

Scrutiny Work Programme

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Issue for Main Scrutiny Cttee	Budget	Background/Description	Lead Officer/ Lead Member
October 2017	Council Tax Penalties and Civil Penalties in Housing Benefit	✓		In April 2017 the council agreed to introduce penalties for those who have failed to notify the Council of change of circumstances that has resulted in them continuing to receive a Council Tax exemption, discount, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support award that they are not entitled. Scrutiny Committee agreed at their meeting on 4 th April 2017 for an item to be added to the forward plan for October to monitor the effectiveness of the policy. Figures with regard to the cost of issuing and collecting penalties have been specifically requested.	Ian Potter
Nov TBC	Discretionary Housing Payment policy monitoring	✓		An update report on the implementation and outcomes of the revised Discretionary Housing Payment Policy that came in to effect on 1 April 2017 following a Task and Finish review.	Ian Potter
Feb TBC	Monitoring of the implementation of Charges for Pre-Application Development Control Advice	✓		In April 2017 Scrutiny Committee supported the introduction of charging for Pre- Application Development Advice and requested a monitoring report is brought forward to establish the effectiveness of recouping costs and to consider the re-evaluation of fees.	David Norris
TBC	Troubled Families Programme	✓		Members requested an update report on the progress of the troubled families following a report covering the work of South Somerset Together, Local Strategic Partnership. A specific report request needs to be compiled.	Helen Rutter

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TBC	Review of Economic Development Strategy	✓		This Strategy is due for review and Scrutiny members have previously been involved in the review and development of this Policy. The Lead Officer has agreed that Scrutiny involvement will be factored in to the review process and we will be kept informed regarding the most appropriate point for effective Scrutiny engagement.	David Julian / Cllr Jo Roundell Greene.
TBC	Increased Joint Working Between Police Forces			At the meeting of Scrutiny Committee on 30 August 2016, the SSDC representative on the Police and Crime Panel requested that there be a report looking at the proposals for increased joint working between police forces across the South West.	

The Somerset Waste Board and Somerset Waste Partnership Forward Plan of key decisions can be viewed at:
<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=196&RD=0>

Current Task & Finish Reviews

Date Commenced	Title	Members
February 2017	<p>Council Tax Support 2018/19</p> <p>Monitoring the effectiveness of the current scheme and how best to manage the reductions in the Administration grant as part of efficiency savings and as a consequence of the changes with Universal Credit</p>	<p>Cllrs Jason Baker, Val Keitch, Andy Kendall, David Norris, Sue Osborne, Sue Steele, Alan Smith, Rob Stickland, Derek Yeomans</p>
February 2017	<p>Accessible Homefinder Common Lettings Policy</p> <p>A review of the policy to ensure it is accessible for customers/the general public. Phase 1 completed with comments re style, layout and terminology fed back, phase 2 to commence June 2017 or later.</p>	<p>Cllrs Sue Steele, Carol Goodall</p>
June 2017	<p>Local Discretionary (Business Rate) Relief Scheme</p> <p>Scrutiny Committee members agreed at the meeting on 1st June to set up a Task and Finish review group to work with business rate officers to consider how best to allocate a limited amount of funding from Central Government to help businesses who as a result of the Business Rate (National Non Domestic Rate) Revaluation 2017 have been adversely affected (Rateable value has increased significantly with effect from 01 April 2017). The outcome of the review is to produce a Local Discretionary (Business Rate) Relief Scheme.</p>	<p>Cllrs Sue Steele, Carol Goodall, Gerard Tucker, Dave Bulmer</p>
TBC	<p>Rural Allocations Policy</p> <p>The Disposal of Third Party properties had highlighted issues with the Rural Allocations Policy and some work now needs to be done to review the policy, no start date has been agreed for this as yet.</p>	
<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are committed to ensuring they have capacity to contribute to the Council's Transformation programme and therefore fewer Task and Finish reviews may be conducted during the Transformation period.</p>		