vacancies etc.
- The same process is now underway with the Corporate Health and Safety system: AssessNet,

Azure Migration Project

Strata have started to move our IT systems to Microsoft Azure, a secure cloud platform. This change will make services more reliable, save money, and help the council meet its environmental goals. The project is happening in stages to avoid disruption, with careful planning and backup systems to protect data.

Cyber Security & Compliance

 Following an independent IT health check, all identified cyber security gaps have been addressed by Strata. Annual Public Sector Network (PSN) compliance has been assured, safeguarding council data and services.

End User Computing Transformation

 Staff now have Windows 11 laptops, moving away from virtual desktops and giving direct access to Office 365 for a better user experience.

Enterprise Middleware Architecture (EMA)

 Strata have developed new architecture to connect key systems (e.g., Waste, Licensing) enabling more efficient data flows and will help enhance our service to residents.

Project Management & Collaboration

 Officers continue to collaborate with Strata and other councils within the partnership to share best practice, deliver joint projects, and maximise value for Exeter's residents.

Future Focus

- Officers are exploring explore how AI can be used in council services to further improve efficiencies and service delivery.
- A full review of the council website will take place to update content and make it easier to search.

HR and Workforce

 Officers undertaken a significant transformation of its HR function following an independent review in March 2024.

Key developments include:

- **Digital Transformation:** A full review of the iTrent HR system has led to automation of onboarding, offboarding, and internal movement processes. A new HR Business Intelligence Dashboard now provides real-time data on absence, turnover, EDI indicators, and vacancies.
- Workforce Accessibility: A new HR SharePoint site, including a "People Hub," is being developed to centralise HR resources, policies, and guidance, improving access for managers and staff.
- Recruitment and Talent Development: A council-wide apprenticeship scheme has been launched to address skills shortages and support underrepresented groups. Recruitment processes have been streamlined, with a new careers landing page and automated workflows improving candidate experience.
- **Learning and Leadership:** A strategic leadership development programme is underway, alongside targeted people management workshops to build capability across the organisation.
- **Employee Experience:** 24 HR policies have been reviewed, with new policies introduced on Hybrid Working, Secondments, and Neonatal Leave. A new Occupational Health provider is being procured to improve wellbeing support.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI): Following an LGA Mini Peer Review, an EDI
 Task Force has been established and action plan agreed. A new EDI policy published,
 and a training framework developed for staff and members. Improvements to Equality
 Impact Assessment governance and EDI data collection are also in progress. EQIA
 training has been delivered to staff and members.
- **Industrial Relations:** A modernised IR framework has been launched in collaboration with Trade Unions to support inclusive and transparent staff engagement.
- **KPIs and Strategic Planning:** HR now tracks key metrics such as sickness absence, turnover, vacancy rates, and apprenticeship levy spend, with targets aligned to national benchmarks and ECC's strategic workforce goals.
- Corporate Health and Safety: Responsibility for Corporate Health and Safety is transitioning to the HR service. Recruitment is about to commence for two new roles: a Health and Safety Manager and a Health and Safety Officer, to strengthen organisational oversight and support.
- **Future Focus:** Officers are exploring AI integration into HR functions, including chatbot support, automated job evaluations, and transcription tools, to further enhance efficiency and service delivery.

Legal Services: A review is underway to look at the processes currently used to address Traveller and non-Traveller encampments and incursions. This will be in conjunction with Housing, Estates, Parks and Open Spaces, the Police and the Community Safety Partnership.

2. Update or commentary on any major ongoing programmes of work

1. All covered in the sections above

3. Issues that may impact services delivery/financial performance/future budget requirements

CCTV

A tender is being developed to procure a new maintenance contract for the extensive city centre CCTV network. Additional budget was allocated this financial year to pay for a new maintenance contract.

Additional commercial contracts are in negotiation with external organisations.

Homecall is starting to show an increase in customer numbers following a two-year slow decline. Work is underway to raise the awareness of the services through Homecall.

4. Potential changes to services/provisions being considered
1.
2.
3.

5. Other matters the Portfolio Holder wishes to raise with the Scrutiny Committee

Devon & Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner Panel
 A report on the last two meetings will come out with the next Councillor Information Bulletin.

END



Minutes Extract from Executive Committee - 4 November 2025

Minute No. 84 - Air Quality Annual Status report and Revision of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

The Executive received the report statutory Annual Status report that had been submitted to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and contained the monitoring data from 2024, in-year summary of the actions taken to improve local air quality and future plans

The Leader moved and Councillor Williams seconded an amendment to the report recommendations to read as follows:-

Two original recommendations remain unchanged as follows

- that Executive notes the statutory annual status report;
- that Council notes the statutory annual status report;

To delete recommendations 2.2 and 2.4; and replace with

- that Executive does not amend the current Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and
 instead asks that the Head of Service scopes out a programme to include the physical
 and financial resource to revise and consult upon the Air Quality Action Plan for the
 current Air Quality Management Area as well as an Air Quality Strategy for the city; and
- that scrutiny on 20 November 2025 is asked to formulate ideas that they would like to be considered as part of the scoping programme, so that these can be factored into the future report when the physical and financial resource is being looked at.

The Portfolio Holder for City Management in speaking to the reason for the amendments made the following points:

- no area in Exeter currently exceeded the 40 micrograms per metre cube NO²
 exceedance which demonstrated that the Council was a on course for improved air
 quality across the city;
- although one area in East Wonford Hill, previously exceeded 40 micrograms, it was now below that value, however, having an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) on a short stretch of road did not seem beneficial; and
- there needed to be a focus on continuing to improve air quality across the whole city with a focus on developing a five-year air quality strategy.

In speaking to the amendment, the Portfolio Holder for City Management read some key points of information for Members to consider:

- Air quality within the city had improved significantly over the last decade and was welcomed.
- The monitoring data gathered from the diffusion tubes for NO², showed that no sites
 measured an exceedance of the annual average objective in 2024 for NO² and that
 exceedance was 40 micrograms per metre cubed. This was the first year when all
 measurements had been below the objective for NO² and marked a significant
 milestone in the continued improvement of the city's air quality.

