



Scrutiny Committee (Informal)

Tuesday 4th January 2022

10.30 am

A virtual meeting via Zoom meeting software

The following members are requested to attend this meeting.

Chairman: Gerard Tucker
Vice-chairmen: Sue Osborne and Crispin Raikes

Robin Bastable
Louise Clarke
Karl Gill
Brian Hamilton

Charlie Hull
Mike Lewis
Paul Maxwell
Robin Pailthorpe

Oliver Patrick
Linda Vijeh
1 Vacancy

Any members of the public wishing to address the virtual meeting at Public Question Time need to email democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk , by 9.00am on Thursday 30 December 2021.

The meeting will be viewable online by selecting the committee meeting at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF_soA

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact
democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Friday 17 December 2021.

Jane Portman, Chief Executive Officer

**This information is also available on our website
www.southsomerset.gov.uk and via the mod.gov app**

Information for the Public

In light of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), Scrutiny Committee will meet virtually via video-conferencing to consider reports. As of 7 May 2021 some interim arrangements are in place for committee meetings.

At the meeting of Full Council on 15 April 2021 it was agreed to make the following changes to the Council's Constitution:

- a) To continue to enable members to hold remote, virtual meetings using available technology;
- b) To amend Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution to allow those remote meetings to function as consultative bodies and delegate decisions, including Executive and Quasi-Judicial decisions, that would have been taken by those meetings if the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 had continued in force to the Chief Executive (or the relevant Director in the Chief Executive's absence) in consultation with those meetings and those members to whom the decision would otherwise have been delegated under Part 3 of the Constitution;
- c) The delegated authority given under (b) will expire on 31 July 2021 unless continued by a future decision of this Council;

For full details and to view the report please see -

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=2981&Ver=4>

Further to the above, at the meeting of Full Council on 8 July 2021, it was agreed to extend the arrangements for a further 6 months to 8 January 2022.

For full details and to view the report please see -

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=3033&Ver=4>

Scrutiny Committee

The Local Government Act 2000 required all councils in England and Wales to introduce new political structures which provide a clear role for the Council, the Executive and non-executive councillors.

One of the key roles for non-executive councillors is to undertake an overview and scrutiny role for the council. In this Council the overview and scrutiny role involves reviewing and developing, scrutinising organisations external to the council and holding the executive to account. Scrutiny also has an important role to play in organisational performance management.

The Scrutiny Committee is made up of 14 non-executive members and meets monthly to consider items where executive decisions need to be reviewed before or after their implementation, and to commission reviews of policy or other public interest.

Members of the public are able to:

- attend meetings of the Scrutiny Committee except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed;
- speak at Scrutiny Committee meetings (limited to up to 3 minutes per person and at the Chairman's discretion usually no more than a total of 15 minutes is allocated for public speaking); and
- see agenda reports.

Meetings of the Scrutiny Committee are usually held monthly at 10.00am on the Tuesday prior to meetings of the District Executive (unless advised otherwise). However during the coronavirus pandemic these meetings will be held remotely via Zoom and the starting time may vary.

Agendas and minutes of committee meetings are published on the Council's website at: <http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

Agendas and minutes can also be viewed via the mod.gov app (free) available for iPads, Windows and Android devices. Search for 'mod.gov' in the app store for your device, install, and select 'South Somerset' from the list of publishers, then select the committees of interest. A wi-fi signal will be required for a very short time to download an agenda but once downloaded, documents will be viewable offline.

Public participation at meetings (held via Zoom)

We recognise that these are challenging times but we still value the public's contribution to our virtual meetings.

If you would like to address the virtual meeting during Public Question Time please email democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk by 9.00am on Thursday 30 December 2021. When you have registered, the Chairman will invite you to speak at the appropriate time during the virtual meeting.

This meeting will be streamed online via YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF_soA

Virtual meeting etiquette:

- Consider joining the meeting early to ensure your technology is working correctly.
- Please note that we will mute all public attendees to minimise background noise. If you have registered to speak during the virtual meeting, the Chairman or Administrator will un-mute your microphone at the appropriate time. We also respectfully request that you turn off video cameras until asked to speak.
- Each individual speaker shall be restricted to a total of three minutes.
- When speaking, keep your points clear and concise.
- Please speak clearly – the Councillors are interested in your comments.

Recording and photography at council meetings

Recording of council meetings is permitted, however anyone wishing to do so should let the Chairperson of the meeting know prior to the start of the meeting. The recording should be overt and clearly visible to anyone at the meeting, but non-disruptive. If someone is recording the meeting, the Chairman will make an announcement at the beginning of the meeting. If anyone making public representation does not wish to be recorded they must let the Chairperson know.

The full 'Policy on Audio/Visual Recording and Photography at Council Meetings' can be viewed online at:

<http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/documents/s3327/Policy%20on%20the%20recording%20of%20council%20meetings.pdf>

Scrutiny Committee (Informal)

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Agenda

Preliminary Items

1. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 November 2021. The draft minutes can be viewed at:

<http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=141&Year=0>

2. Apologies for absence

3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Council's current Code of Conduct (as amended 26 February 2015), which includes all the provisions relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), personal and prejudicial interests, Members are asked to declare any DPI and also any personal interests (and whether or not such personal interests are also "prejudicial") in relation to any matter on the Agenda for this meeting.

