

Scrutiny Bulletin: 17th April 2023

Title of Update: Summary Notes from Scrutiny Programme Board meeting held on 23 January 2023

Relevant Members and Officers:

Councillor Packham (Chair) Councillors Hannaford, Vizard, Leadbetter, M Mitchell, and Director Corporate Services, Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support, Democratic Services Team Leader and Officers (SLS and HB).

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1. What is the update about?

To advise of the outcome of the meeting of the Scrutiny Programme Board meeting held on 23 January to discuss the forthcoming Scrutiny business for the City Council.

2. Background

The Scrutiny Programme Board is made up of the two Chairs and Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Committees. The Chair is not a Member of Scrutiny. The Board meet regularly to timetable business for future Scrutiny Committee meetings. These items of business can come from a variety of sources, including being referred from the Council or Executive and also Members can suggest a review of a suggested topic or area of work.

3. Current position

Member Proforma received

Councillor Harvey had submitted a proforma seeking a review of the operation and funding of allotments. The Strategic Management Board had commented that, whilst a review would be appropriate, it should be programmed after the One Exeter Review of Allotments.

Councillor Harvey, who was already in touch with allotment holders, would also be invited to input into the One Exeter Review.

The Director Corporate Services had confirmed that the review would follow on from the One Exeter Review and that they should not occur in tandem and Members suggested that a Spotlight Review, rather than a Task and Finish Group, could be the appropriate mechanism for the review.

The review fell within the terms of reference of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee.

Proposed items for forthcoming scrutiny meetings

Strategic Scrutiny Committee - 16 March 2023

The potential items were:-

- Portfolio Holder's Report (Councillor Parkhouse);
- St Sidwell's Point;
- Working Towards Net Zero Update;

- Progress Report Shared Prosperity Fund;
- Commercialisation Update;
- Live and Move Strategy; and
- Exeter Local Plan Community Engagement.

In addition to the Portfolio Holder's report, Members felt that priority should be given to the reports on:-

- St Sidwell's Point;
- Live and Move Strategy; and
- Exeter Local Plan : Outline Draft Consultation Report.

Councillor Hannaford felt that the Commercialisation update could be deferred to a future meeting and Councillor Packham suggested that, if possible, brief updates could be provided on the remaining items in the list.

Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee - 30 March 2023

- Portfolio Holder's report (Councillor Denning); and
- To review the findings of the Car Parks Strategy (Note: to be considered by Strategic Scrutiny).

Councillor M. Mitchell referred to previous discussions regarding invitations to outside bodies to address Scrutiny Committees such as Sport England and the Community Safety Partnership. The latter fell within the terms of reference of this Committee. Councillor Hannaford suggested that Councillor Wright, as the City Council representative on the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel, could be appropriate to speak on community safety and policing issues.

Draft Work Plan

The Work Plan was included as the last item on the published Scrutiny Committee agenda and so publically available.

The Work Plan was updated.

4. Future position

Further meetings of the Scrutiny Programme Board will be held. The agendas for the forthcoming meetings were discussed.

- **Strategic Scrutiny Committee - 8 June 2023**
 - Portfolio Holder's Report;
 - Presentation on the Role of Scrutiny; and
 - Annual Scrutiny Report.
- **Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee - 29 June 2023**
 - Portfolio Holder's Report;
 - Presentation on the Role of Scrutiny; and
 - Annual Scrutiny Report.

With regard to the reports to both Committees on the role of scrutiny, it was suggested that a relevant colleague from Devon County Council's scrutiny team might be approached to address City Council Members on scrutiny. Councillor Hannaford referred to the County Council document as a good example of an annual report on scrutiny.

It was noted that the Director Corporate Services and the Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support consider the appropriate mechanism for a presentation on scrutiny to the first Scrutiny meetings in the Municipal Year. It was suggested that an early meeting of this Board should be arranged after the Annual Meeting in May to agree the agenda for each meeting.

Ongoing Work for Scrutiny

A Plant Based Food Task and Finish Group would be arranged for a policy to be in place by the Annual Meeting of Council in May.

Councillor M. Mitchell stated that it would be helpful to highlight on the agenda for Scrutiny Committees to link to the Forward Plan of future business in order to encourage Members to raise issues at the Scrutiny meetings on forthcoming Executive agenda items.

5. Are there any other options?

The deliberations of the Board meetings as reported to the Scrutiny Bulletin enables the public to be aware of the matters potentially coming to Scrutiny.

6. Conclusion

A further update would be made to the next Scrutiny Bulletin.