- There had been no exceedances from the previous year to create an unexpected dilemma for decision makers. For a number of years now, DEFRA's annual appraisal had stated that when a number of locations had more than three consecutive years without exceedance, the authority, in light of the Act and statutory guidance, needed to review the air quality management area with a view to covering the remaining areas that contained exceedances.
- This report had correctly fulfilled that role by asking for a revision to be considered.
- There was a likelihood that one remaining location could still legally require an AQMA for three years without exceedance by the end of 2026 and the Executive were being asked to consider whether it was worth investing resources into revising the AQMA now, when there was the probability that the new order would be short-lived.
- It was important to note that there was an imperative area of concern for East Wonford Hill which still needed to be the centre of the revision and consultation of the AQMA, which the Council was still required by law to revise and consult on.
- There was, however, an opportunity to remain compliant with the legal requirements but to go further by encompassing a wider strategy for the city as a whole. Whilst there was no legal requirement to devise a strategy, due to the AQMA, it would allow the Council to lead in developing a five-year strategy that would, as one of its primary objectives, lead to consideration of revoking the current AQMA after having three successive years below the UK objective of 40 micrograms per metre cube NO² exceedance.
- Instead of pursuing the report recommendations that had been correctly presented to Members, it was proposed that the Council continue with the current AQMA and do not consult upon its revision and ask the Head of Service to scope out a programme to revise the current air quality action plan, as well as an air quality strategy.
- It was important to note that such an undertaking would have to be scoped in detail as
 the service responsible did not have either the staffing resources or budget to undertake
 this work or bring in specialist resources to conduct this work. This would allow the Head
 of Service the time to properly scope this work so the Council could then consider the
 financial requirements and implications.
- There was also a role for Strategic Scrutiny Committee, which on its meeting on the 20 November 2025, the Portfolio Holder for City Management could hear ideas on the process could work.
- This would be an opportunity, to capture the methodology for capturing citywide input from Members from across the political spectrum, rather than getting into too much detail about the content of the action plan or the strategy, as that would be for a future process.

The Leader advised Members that the notice of motion, from the Council meeting on 14 October 2025, which was referred to Scrutiny would also be included for discussion at the Strategic Scrutiny Committee on 20 November, together with a copy of the Executive Minute for this item.

The Strategic Director for Operations advised that the report brought back the annual status update which met regulatory requirements and the amendments would allow the Council to go beyond minimum requirements.

During the discussion, Executive Members raised the following points and questions:-

- the worst areas of the city which no longer showing exceedances were welcomed;
- in supporting the current configuration, it demonstrated progress by the Council;
- despite heavy local traffic patterns in wards such as Pinhoe, there was improved air quality away from major roads;
- the amended recommendations were welcomed and demonstrated how the Council was going beyond compliance and the importance of an air quality strategy;

- there were limitations on transport/highways powers limitations without unitary status and the Councils unitary bid could enable better transport/highways powers to reduce emissions;
- the progress made on Air Quality was commended and more regular updates from the Portfolio Holder would be welcomed; and
- would there be improved collaboration with Exeter Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC)

The Leader advised that the Managing Director of Stagecoach had stated that Exeter bus fleet would become fully electric, but how far that range would extend was to be determined.

In response to questions and points raised by Executive Members, the

Portfolio Holder for City Management advised:

- there would be more regular updates provided and likely two presentations made to Strategic Scrutiny Committee, with the first being in June 2026; and
- she was working closely with Devon County Council and over air quality action plan and was consulting with partners, such as the Director for Public Health, relevant neighbouring authorities and Highways.

Opposition group leaders raised the following points and questions:

- supported was given for the amendment and the new direction proposed;
- a concern was raised on the legality of wording implying Executive instruction to Scrutiny;
- a number of previously submitted questions had not been responded to;
- the previous report had been deferred to update the AQMA, but there appeared to be no changes other than to adoption of time scales;
- interim actions were sought until the new strategy was adopted, notably SMART actions and resources;
- enquired if the appraisal report would be signed off by Director of Public Health;
- clarity was sought on strategy framing for targets as required the Environment Act 2021 particulate matter targets; and
- long-term impacts from medium NO² exposure needed to be addressed as part of the work, including mapping of air quality against Indices of Multiple Deprivation such as in St. David's Ward.

In response to questions and points raised by Members, the Leader, Head of Legal and Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer, the Head of Service - Environment and Waste and Portfolio Holder for City Management advised that:

- there were no legal issues and Scrutiny was not being directed and could reject Executive proposals;
- the Strategic Director would respond to the submitted questions, but detailed points and questions should be directed to Strategic Scrutiny Committee which would provide cross-party input for a future report back to Executive;
- there were no exceedances last year and a commitment had been made to provide regular updates and closer working with Devon County Council and specified partners; and
- the Director of Public Health's team were fully cited on the ASR and there was currently
 no requirement for a physical signature this year but would be a requirement for future
 years.

The Leader moved the amended recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Wright, voted upon, and CARRIED unanimously.

RECOMMENDED that Council note the statutory annual status report.

RESOLVED that Executive:

- (1) note the statutory annual status report;
- (2) does not amend the current Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and agrees that the Head of Service scope out a programme to include the physical and financial resources to revise and consult upon the Air Quality Action Plan for the current Air Quality Management Area as well as an Air Quality Strategy for the city; and
- (3) ask that the Scrutiny Committee on 20 November 2025 formulate ideas that they would like to be considered as part of the scoping programme, so that these can be factored into the future report when the physical and financial resource is being looked at.

SCRUTINY Consideration of an Item at Scrutiny Committee

Please complete this form to provide information about your proposal for consideration by the Scrutiny Programme Board or request for a review to be undertaken on a topic or issue of concern. You may attach any other supporting information you feel might help the Board in considering your proposal. The Strategic Management Board will be advised of any proposal, to help advise on the timetable and any resource implications.

Please complete the following form which will be presented to the Scrutiny Programme Board (SPB)

Issue to be Considered	Outcomes of the Air Quality Action Plan
Proposer (s)	Catherine Rees
Scrutiny Committee (to be determined by the SPB)	Strategic Scrutiny
Lead Portfolio Holder	Bob Foale
Identification of Lead Officer	To be completed by SMB

Areas for consideration:

1. What is the specific topic area you want considered/reviewed?

The Air Quality Action Plan outcomes

2. What are the main issues you feel need to be addressed?

A thorough evaluation of the outcomes of the current Air Quality Action Plan, scrutinising which actions produced the most positive outcomes, and which did not, in order to fully inform the shaping of the new action plan, in October 2024.

