

Scrutiny Committee

This report summarises the work of the Scrutiny Committee since the last report to Full Council. The Committee met on 2 and 30 October 2018 to consider:

2 October 2018

Reports to be considered by District Executive on 4 October 2018

Members considered the reports within the District Executive agenda for 4 October and made comments as detailed below. Responses to most comments and questions were provided at the Scrutiny Committee by the relevant officer, Director or Portfolio Holder.

Direct Hostel Provision, Move-on Accommodation and Support (Agenda item 6)

- Scrutiny supported the recommendations of the report.
- Members queried what they could do and who to contact if they found someone sleeping outside.
- Members suggested a small business card with the contact details of the SSDC Homeless Service to hand to vulnerable individuals to encourage them to contact the service.
- It was suggested that the financial information in paragraph 45 could be separated into a more readable format or table.

Update on the Development Consent Order Application for the dualling of the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester (Agenda item 7)

- Members expressed concern that the process should not be delayed.
- Members expressed concern that officers were stretched and the Lead Specialist for Strategic Planning acknowledged that additional support was needed.

SSDC Transformation Programme (Agenda item 8)

- Members asked if the Locality Teams would be fully operational in January 2019.
- Members asked for the position of the Streetscene service.
- Members asked if more roles were to be scoped.
- Members asked about morale with respect to internal communications.
- Members asked about support to the Area Committees in the future.
- Members asked if there were any issues with the Civica software following the outturn report from South Hams Scrutiny Committee.

30 October 2018

Reports to be considered by District Executive on 1 November 2018 (Agenda Item 8)

Members considered the reports within the District Executive agenda for 1 November 2018 and made comments as detailed below. Responses to comments were provided at the Scrutiny Committee by the relevant officer or Portfolio Holder.

Corporate Performance Report 2018-2019; 2nd Quarter (Agenda item 6)

- Agenda page 8 'Targets' – members sought clarity as to when the KPIs without targets would have a target set.
- Page 12 – indicator 12 – members queried if a reason was known for the increase in missed waste and recycling collections.

Loan to Queen Camel Community Land Trust for the Purchase of the Old School Site, Queen Camel (Agenda item 7)

(Post meeting note - This item was deferred to a future meeting of the District Executive.)

2018/19 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending 30 September 2018 (Agenda item 8)

- Page 44 – members queried if reasons were known for the income being below forecast for car parking and Building Control income.

2018/19 Capital Budget Monitoring Report for the Quarter Ending 30 September 2018 (Agenda item 9)

- Table 3, Page 52 – Some members expressed concern that if the Lyde Road Pedestrian and Cycleway scheme was not pushed forward there may be of risk of losing some of the grant funding. Members felt an update on progress was required.
- Table 4, page 53 – members noted the funding for the Capital Programme was well documented in the report, but the contingency funding was not as detailed. Members felt the contingency funding needed more referencing.
- Page 62 – Gas Control System at Birchfield – Members asked if a date had been set for the project as the situation had been ongoing for several years, and was potentially becoming increasingly urgent, delay could have a detrimental impact on other projects in the same area. Members requested a brief update for the next meeting of Scrutiny Committee.

Notification of an Urgent Executive Decision: Lease Between SSSDC and SCC – in Relation to the First Floor of Brympton Way Offices, Yeovil (Agenda item 10)

- No comments.

District Executive Forward Plan (Agenda item 11)

- Some members asked if it was possible to include information in the next Transformation update report, regarding the effect of Transformation on our communities.
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Draft Economic Development Strategy

Members had a thorough discussion with the Lead Specialist (Economy) and Managing Director of Chilmark Consulting, to gain an understanding of the process to date to source evidence to inform the draft Economic Development Strategy.

At the time of publishing this agenda for full Council, the draft minutes for Scrutiny Committee were incomplete. The full minutes will be available to view on the website towards the end of November.

Verbal update on Task and Finish reviews

Members noted the updates provided by the Scrutiny Specialist on each of the Task and Finish Groups currently in progress.

Council Tax Support Scheme 2019 – The task and Finish group have agreed their recommendations and the Scrutiny Specialist is in the process of collating all the evidence to draft the report for Scrutiny Committee.

Homefinder Somerset Plain English Policy - No updates since the last meeting. All the Councils have postponed work on this primarily due to Transformation type related activities.

Customer Accessibility – Officers are developing their programmes for all website and portal services and once at a stage for testing the Task and Finish group will be involved.

Rural Allocations Policy – This has now been picked up by the Strategy and Commissioning team, they have looked at the work of the previous Task and Finish group and hope to do some work early in the New Year.

Cllr Sue Steele
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee