

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD

Tuesday 11 November 2025

Present:

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

Apologies:

Councillor K Mitchell

Also Present:

Democratic Services Manager (LS)

69

SCRUTINY NOTE

The Scrutiny Note of the previous meeting held on 31 March 2025 was agreed as a true and accurate record.

70

SCRUTINY PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS

The item regarding Unauthorised Encampments was discussed and agreement reached to allocate to the Strategic Scrutiny Committee. During discussion it was noted that the relevant policy had been written prior to 2021 legislation. The Democratic Services Manager agreed to ask SMB to review the timescale for this item.

The item regarding Bike Hubs was discussed and agreement reached to allocate to the Strategic Scrutiny Committee. During discussion it was noted that the LCWIP detailed cycle routes but not bike parking, that there was to be a pilot project trialling on-street bike hangers which would be undertaken by Devon County Council and that the Transport Working Group had considered this topic.

71

TIMETABLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATES

Discussion took place regarding the Leader's Portfolio Holder Update to each committee. During discussion it was agreed to suggest January 2026 on the understanding that given LGR this may not be possible.

The Democratic Services Manager agreed to check which committee the Portfolio Holder for City Development should report to.

72

REVIEW WORK PLANS

Work plans for each committee were reviewed and discussion took place regarding potential timetabling for new proposals received.

At 11am the Board observed two minutes silence as a sign of remembrance.

SCRUTINY PRIORITIES 2025/26

The Chair introduced the item making the following points:

- a number of items had been inherited by each committee and proformas had added to their workplans;
- it was good to hear updates from Portfolio Holders;
- Budget scrutiny had been a useful addition as well as South West Water, and Stagecoach.

Councillor Pole, as Chair of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee noted that a member of the Public Health team would attend committee to answer questions on the item on Air Quality which was extremely positive.

It was noted by the Board that each committee had a full work plan and special meetings may need to be added in order to accommodate all priorities.

SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair introduced the item stating that it would be good to demonstrate impact in the annual report.

The Board agreed to consider drafting the Annual Scrutiny Report at a meeting early in March 2026 to allow time for amendments which hadn't been possible previously and that this would take a similar workshop form to that undertaken in the current year.

(The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 11.30 am)

Chair