3. Please identify which of the Council's key priorities your topic relates to? (If any)

Revised 6/23

Two of the aspirations of the Exeter Vision 2040 are that Exeter is a 'Healthy and Inclusive' place, and 'The most active city in the UK'. It states that, 'land currently dominated by driving and parking, will be freed up for social, economic, and environmental uses. Air will be clean and healthy.'

One of the five key strategic priorities is that Exeter is 'A Healthy and Active City'. This section recognises areas of deprivation in our city, with some of the poorest health outcomes. In recent years, the detrimental impact of poor air quality on public health has been recognised more fully, with evidence-based outcomes widely reported.

4. What outcome, including timeframe are you aiming to achieve with this consideration/review?

A new Air Quality Action Plan written by October 2024, fully informed by the outcomes of the current plan, with the overall aim of improving air quality for the residents of Exeter.

5. Do you consider this review urgent and if so why?

We have four months to ensure a thorough evaluation of the current plan, to ensure the future plan is based on robust evidence.

6. Financial considerations

Scrutiny processes could support and enhance the evaluation process that will be required to write the new plan. Scrutiny training highlighted the need for scrutiny processes to positively impact on Council processes, and ultimately improve outcomes for the residents of Exeter.

7. Expert witnesses to invite

Members of DCC to maximise opportunities for joint working with ECC.

- 8. Which format of Scrutiny are you proposing? C A task a finish group
- A Officers written report to be submitted to the Committee.
- B- A Spotlight Review where a group of members hold a meeting and gather evidence and make a submission to a Scrutiny Committee .
- C A Task and Finish Group where a group of members hold a series of meetings gathering evidence and make a submission to a Scrutiny Committee.

Date of Request	20 th May 2024
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Please note that the Programme Board will consider the following matters (if relevant) when determining the request. *Please tick any that are appropriate.*-

Potential Criteria for Selecting Topic (NB This is not an exhaustive list)	Please tick
The issue has potential impact on one or more sections of the local population	✓
The issue is strategic and/or significant	√
Scrutiny of this matter will add value to the Council's and/or its partners' overall performance	✓
The review will lead to effective outcomes	✓
This will improve service outputs	✓
The issue is of concern to partners and stakeholders	✓
The issue is a key issue for the public (as identified through contact with constituents or meetings of local organisations)	✓
This will be of benefit to the community	✓
Poor performing service (evidenced from performance indicators)	
Service/issue ranked as important by the Council's community (via market surveys/annual residents' survey/consultation with tenants, local business community)	✓
High level of user/general public dissatisfaction with service (via market surveys/complaints)	✓
Public interest issue (e.g. covered by local media)	√
High level of budgetary commitment to the service or policy area	
Pattern of budgetary overspends	
Council key priority area	✓
Central Government priority area	✓
Issue poses significant or potential risk to the Council (can be financial, reputational or other risk)	
Issue raised by external auditor	
Issue raised by Council or one of its Committees	✓
Issue arises from new legislation or Government guidance	
Key reports or new evidence (provided by external organisations on key issue)	✓

FOR SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD USE ONLY

The following will be used if the Proposal/Topic is rejected Pleas				Please tick	
The timing of this review is inappropriate					
The review will duplicate other work within the Council or elsewhere					
The issue is	already under ex	aminatio	n by Council		
The issue is changes are	•	aminatio	n by an Officer Gr	oup and	
Issue being	examined as part	t of a ser	vice review		
New legisla	tion/guidance exp	ected wit	thin a year		
There is an alternative, more effective, route the Member can take to address the issue					
The issue is	The issue is outside the scope of the Scrutiny Committee				
The issue would not bring about any sustainable and on-going revenue savings					
The issue does not meet any of the Council's corporate priorities					
Comments from SMB					
Overall recommendation of Scrutiny Programme Board Please tick relevant box) Review Supported Review I				not supported	
Confirm approval of review by Ye			Yes/No (Delete a	ıs appropi	riate)
Committee			Customer Focus Scrutiny Committe Strategic Scrutiny Committee		
Date					

Motion to Council, October 14th 2025.

Oct 2nd 2025

Cllr Lynn Wetenhall

This Council notes that:

- 1. According to the World Health Organisation's (WHO)s latest guidelines the annual mean concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO2), a potent pollutant affecting human health, should not exceed 10 μg/m3. The UK has set a legal limit at 40 μg/m3. This means that whilst one NO2 monitoring site in Exeter continues to breach UK law, 92% of Exeter's monitoring sites don't meet the WHO guidelines¹.
- Devon's Director of Public Health is clear on the dangers of air pollution from traffic, pointing out that there are long term impacts on a wide range of health conditions².
 As the Director points out it is now accepted that there is no safe level of NO2.
- 3. Exeter City Council is responsible for Air quality monitoring, and the production of an annual Air Quality Status report and an Air Quality Action Plan which sets out measures that will improve air quality.
- 4. Regular movement along a road with high pollution levels impacts on health³. Several roads which are used regularly by pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, have very high levels of NO2⁴. Many of these are also residential roads. For example, in 2023 ECC monitoring data recorded: Honiton Road 35.4 μg/m³3,, Alphington St 34.3μg/m³3, Red Cow Village 31.7; Fore St, Heavitree 30.6 μg/m³3; York Road 26.9 Cowley Bridge Road 25.9; Longbrook Street 20 μg/m³3

There is clear international evidence for a 'dose response effect' where on average a 10 µg/m3 increase in NO2 concentrations (previous day) was significantly associated with increased risk of total (0.46%), cardiovascular (0.37%), and respiratory (0.47%) mortality. The concentration-response curves were almost linear, even below the current WHO air quality guidelines (There is no 'safe' level, with disagreement between UK Government's higher limits, and the World Health Organisation as to appropriate and achievable limits). Around 1 in 20 deaths in Exeter were attributable to air pollution (NB. old modelling, updated 2022, data now available states 3.1%).

