

Scrutiny Committee

This report summarises the work of the Scrutiny Committee since 18 May 2017.

The committee met on 1st June 2017 and considered the following items on the District Executive Agenda:

SSDC Annual Performance Report

Scrutiny members raised concerns that we would not have accurate performance reporting for collection of waste for the South Somerset District. Collection of waste is an SSDC duty and we need to ensure that high standards and satisfaction rates are maintained and we need to be able to address any issues that prevent this promptly.

Members were unaware of the food events referred to under C2.09 of the Annual monitoring report 2016/17 and have requested a brief overview or briefing note is provided.

Members commented on the current Corporate Performance Indicators; PI008 – Requests for action from the Streetscene team that it was not clear that the target is less than 3,100; targets should be reviewed once the previous year's outturn is known or even in year to ensure we are striving for continual improvement.

Members stressed we need some of continuity in data reporting to compare pre and post transformation stats/performance information.

Performance Officers will be working with Scrutiny Committee on 4th July 2017 to begin to review the current suite of performance indicators and consider what adjustments need to be made to ensure effective monitoring for the new Council Plan and throughout Transformation.

District Executive Forward Plan

Members questioned if there should be a report with regard to the Boundary Commission review and why the Quarterly reports on Transformation were absent from the forward plan.

Refurbishment and Development of Yeovil Crematorium (Confidential)

Members made a number of comments in confidential session.

Scrutiny Committee also considered the following items on the Scrutiny agenda:

Draft Report of the Task and Finish Group – Street Trading Policy

Members considered the Task and Finish group report which detailed the work to review the SSDC Street Trading Policy. Scrutiny Committee endorsed the report and recommendations which will now go forward to the Licensing Committee for consideration at their meeting on 13 June, before a report is made to full Council in July.

Task and Finish work

Disposal of Third Party Properties -

In April 2016 Overview and Scrutiny Committee commenced a review into the process surrounding the disposal of third party properties (where consent was being sought from a Housing Association to dispose of a property that was formerly owned by the Council). This piece of work has now concluded. District Executive agreed with the recommendations, the process will now be amended going forward.

Street Trading – The work has been completed, the final report will now proceed to the Licensing Committee for consideration.

Council Tax Support – Revenues Officers have been:

- Reviewing data and information received from both South Gloucester and Bath and North East District Council with regard to operating a discount based scheme.
- Identifying potential savings that could be made in terms of administration costs without altering the scheme.

Once this information has been reviewed with the Portfolio Holder for Finance task and finish members will meet to discuss and agree the ambitions and priorities specifically for this review.

Local Discretionary (Business Rate) Relief Scheme – Scrutiny Committee members agreed its 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 will be to produce a Local Discretionary (Business Rate) Relief Scheme.

Rural Allocations Policy – 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.

Councillor Sue Steele
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee