

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 23 September 2025

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 14 October 2025

Report of: The Scrutiny Programme Board

Title: Annual Scrutiny Report 2024-25

Is this a Key Decision?

Scrutiny is a non decision-making committee.

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To provide an annual update in respect of the Scrutiny work achieved during the municipal year 2024-25.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 That the Executive note and recommend to Council to approve the Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 The Annual Scrutiny Report provides the Scrutiny Committees with an opportunity to:

- a. monitor the progress of the scrutiny function at Exeter City Council;
- b. comment upon the progress and direction of scrutiny over the past year and into the future;
- c. ensure that the Scrutiny Committees are kept fully up to date as to any Task and Finish Group work and what they have achieved;
- d. illustrate how effective scrutiny can contribute towards an accountable, transparent and democratic process.

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

4.1 Resources are limited to capacity within the Democratic Services Team. There is no dedicated Scrutiny Officer.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 There are no financial implications contained in this report.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The statutory provisions concerning local government scrutiny committees is set out in Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (sections 9F to 9FI). Although there is no legal obligation to publish an annual scrutiny report, it is regarded as good practice.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 Members will note the attached report. The Monitoring Officer has no additional comments.

8. Report details:

8.1 This update provides Members with an overview of the work and achievements of scrutiny during 2024-25 and is set out in detail at Appendix A attached to this report.

8.2 The report brings annual reporting into line with the municipal year.

8.3 The report has been considered by the Strategic Scrutiny Committee on 5 June 2025 and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee on 3 July 2025. Minute extracts from both meetings are attached as Appendix C.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 Good governance contributes to the Council's purpose of "Leading a well-run Council".

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

None identified

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 No potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because the report is for noting only.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 There are no direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

13. Are there any other options?

None identified.

Strategic Director for Corporate Resources and Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Board, Cllr Matthew Williams

Report Author: Scrutiny Programme Board

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

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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