We need to be clear there are acute and chronic effects of air pollution, including nitrogen dioxide; exceedance is only one part of a complex picture. Long-term exposure can cause chronic conditions through systemic inflammation, whilst acute episodes can exacerbate existing conditions, such as asthma. Exposure to traffic pollution can create overall effects, such as reduction in lung function in population, with an increase in prevalence of, for example, children with clinically relevant declines.

It should be borne in mind that there are a number of other pollutants from vehicles that can cause additional harms such as, of those studied, benzene or particulate matter. Whether NO_2 is a good proxy is open to debate, particularly when the proportion of PM is increasing due to heavier electric vehicles."

¹ Based on Air Quality Status Report 2024 figures,

² Email to ECC from DCC Director Public Health, June 2024.

³ https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/effects?view=short-term

⁴ Figures from Air Quality Status Report 2024.

- 5. People deserve to have clear information about the risks posed by walking, cycling or driving on roads in Exeter with high levels of NO2 pollution. This will enable people to understand air pollution levels and their health impacts, helping them make informed choices about travel routes. Currently, such information is not easily accessible or clear on any Council webpages.
- 6. Woodburning stoves and open fires in homes create small air particles (PM) which pose a serious health risk to those in the home and add to external pollution.
- 7. **Black mould and damp** cause significant health issues to those living with it and pollute internal living environment. Awaab's Law⁵ is a new law that comes into force on 27th October 2025. It requires social landlords to fix reported damp, mould and emergency repairs within strict timeframes. However, damp and mould can affect all types of housing and tenures. The City Council's webpages make no reference to the health risks posed by mould and damp in the home

Therefore this Council resolves that:

- The Council's webpages are updated to provide:
 - full and transparent information about air pollution levels on specific roads and the health impacts of living on or regularly using those roads whether as a pedestrian, cyclist or motorist.
 - Information on alternative walking and cycling routes or travel modes for known regular commuter and school run routes, avoiding the most polluted roads.
 - Fuller Information on the health impacts of air pollution from all sources, both inside the home (for wood burners, open fires, mould and damp) and outside and actions to take to reduce these impacts

⁵

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awaabs-law-draft-guidance-for-social-landlords/awaabs-law-draft-guidance-for-social-landlords

Notice of Motion by Councillor Wetenhall under Standing Order No. 6

Councillor Wetenhall moved, and Councillor Moore seconded a Notice of Motion under Standing Order No.6 in the following terms:

"This Council resolves that:

- full and transparent information about air pollution levels on specific roads and health impacts of living on or regularly using those roads whether as a pedestrian, cyclist or motorist.
- information on alternative walking and cycling routes or travel modes for known regular commuter and school run routes, avoiding the most polluted roads.
- Fuller information on the health impacts of air pollution from all sources, both inside
 the home (for wood burners, open fires, mould and damp) and outside and actions to
 take to reduce these impacts."

In presenting the motion, Councillor Wetenhall made the following points:

- there was currently misleading information and information that was difficult for lay people to understand;
- 92% of nitrogen dioxide monitoring sites did not meet WHO guidelines;
- there was a simple solution, and it would not be very expensive; and
- she had attended the Exeter Futures Walk put on by the University and it was clear that there needed to be a simpler way to communicate scientific information in way that could be understood by everyone.

The Lord Mayor advised that an amendment had been proposed and invited Councillor R Williams to speak. Councillor R Williams moved, seconded by the Leader, Councillor Bialyk, an amendment that under Standing Order 7 (4) that his motion be referred to the Strategic Scrutiny Committee.

In proposing her amendment, Councillor R Williams informed Members that the Air Quality Report was going to the Strategic Scrutiny Committee as an item at the November meeting.

During debate on the amendment, Members made the following points:

Councillor Palmer:

- this amendment essentially squashed the motion; and
- vulnerable people could not wait for this to be deferred.

Councillor Read:

- she appreciated that scrutiny was able to look at things in depth;
- reports were often only noted at scrutiny;
- it would be helpful for Council to make a decision now, that would support scrutiny regarding air quality;
- the original motion enabled communication with residents and provided solutions residents on how they can solve their problem; and
- if this amendment was approved it would be a vote to not provide transparency.

Councillor Ketchin:

- the Strategic Scrutiny Committee would be assessing the reporting of air pollution in the city;
- the original motion was about simple measure to update information for the public;
 and
- this brought forward wood burners which had not previously been addressed.

Councillor Atkinson:

- Devon County Council were responsible for devising and putting into place an Air Quality Plan, the role of Exeter City Council was to put up monitoring equipment and collect data;
- Exeter City Council was creating plans to deal with mould and damp and that would be an issue for Customer Focus Scrutiny; and
- this motion should go to Scrutiny for an informed debate on these issues as they had a valuable role and informed policies.

Councillor Wetenhall:

- this was not about tackling air pollution, but about providing more information;
- the rest of the city would not be covered by the Air Quality Action Plan; and
- this motion was simple and quick, referring the matter to scrutiny was a poor use of scarce officer time.

Councillor Wood:

- this was an incredibly important subject that everyone was passionate about;
- this required partnership input, and experts were needed on communication and air quality as this was a complicated process;
- he supported the amendment as it would send this issue to the correct platform;

- · he recognised the importance but also the complexity; and
- scrutiny had capacity to bring in external people to explore.

Councillor Rees:

- many cities across the UK were dealing with improving air quality;
- it was important that these issues were identified as cross-party and that the intention was to communicate with residents;
- it would be better to work together, even if views were different about how; and
- work must be done in partnership with Devon County Council.

Councillor K Mitchell asked for clarification from the mover of the amendment to this motion that it would be separate from the Air Quality Action Plan on the agenda at the Strategic Scrutiny Committee, as is stated in the Standing Orders. Councillor Mitchell also asked for clarification on what the considerations were for this being referred to the Strategic Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor R Williams advised that the Air Quality Action Plan was not coming to Strategic Scrutiny, but the Air Quality Status Report 2025, and alongside that would be a timetable for the Air Quality Management Area and information about Air Quality Action Plan timetable.

Councillor Moore:

- this was about science communication;
- this motion could have been dealt with now;
- Exeter City Council had an educational role with Denis the Dustcart;
- the Director of Public Health had been clear about the damage to health; and
- the best time to start communicating with residents was now.

