

**Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Scrutiny Committee - Corporate and Resources on Thursday, 25 April 2024**

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
<b>Part A – Items considered in public</b>		
<b>A5</b>	Forward Plan - Scrutiny Corporate and Resources and Executive	<p>The committee noted the Forward Plan but requested that the Transformation project be scheduled for each meeting to ensure that the committee are kept up to date on the various elements. It was also suggested that the following areas should also be included in the Forward Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement</li> <li>• Asset Management</li> <li>• ICT projects – both current and future</li> </ul>
<b>A6</b>	Review of Terms of Reference for Local Community Networks	<p>The committee noted the report and made a number of suggestions and amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Local Community Networks. It was also agreed that a Task and Finish Group will be set up, led by councillor Hobhouse and 4 or 5 councillors from this committee.</p>
<b>A7</b>	Review of Scrutiny Committees	<p>The committee the following recommendations:</p> <p><b>(1) The current structure of 5 scrutiny committees to remain in place, with a further scrutiny review to be conducted by the scrutiny chairs in late 2024/early 2025 following any potential service restructure.</b></p> <p><b>(2) The scrutiny manager is tasked with preparing a revised and improved scrutiny report template, which enables clearer and more concise presentation of reports, a standard consistency of reports across all 5 scrutiny committees, a clearer link between committee recommendations onto the Executive/Executive Member(s)</b></p>

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		<p>and ensuring service areas clearly demonstrate where scrutiny is able to add value.</p> <p><b>(3) That all 5 scrutiny committees adopt a consistent approach to dealing with information only items, in order that agendas are kept clear for items with specific recommendations and the opportunity for the committees to add value.</b></p> <p><b>(4) To bolster the links between all 5 scrutiny committees and the Executive by ensuring clear communication between the parties and encourage increased opportunities for committee chairs to update the Executive on areas of focus and present any recommendations/proposals the committee have agreed. Also for the Democratic Services team to establish a central record of all formal scrutiny recommendations and the responses to them.</b></p> <p><b>(5) The scrutiny manager to liaise with the 5 Group Leaders in advance of the AGM Council meeting (My 2024) in order to provide detailed attendance information on each of the Committee’s membership, to ensure committee membership reflects maximum engagement and consistency.</b></p> <p><b>(6) The scrutiny manager to liaise with the 5 Group Leaders to ensure a consistent, timely and wherever possible consistent approach to scrutiny substitutes.</b></p> <p><b>(7) To continue with the monthly meetings of the 5 Scrutiny Chairs, Vice Chairs and scrutiny manager.</b></p>

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		<p><b>(8) To support the continuation of a dedicated scrutiny resource from the Democratic Services team as per para 3.5, to allow for more effective and efficient scrutiny and increase scrutiny opportunities, whilst ensuring resilience within the officer cohort.</b></p> <p>The committee also agreed an additional recommendation for the report to be put forward to the Executive for their views before a final report to Full Council.</p>