

Scrutiny Bulletin: (17th July 2023)

Title of Update: Summary Notes from Scrutiny Programme Board meeting held on 5 June 2023

Relevant Members and Officers:

Councillor Allcock (Chair) Councillors Atkinson, Vizard, M Mitchell and Rees and Director Corporate Services, Democratic Services Manager 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 5 June 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

Action Points from meeting on 5 June 2023

Review of Recent Scrutiny Committee Meetings

Members highlighted the large number of agenda items on Strategic Scrutiny Committee which had resulted in a long meeting. It was acknowledged that it was the role of the Chair to ensure the smooth running of meetings and a suggestion made that the order of items be changed. If there were no questions to Portfolio Holders it was felt that they were not obliged to attend Scrutiny Committees.

It was also the role of this Board to determine timetabling of items to the individual Scrutiny Committees.

Proposed items for Forthcoming Scrutiny Meetings

Bethan Evans, the Governance Training Consultant, had been provisionally booked for 7 September 2023 to provide a bespoke presentation on the role of scrutiny. Bethan would be requested to provide information in advance on her presentation. In the meantime, they felt that a general introduction to scrutiny at the forthcoming scrutiny meetings on the same lines as previous years would also be helpful.

With regard to future meetings of the Exeter Development Fund Task and Finish Group, the Director (IC) had advised that further detail was not yet available on the progress of this issue and future meetings of this Group.

A Climate Change Sub Committee had been raised at a recent All Group Leader's meeting. The Chair of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee would discuss further with the Director Corporate Services the content and timing on this Sub Committee.

Items for the respective Scrutiny meetings on 22 and 29 June were noted.

Members noted the draft work plan to be attached to the agenda for these meetings.

Draft Work Plan

The following matters were agreed:-

- the two Committees to be set out separately in date order on the work plan;
- financial monitoring would continue to be covered at a joint Scrutiny Committee meeting in the New Year prior to the Council Tax setting in February;
- noted that the terms of reference of both Committees covered invitations to outside bodies and agencies;
- Board meetings were now meeting more frequently than twice a year which was helpful in terms of agreeing the agenda for Scrutiny meetings in each cycle; and
- there was value in each meeting focusing on a single topic for scrutiny.

Proforma Document

Change to the proforma put forward by Councillors M. Mitchell and Rees were agreed.

South West Overview and Scrutiny Network – Finance Training

Training would be held on 26 June 2023 - moved to 31 July 2023 at 10 am.

4. 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.

5. Conclusion

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