Councillor M Mitchell raised a Point of Order on the amendment and asked for clarification from the Monitoring Officer on whether the matter would be referred from Scrutiny to the Executive Committee and then back to Council. The Lord Mayor advised that this would be the case.

Councillor Wright:

- this information could be difficult to understand unless you were a scientist;
- she would like to provide information that was easy for people to understand;
- the information provided would need to be looked into to ensure that it was full and transparent information; and
- this should go to public scrutiny to ensure it was the relevant information.

Councillor Pole:

- wanted to reassure Members, as Chair of Strategic Scrutiny, that this would be undertaken in a cross-party manner;
- the Air Quality Monitoring Report and Monitoring Area were prerequisites for the Air Quality Action Plan;
- she would look at all these items and meet with the Portfolio Holder to support this work which would be done in collaboration with stakeholders; and
- this motion appeared to be pre-empting a bigger piece of work.

Councillor Bialyk, Leader as seconder:

- the amendment was clear, and the motion would be on the agenda, the mover of the original motion would be entitled to speak and it would be debated;
- there were a number of councillors with severe respiratory diseases, and they were invested in improving air quality; and
- Exeter City Council was responsible for monitoring air quality.

In summing up, the mover of the amendment, Councillor R Williams made the following points:

- all were passionate about air quality;
- the Air Quality Status Report was 130 pages long and it was essential that it was read and considered alongside this motion;
- accurate and targeted communication was essential; and
- to ensure the best for the people of Exeter, she asked Members to trust that this could go to Strategic Scrutiny and be examined.

Following a vote, the amendment was CARRIED and became the substantive motion.

Councillor Wetenhall proposed an amendment which was ruled out of order by the Lord Mayor.

Following a vote, the substantive motion was CARRIED.

WORK PLAN FOR SCRUTINY ITEMS 2025/26

Working Draft

Strategic Scrutiny Committee	Item	Strategic Director	Portfolio Holder	Origin of Business	Status
20 November 2025	Portfolio Holder Update (Cllr Wright)	Strategic Director for Operations (AP)	Portfolio Holder for City Management & Deputy Leader		
20 November 2025	Air Quality	Strategic Director for Operations (AP)	Portfolio Holder for City Management (Cllr R Williams)	Including Cllr Rees proforma	
20 November 2025	Notice of Motion referred by Council	Strategic Director for Operations (AP)	Portfolio Holder for City Management (Cllr R Williams)		
U15 January 2026 ວັງ ວັງ ວັງ	Performance and Service Provided to Customers and Stakeholders of Stagecoach South West in Exeter	Strategic Director for Place (IC)	Communities (Cllr Vizard)	Scrutiny proposal Cllrs Snow, Parkhouse and Hughes	
15 January 2026	Progress Report Shared Prosperity Fund - Update	Strategic Director for Place (IC) Service Lead Net Zero & Business (VH)	Portfolio Holder Climate & Ecological Crisis (Cllr Vizard)	Report from Strategic Scrutiny Committee 29 September 2022 half yearly report	
15 January 2026	Petition – To extend Article 4 direction to include all of Hillcrest Park & Doriam Close	Strategic Director for Place (IC)	Portfolio Holder for City Development (Cllr Patrick)	Petition - online	
12 March 2026	Portfolio Holder Update (Cllr Wood)	Strategic Director for Place	Portfolio Holder for Leisure Services & Healthy Living		

Updated 5/11/2025 working draft

Strategic Scrutiny Committee	Item	Strategic Director	Portfolio Holder	Origin of Business	Status
12 March 2026	Portfolio Holder Update (Cllr Foale)	Strategic Director for Place	Portfolio Holder for Arts, Culture and Tourism (Cllr Foale)		Head of Service suggests moving to March as review of Culture currently underway
12 March 2026	City Wide Net Zero - Programme of work and update on delivery	Strategic Director for Place (IC) Service Lead Net Zero & Business (VH)	Portfolio Holder Climate, Ecological Change and Communities (Cllr Vizard)		
12 March 2026	Live and Move Programme Update	Chief Executive	Portfolio Holder Leisure Services & Healthy Living (Cllr Wood)	Report from Strategic Scrutiny Committee 16 March 2023 half yearly	

Items to be timetabled 20 November 2025:

W			
Rivers Transparency	Motion referred from	Invite South West	Suggest January
Template	Council 2 September	Water to attend and	
	2025	give evidence.	

Items to be considered for the work plan 20 November 2025:

Unauthorised	Proforma from Cllr Pole	
encampments		
Bike Parking	Proforma from Cllr Wetenhall	

Proforma Guidance Notes

These guidance notes also include the proforma to be used to submit your proposed items for review by Scrutiny.

A check list will be used to assist the Scrutiny Programme Board to ensure a consistent approach is taken in determining whether or not to proceed with a suggested proposal or item of business, review of suggested topic or area of work. Their deliberations will also include taking account of the current and future work priorities and the Board will also liaise with the Strategic Management Board.

Important considerations

When Members are considering whether to put forward a proposal for review, it is important that they are aware of the following:

- a) The existing, agreed work priorities for Scrutiny. Members must take into account the capacity of Members and Officers to support the proposed work needed to do the review well;
- b) The Scrutiny Programme Board will wish to consider and prioritise those proposals which have the best chance of securing real improvement or local benefit or can make a positive change in line with the Council's agreed objectives and priorities.
- c) The Member who proposes the item, will be invited to take part in the Task and Finish Group/Spotlight Review to consider the matter.
- d) If it is decided not to proceed with the proposer's idea for review, full reasons will be given.

If a Member(s) wishes to put forward a request to Scrutiny to consider a specific topic or area of work, they must complete the following proforma.

Once completed, it should be emailed to the Democratic Services Manager. Once the views of the Strategic Management Board have been sought, the request will be presented, together with any other supporting information provided, to the Scrutiny Programme Board for consideration and the proposer(s) will be advised of the outcome.

SCRUTINY Consideration of an Item at Scrutiny Committee

Please complete this form to provide information about your proposal for consideration by the Scrutiny Programme Board or request for a review to be undertaken on a topic or issue of concern. You may attach any other supporting information you feel might help the Board in considering your proposal. The Strategic Management Board will be advised of any proposal, to help advise on the timetable and any resource implications.

