

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD

Thursday 8 January 2026

Present:

Councillor Williams, M (Chair)
Councillors Rees, Pole, Mitchell, K and Cookson

Also Present:

Democratic Services Manager

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SCRUTINY NOTE

The Scrutiny Note of the previous meeting held on 11 November 2025 was agreed as a true and accurate record.

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SCRUTINY PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The Board considered the Commercial Strategy proforma from Councillor Moore and reviewed the SMB comments given verbally by the Democratic Services Manager as follows:

SMB agree with scrutiny of a revised Commercial Strategy. The revision will commence early in 2026 therefore June would be a useful time to have a detailed draft for scrutiny to feed into.

Item allocated to Customer Focus Scrutiny as the committee had already agreed to take this item.

The Board also considered the Empty Homes proforma from Councillor Moore and reviewed the SMB comments given verbally by the Democratic Services Manager as follows:

Spring 2026 would see a review of the Strategy. Investigation would be required into what council tax data it was possible to share in line with GDPR.

It was decided that September 2026 was likely the earliest that this could be considered by the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee to whom it would now be allocated.

Another proforma had been received from Councillor Wetenhall on 23 December 2025 and SMB comments were awaited.

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REVIEW WORK PLANS

The Board requested that future committee dates to the work plans for each committee and begin to populate with standing items. It was agreed that this Board would timetable Portfolio Holder reports to support Chairs of the next municipal year.

Councillor Pole informed the Board that the Shared Prosperity Fund had been extended by six months therefore proposed to request that the item be moved on the work plan.

Democratic Services Manager agreed to speak to the Strategic Director for Place and Portfolio Holder for City Development with regard to timetabling her Portfolio Holder update report in order to fit with the Local Plan.

Stagecoach item to be scoped. Original proforma had a focus on the P service but the following were thought to be brought topics to request of Stagecoach:

- Current performance
- Failure to deliver
- Vision net zero
- Safety issues such as that of women at night
- What's required to maintain a good service
- Driver training with regard to safety of women at night and wheelchair users

It was suggested that written contributions be sought and the Chair would create a list of those to request these from and inform the Democratic Services Manager. The asks would likely be:

- Issues faced with bus service in the city
- Potential solutions

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SCRUTINY PRIORITIES 2026/27

The Chair sought views on priorities and suggested a greater focus on:

- Alignment with the Corporate Plan
- Focus on the impact of scrutiny

It was discussed that a reminder could be sent to all councillors that proposals are welcomed and that Portfolio Holder reports give breadth to scrutiny.

Air Quality to be added back onto the work plan for Strategic Scrutiny, June 2026, with timing to be checked with the Strategic Director to align with their work programme.

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SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

It was discussed that it would be good to involve committee members, portfolio holders and officers in identifying impact as they may have additional information about local impact.

Chairs to email committee members and portfolio holders with regard to impact and the Democratic Services Officer to contact officers.

Recommendations made to be included in the Annual Report.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.05 pm)

Chair