

REPORT TO: SCRUTINY COMMUNITY, SCRUTINY ECONOMY AND SCRUTINY
RESOURCES COMMITTEES
Date of Meetings: 16th June, 18th June and 1st July 2015
Report of: The Scrutiny Programme Officer,
Democratic Services and Civic Support
Title: Annual Scrutiny Review Report

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

To provide an annual update to the respective Scrutiny Committees as to the Scrutiny work achieved during the municipal year 2014/2015.

2. Recommendations:

- i) The Annual Scrutiny Report is noted and approved.

3. Reasons for the recommendations:

- a) To provide an opportunity for Members to monitor the progress of the Scrutiny function and process at Exeter City Council.
- b) To provide Members with the opportunity to comment as to the progress and direction of Scrutiny over the past year, together with the proposals for the forthcoming year.
- c) To ensure that the Scrutiny Committees are kept fully up to date as to the issues investigated through specific Task and Finish Groups.
- d) To illustrate how effectively Scrutiny continues to work at Exeter City Council contributing towards an accountable, transparent and democratic process.
- e) To acknowledge the results achieved through Scrutiny during the municipal year 2014/2015.
- f) To promote confidence in the democratic process.
- g) To raise the profile of Scrutiny at Exeter City Council.

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

None.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

This report raises no issues for the Section 151 officer to consider.

6. What are the legal aspects?

None.

7. Monitoring officer Comments

This report raises no issues for the Monitoring officer to consider.

8. Report Details:

Members continue with the opportunity to become directly involved in Scrutiny at Exeter City Council which, in turn, can have an effect upon the development of Council policy through review and exploration of topics identified by Members for specific Task and Finish Group investigation. Effective Scrutiny allows Members to ensure that the work of the Council is subject to democratic checks and that the provision and delivery of services is continually improved wherever possible. A continued outward looking and pro-active approach are essential components to successful scrutiny.

The detail of this report can be divided into six main areas:-

- (a) The Scrutiny Work Programme
- (b) Task and Finish Group investigations
- (c) The Scrutiny process
- (d) Training and profile
- (e) Future improvements
- (f) Timetable for the forthcoming municipal year

The substance of this report appears in the accompanying Appendix and concentrates on these areas to provide Members with an overview of the work, achievements and proposed direction of Scrutiny for the forthcoming year.

For Members' immediate ease of reference, priority topics identified for Task and Finish Group investigation (through the Annual Scrutiny Work Programme Meeting) were:-

- The Future of Exeter Quay
- Review of Income Generating Measures
- Community Patrol/Out of Hours Operatives/Anti Social Behaviour
- Health Issues – Review of the Public Health Plan
- Social Media
- Council's Role in the Community and Tackling Isolation
- Procurement
- Growth and Marketing Exeter
- Scrutiny Spotlight Review of the Parking Review
- Continuation of the work of the Cost of Living Forum

9. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, Economy safety and the environment?

Not applicable.

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

Background papers used in compiling this report: None

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