Please complete the following form which will be presented to the Scrutiny Programme Board (SPB)

Issue to be Considered	PROTOCOL FOR UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS (CARAVANS & VEHICLES) LAND OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY THE COUNCIL
Proposer (s)	Cllr Liz Pole
Scrutiny Committee (to be determined by the SPB)	Customer Service
Lead Portfolio Holder	Cllr Laura Wright
Identification of Lead Officer	Dave Hodgson

Areas for consideration:

1. What is the specific topic area you want considered/reviewed?

Updating of the protocol for unauthorised encampments (caravans and vehicles) – land owned or controlled by the council. This was last updated in 2017, and was authored by an officer who no longer works for the council. The portfolio-holder-initiated updating is to take account of the 2022 Police Crime and Sentencing legislation.

Potential introduction of injunctive relief focussed on small areas where encampments are especially harmful and inappropriate or where it may be

especially harmful: e.g. Arena Park and Eastern Fields. https://caselaw.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ewhc/kb/2025/738

Further clarity on police powers and operational constraints regarding enforcement, including where there is criminal damage but quality evidence linking this to an individual associated with the encampment is not forthcoming. Coherence between advice to residents and contact handling.

Assessment of the availability of culturally appropriate designated short term transitory sites offered by the statutory providers such as Devon County Council.

Extent to which the protocol would apply differently to Gypsy and Traveller groups (in line with the Equality Act 2010: Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, Scottish Travellers and Roma and the Public Sector Equality Duty) in exercising its functions and decisions, from its application to unauthorised encampment by groups without protected characteristics.

2. What are the main issues you feel need to be addressed?

There is a lack of clarity about the functioning of the protocol, and the legal and operational constraints on bailiff and police response, and this is undermining public confidence.

Balanced outcomes for operational amenity of local residents and Gypsy and Traveller communities: Introduction of injunctive relief in certain parts of the city would not try to prevent the Gypsy and Traveller community encampments in the district altogether or generally. Rather it could be focussed only on a small area where encampments are especially harmful and inappropriate.

Greater clarity and transparency about site provision and its adequacy.

3. Please identify which of the Council's key priorities your topic relates to? (If any)

People (promote health and wellbeing, encourage community participation, and ensure residents feel safe and included.)

Sustainable environment: enhancing the environment net-zero carbon city (resource inefficiency of replacing criminally damaged barriers)

Well-Run Council: value-for-money services, and a customer-focused approach.

Partnerships and Collaboration: work with various stakeholders to achieve its goals.

Addressing Inequalities: The council aims to tackle social disadvantage and deprivation, ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to thrive.

Culture and Heritage: provide excellent leisure facilities.

4. What outcome, including timeframe are you aiming to achieve with this consideration/review?

Clearer and more effective partnership working, transparency and resident confidence, clearer understanding of costs and benefits, modernisation of legal recourse and equalities considerations. Development of a new protocol ASAP and at minimum prior to anticipated post-winter unauthorised encampments in 2026.

5. Do you consider this review urgent and if so why?

Yes, as there residents report considerable dissatisfaction with their current experience of outcomes, particularly in the Beacon Heath and East Heavitree areas which are disproportionately affected by vehicular trespass.

6. Financial considerations

Cost-effectiveness of prevention vs response: anti-trespass measures, clean-up costs and repairs. Quantification of opportunity cost of lost resident leisure and lost confidence in authority and good governance.

7. Expert witnesses to invite

Police

Devon County Council gypsy and traveller liaison officer The Traveller Movement

8. Which format of Scrutiny are you proposing?

Α

- A Officers written report to be submitted to the Committee.
- B- A Spotlight Review where a group of members hold a meeting and gather evidence and make a submission to a Scrutiny Committee .
- C A Task and Finish Group where a group of members hold a series of meetings gathering evidence and make a submission to a Scrutiny Committee.

Date of Request	26 June 2025

Please note that the Programme Board will consider the following matters (if relevant) when determining the request. *Please tick any that are appropriate.*-

Potential Criteria for Selecting Topic (NB This is not an exhaustive list)	Please tick

The issue has potential impact on one or more sections of the local population	V
The issue is strategic and/or significant	V
Scrutiny of this matter will add value to the Council's and/or its partners' overall performance	V
The review will lead to effective outcomes	√
This will improve service outputs	V
The issue is of concern to partners and stakeholders	√
The issue is a key issue for the public (as identified through contact with constituents or meetings of local organisations)	1
This will be of benefit to the community	V
Poor performing service (evidenced from performance indicators)	
Service/issue ranked as important by the Council's community (via market surveys/annual residents' survey/consultation with tenants, local business community)	?
High level of user/general public dissatisfaction with service (via market surveys/complaints)	V
Public interest issue (e.g. covered by local media)	√
High level of budgetary commitment to the service or policy area	V
Pattern of budgetary overspends	?
Council key priority area	V
Central Government priority area	
Issue poses significant or potential risk to the Council (can be financial, reputational or other risk)	
Issue raised by external auditor	
Issue raised by Council or one of its Committees	

Issue arises from new legislation or Government guidance	$\sqrt{}$
Key reports or new evidence (provided by external organisations on key issue)	

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The following will be used if the Proposal/Topic is rejected	Please tick
The timing of this review is inappropriate	
The review will duplicate other work within the Council or elsewhere	
The issue is already under examination by Council	
The issue is already under examination by an Officer Group and changes are imminent	
Issue being examined as part of a service review	
New legislation/guidance expected within a year	
There is an alternative, more effective, route the Member can take to address the issue	
The issue is outside the scope of the Scrutiny Committee	
The issue would not bring about any sustainable and ongoing revenue savings	
The issue does not meet any of the Council's corporate priorities	

Comments from SMB	SMB has already agreed to review the way we address unauthorised encampments and will provide the outcome of this review to members, at that time.
	This review will take into consideration the points made regarding changes in legislation.

