

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD

Monday 31 March 2025

Present:-

Councillor
Councillors Mitchell, M, Parkhouse, Rees and Pole

Also Present
Democratic Services Manager

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APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Williams, M.

Councillor Parkhouse was nominated as Chair.

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SCRUTINY NOTE 20 JANUARY 2025

The Scrutiny Note of the previous meeting held on 20 January 2025 was agreed as a true and accurate record.

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SCRUTINY PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS

The item regarding Stagecoach was discussed and agreement reached to allocate to the Strategic Scrutiny Committee.

Local Government Reorganisation Standing Order 18 submission had been received and it was agreed that this should be put to the Strategic Scrutiny Committee. If approved by the committee then look to timetable and scope at June meeting. Councillor Mitchell stated that the purpose would be to strengthen the Council's submission by scrutinising ahead of the deadline and to take advise from the Leader and Chief Executive as to the best timing for scrutiny.

ASB in the city centre item for Customer Focus had been scoped in committee and a final decision regarding which organisations to invite was made as follows:

- Police
- InExeter
- University (community liaison worker)
- Safety Partnership (Chair to bring a shared view)
- Drug & Alcohol Service

Each organisation should provide a short, written statement on what they believe from their evidence are causes and possible solutions of ASB in city centre (to include a definition of the context of ASB from their organisational perspective).

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OFFICER REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

There were no officer requests for scrutiny received.

SCRUTINY PRIORITIES 2025/26

Discussion around the role of the Portfolio Holder Report and linking this with other reports on each agenda.

Recurring items were discussed:

- Homelessness - suggestion to have one more six-monthly review and then review frequency or necessity.
- Bulletin – there was a suggestion that this could appear in the agenda for each committee and questions could be raised.

Discussion about consultation results and the possibility of adding these to scrutiny agenda, however, no decision was made.

COMBINED SCRUTINY

Discussion over current position of Combined scrutiny and views on way forward for scrutiny to feed into the governance review were recorded as follows:

- could routes into scrutiny from PFHs be clarified (constitution states that Executive can refer matters but not PFHs – there have been situations where PFHs have identified issues which could benefit from scrutiny).
- 25 would be too large for a single committee – 14 works well but 18 was also suggested.
- Possibility of a Chair & two deputies if a single committee structure is adopted, to support any sub-committees.
- Monthly scrutiny meeting with PFH and any items relevant to both current committees would be supported.
- There was more than one view regarding the sub-committees – whether they are ad hoc to cover a subject or regular for certain subject areas.
- Transport working group relationship to scrutiny to be clarified and constituted.
- SO20 – PFH questions in advance, written answer in minutes but not necessarily even read out (parliamentary style) and no supplementary (PFHs therefore only have to attend when it is their turn to present their update report).

SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT - WORKSHOP

There was a discussion regarding officer reports drawing attention to areas which maybe of interest or where scrutiny could have most impact rather than following similar style to reports to other committees.

Workshop held providing information to form Annual Report.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.37 pm)

Chair