Overall	Review Supported	Review not supported
recommendation of		
Scrutiny Programme		
Board Please tick		
relevant box)		

Confirm approval of review by	Yes/No (Delete as appropriate)
Committee	
	Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee
	or
	Strategic Scrutiny Committee
Date	



Proforma Guidance Notes

These guidance notes also include the proforma to be used to submit your proposed items for review by Scrutiny.

A check list will be used to assist the Scrutiny Programme Board to ensure a consistent approach is taken in determining whether or not to proceed with a suggested proposal or item of business, review of suggested topic or area of work. Their deliberations will also include taking account of the current and future work priorities and the Board will also liaise with the Strategic Management Board.

Important considerations

When Members are considering whether to put forward a proposal for review, it is important that they are aware of the following:

- a) The existing, agreed work priorities for Scrutiny. Members must take into account the capacity of Members and Officers to support the proposed work needed to do the review well;
- b) The Scrutiny Programme Board will wish to consider and prioritise those proposals which have the best chance of securing real improvement or local benefit or can make a positive change in line with the Council's agreed objectives and priorities.
- c) The Member who proposes the item, will be invited to take part in the Task and Finish Group/Spotlight Review to consider the matter.
- d) If it is decided not to proceed with the proposer's idea for review, full reasons will be given.

If a Member(s) wishes to put forward a request to Scrutiny to consider a specific topic or area of work, they must complete the following proforma.

Once completed, it should be emailed to the Democratic Services Manager. Once the views of the Strategic Management Board have been sought, the request will be presented, together with any other supporting information provided, to the Scrutiny Programme Board for consideration and the proposer(s) will be advised of the outcome.

SCRUTINY Consideration of an Item at Scrutiny Committee

Please complete this form to provide information about your proposal for consideration by the Scrutiny Programme Board or request for a review to be undertaken on a topic or issue of concern. You may attach any other supporting information you feel might help the Board in considering your proposal. The Strategic Management Board will be advised of any proposal, to help advise on the timetable and any resource implications.

Please complete the following form which will be presented to the Scrutiny Programme Board (SPB)

Issue to be Considered	Bike parking provision (of all kinds) as a strategic issue for the city
Proposer (s)	Clir Lynn Wetenhall
Scrutiny Committee (to be determined by the SPB)	Strategic Scrutiny
Lead Portfolio Holder	Matt Vizard Climate, Ecological Change and Communities; (includes transport as a topic)
Identification of Lead Officer	There is no officer in the City Council who has responsibility for this but Ben Colman may lead on any work related only to Commercial Assets.

Areas for consideration:

1. What is the specific topic area you want considered/reviewed?

To consider how the City Council can promote a step change in the provision of bicycle parking of all type, including -

- 1. at places of employment,
- 2. in residential areas
- 3. At sites which attract high levels of movement e.g. tourist & leisure facilities, transport interchanges, bus and train stations.]
- 4. For council tenants on HRA property
- 2. What are the main issues you feel need to be addressed?
 - 1. Clarity about the case for more robust action on bike parking and why a lack of suitable bike parking provision is a significant barrier to bike usage.

- There is firm evidence that a lack of bike parking provision is a serious barrier to regular cycling for those whose homes do not provide any facilities to store or park bikes.
- As bikes become more expensive and bike theft more sophisticated and endemic, there is also evidence that people won't park their bikes in high bike theft areas, notably much of the city centre. Secure bike parking is something that has to be given consideration if people are to feel confident in leaving their bikes in high bike crime areas. Note that this includes normal residential streets now ie bikes or parts of bikes are taken from bikes parked outside houses.
- 2. Need for more transparent, strategic, effective and joined up approach to provision
- Therefore, given these barriers to people using bikes as a regular transport mode, getting a step change in the provision of bike parking should be a core goal for the Council. At worst, a more joined up and strategic approach should yield some quick wins based on a more efficient and effective approach which is currently lacking.
- Whilst there have been positive expressions of support and interest around improving bike parking in various city council fora, policy commitments and activities are not defined, coherent or transparent to councillors, officers, residents or local businesses. It is not evident how these policies and actions are joined up across the different parts of the Council which have a direct stake in this issue, e.g. Net Zero, HRA, planning, council car parks, active travel etc.
- Nor is there consistent, transparent, high level coordination between ECC and DCC on bike parking, despite both authorities having a role in this issue, at both a strategic and an operational level and across shared policy documents such as the Exeter Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- The rate of activity on bike parking issues is extremely slow, presumably as a result of the above points.
- 3. Having an informed position, supported by data, on the equalities issues linked to provision of bike parking. Provision of better bike parking is likely to disproportionately help lower income groups and young people. Having better data on this would support this and other active travel actions and also help clarify the need for different bike types for different users and abilities.
- 4. Showing a response to the substantial communications received from residents, tenants and businesses about the lack of cycle parking. As a Council, we should respond to local residents, tenants and business on the need for secure and suitable bike parking and working with community on need and demand

- 5. Investment plan to support the creation of a coordinated investment plan across the city, that includes input and potentially funding from communities, NGO,s, local business, council and other authorities. This would then form a strong basis for funding bids, (including collaborative ones), community infrastructure plan and S106 bids etc.
- 3. Please identify which of the Council's key priorities your topic relates to? (If any)

Seeking a more effective and efficient approach to improving bike parking will support the following Council priorities:

Exeter Vision 2040

- Innovative and analytical city. An innovative and analytical culture will support
 communities, businesses, civil society and public bodies to work together to solve the city's
 challenges and achieve its ambitions. The city institutions work collaboratively with a
 coherence in pursuit of the city's vision. Securing a step change in bike parking
 absolutely requires innovative and collaborative approaches.
- Liveable and connected. A city where everyone has access to the places and services
 which enable them to meet their needs and lead fulfilling lives. For many people on
 lower incomes and/or without access to a car even if their household has
 one, using a bike can be a vital and affordable way to access education,
 employment and services.
- The most active city in the UK. Projects to be developed to support active travel for employees. Direct fit with promoting bike parking at workplaces and at home.
- A leading sustainable city. Exeter will be a carbon neutral city by 2030 and recognised as
 a leading sustainable city and a global leader in addressing the social, economic and
 environmental challenges of climate change and urbanisation. The Exeter of the future will
 have grasped the opportunities ahead of us today. A significant uptake on cycling
 would help deliver on this outcome.

Corporate Plan 2025-28

- People: Working in partnership with Live & Move in developing sustainable travel options and sustainable travel options
 A direct fit with this outcome as better bike parking is a key aspect of supporting active and sustainable travel options
- Sustainable environment. A carbon-neutral city. A city taking action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. A direct fit as getting people out of cars and onto bikes reduces both carbon emissions and other air pollutants.
- Health inequalities will reduce. Cycle parking for people who currently have nowhere safe or nowhere to store a bike but want to cycle, would directly deliver on health inequalities

There are also potential links to work on increasing income from the city's car parking spaces, particularly in the city centre eg 'bike hubs'

4. What outcome, including time frame, are you aiming to achieve with this consideration/review?

Timeframe: Soon, as there are opportunities to be grasped relatively easily and quickly through a clearer strategic approach to bike parking provision and better joined up working. Changes that can be made ahead of Local Government Reorganisation will also help set a direction and track record of success on bike parking, for whatever new Unitary covers Exeter.

Outcomes.

- Exeter City Council implements actions more effectively around better bike parking, in line with existing policies.
- There is a commitment made to a sustained and supported process of collaboration between Exeter and Devon Councils on bike parking, with each authority having a good understanding of respective roles and where collaboration can add real value.
- Some delivered projects, albeit small or simple, build the groundwork for more ambitious change eg a city-wide partnership supporting secure bike parking via a third party provider.
- Understanding of issues to include in an investment plan and where the opportunities for investment lie
- Understanding of barriers and needs of communities to enable a strategic approach and practical delivery when funding opps become available.
- Employers of all kinds, from large organisations to local shops, have a better understanding of opportunities and funding for bike parking from all sources and there is greater uptake of those opportunities

5. Do you consider this review urgent and if so why?

This is an ideal time to undertake a review of the Council's policy and strategy on bike parking because:

- Action on bike parking is ideal to undertake whilst Exeter is an active partner with Sport England/ Live and Move
- There are synergies with the emerging local plan, reviewing how new policies might be implemented.
- There is a new administration at Devon County Council with a stronger interest in sustainable transport than the previous administration.
- There is abundant evidence that a chronic shortage of suitable bike parking of all types is a barrier to people using bikes at all or using them in more limited ways.

- There is a strong chance that a strategic review would come up with some suggestions that could yield better results, even within existing budgets. A clearer strategic position would help in finding new funding from external grants.
- There is goodwill and interest in the issue from large employers, University DCC and ECC and an existing joint working group looking at joint funding bids. This can be built on to look at the possibility of a partnership-based approach to having secure bike hubs in the city, run by a third party provider as elsewhere in the uk.

6. Financial considerations

As already noted, there is a lot of rather fragmented work already going on, with relatively poor understanding on all sides of what others are doing / planning to do. Standing back at taking a good look at this work is likely to uncover actions that would deliver more even within existing budgets and staff time.

DCC and ECC already have budgets relating to active travel / cycling and ECC has a strong planning role. Again, a clearer view of what is going on and what is desired would ensure better outcomes from existing budgets and activities.

A clearer policy position on bike parking would help inform an investment plan to enable funding bids, including S106 and CIL, but also relating to joint plans like the Exeter LCWIP.

7. Expert witnesses to invite

- Exeter Cycling Campaign
- Devon County Cllrs and officers with relevant interest
- Exeter College, RD&E, University; (already in a partnership grouping with ECC on bike-related issues).
- Employers organisations with regard to bike parking issues for staff
- Disability organisations with an interest in cycling including Inclusive Exeter

8. Which format of Scrutiny are you proposing?

- C A task a finish group. The amount of material to be gathered and the range of stakeholders requires more than one meeting. As part of the proposed focus of this review is looking for opportunities for greater synergy, proper dialogue with other bodies is essential.
- A Officers written report to be submitted to the Committee.
- B- A Spotlight Review where a group of members hold a meeting and gather evidence and make a submission to a Scrutiny Committee .
- C A Task and Finish Group where a group of members hold a series of meetings gathering evidence and make a submission to a Scrutiny Committee.

Date of Request	July 2025

Please note that the Programme Board will consider the following matters (if relevant) when determining the request. *Please tick any that are appropriate.*-

Potential Criteria for Selecting Topic (NB This is not an exhaustive list)	Please tick
The issue has potential impact on one or more sections of the local population	√
The issue is strategic and/or significant	✓
Scrutiny of this matter will add value to the Council's and/or its partners' overall performance	√
The review will lead to effective outcomes	✓
This will improve service outputs	✓
The issue is of concern to partners and stakeholders	✓
The issue is a key issue for the public (as identified through contact with constituents or meetings of local organisations)	✓
This will be of benefit to the community	✓
Poor performing service (evidenced from performance indicators)	
Service/issue ranked as important by the Council's community (via market surveys/annual residents' survey/consultation with tenants, local business community)	
High level of user/general public dissatisfaction with service (via market surveys/complaints)	
Public interest issue (e.g. covered by local media)	
High level of budgetary commitment to the service or policy area	
Pattern of budgetary overspends	
Council key priority area	✓
Central Government priority area	
Issue poses significant or potential risk to the Council (can be financial, reputational or other risk)	
Issue raised by external auditor	
Issue raised by Council or one of its Committees	

Issue arises from new legislation or Government guidance	
Key reports or new evidence (provided by external organisations	
on key issue)	

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There is an alternative, more effective, route the Member can take to address the issue	
The issue is outside the scope of the Scrutiny Committee	
The issue would not bring about any sustainable and on-going revenue savings	
The issue does not meet any of the Council's corporate priorities	

Comments from SMB

SMB noted that it would be useful to understand where the data comes from to determine whether this is an issue.

They also noted that the City Council's role in facilitating this would be in the provision of commercial land. It is Devon County Council's responsibility to provide the infrastructure and support any scheme.

There is an existing <u>Exeter Local Cycling and Walking</u> <u>Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)</u> that members will want to be mindful of.

Overall recommendation of	Review Supported	Review not supported
Scrutiny Programme Board		
Please tick relevant box)		

Confirm approval of review by Committee	Yes/No (Delete as appropriate)
	Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee or Strategic Scrutiny Committee
Date	