4. Public question time

5. Issues arising from previous meetings

This is an opportunity for Members to question the progress on issues arising from previous meetings. However, this does not allow for the re-opening of a debate on any item not forming part of this agenda.

6. Chairman's Announcements

Items for Discussion

7. Verbal update on reports considered by District Executive on 2 December 2021 (Page 5)

8. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 6 January 2022 (Page 6)

9. Verbal update on Task and Finish reviews (Page 7)

10. Update on matters of interest (Page 8)

11. Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 9 - 11)

12. Date of next meeting (Page 12)



**Verbal update on reports considered by District Executive on
2 December 2021**

The Chairman will update members on the issues raised by Scrutiny members at the District Executive meeting held on 2 December 2021.



Reports to be considered by District Executive on 6 January 2022

Lead Officer: Stephanie Gold, Specialist (Scrutiny & Member Development)
Contact Details: stephanie.gold@southsomerset.gov.uk

Scrutiny Committee members will receive a copy of the District Executive agenda containing the reports to be considered at the meeting on 6 January 2022 (Informal Consultative Meeting).

Members are asked to read the reports and bring any concerns/issues from the reports to be discussed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4 January 2022 (Informal Meeting).

The concerns and views of the Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the responsible Portfolio Holder(s) and officer(s) in advance of the District Executive meeting to be held on 6 January 2022, for consideration and response in advance of the decision being taken.

Please note:

The Press and Public will be excluded from the meeting when a report or appendix on the District Executive agenda has been classed as confidential, Scrutiny Committee will consider this in Closed Session by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A under paragraph 3 (or for any other reason as stated in the District Executive agenda):

“Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).”

It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption from the Access to Information Rules outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.



Verbal update on Task and Finish reviews

The Task and Finish Review Chairs or Specialist (Scrutiny & Member Development) will give a brief verbal update on progress made.

Current Task & Finish Reviews

- Council Tax Support Scheme (2022)
- SSDC Environment Strategy Refresh
- Flooding in South Somerset
- Productivity Analysis - on hold



Update on matters of interest

Lead Officer: Stephanie Gold, Specialist (Scrutiny & Member Development)
Contact Details: stephanie.gold@southsomerset.gov.uk

Action Required

That members of the Scrutiny Committee note the verbal updates as presented by the Specialist (Scrutiny & Member Development).

Purpose of Report

This report is submitted for information to update members of the committee on any recent information regarding matters of interest to the Scrutiny Committee, and for the Specialist (Scrutiny & Member Development) to verbally update members on any ongoing matters.

Scrutiny Work Programme

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Background/Description	Lead Officer/ Lead Member
Jan/Feb 2022	Flooding in South Somerset	Regarding the recent flooding in Chard and other areas across the district, Scrutiny committee have expressed concern about how the various public and private sector bodies responsible for flood management are mitigating further damage and devastation caused by the extreme flooding in South Somerset. Waiting for SCC Section 19 flood investigation report.	Specialist Scrutiny and Member Development Cllr Gerard Tucker
Jan/Feb 2022	S106 SWAP audit findings	Following concerning findings from a recent SWAP report, members have asked for an update on S106. There is a project team currently working on improvements to S106 governance, and the Locality Team Manager will come back with an update as soon as he is able.	Locality Team Manager

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

Agendas and minutes for the Heart of the South West (HotSW) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Joint Scrutiny Committee can be viewed at: <https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=456&Year=0>

Agendas and minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Panel of Somerset Waste Board can be viewed at:
<https://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=356&Year=0>

Agendas and minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Panel of Somerset Rivers Authority can be viewed at:
<https://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=351&Year=0>

Agenda Item 11

Current Task & Finish Reviews

Date Commenced	Title and Purpose	Members
<i>ON HOLD</i>	<p>Productivity Analysis</p> <p>Understanding the cost of services, products and process.</p> <p>Quarterly workshops focussed on assisting officers with a review of fees and charges across service delivery areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Pest Control 2) Licencing 	<p>Cllr Robin Bastable, Cllr Brian Hamilton, Cllr Crispin Raikes and Cllr Gerard Tucker. (with the Income & Opportunities Manager)</p>
January 2022	<p>SSDC Environment Strategy Refresh</p> <p>Prioritisation of future projects.</p>	<p>Cllr Gerard Tucker, Cllr Crispin Raikes, Cllr Robin Bastable, Cllr Sue Osborne, Cllr Karl Gill, Cllr Paul Maxwell (with the Environment Community of Practice)</p>
TBC	<p>Flooding in South Somerset</p> <p>Regarding the recent flooding in Chard and other areas across the district, members of the Scrutiny committee have called for a Task and Finish group to understand the issues and work with stakeholders to mitigate flooding at a local level.</p>	<p>Cllr Gerard Tucker, Cllr Sue Osborne (chair), Cllr Robin Bastable, Other members: Cllr Mike Stanton? Cllr Gina Seaton? (with the Specialist Scrutiny and member Development)</p>
January 2022	<p>SSDC Council Plan Annual Review</p> <p>Strategic planning workshop to review and update the corporate plan and identify priority projects for the coming year.</p>	<p>Need to invite members</p>

If you have any suggested topics for Scrutiny Committee to consider please contact Specialist (Members) – stephanie.gold@southsomerset.gov.uk

Other Scrutiny working groups/workshops/matters of interest

Meeting date	Title	Description	Officers/Members
TBC	Role of Scrutiny & Audit	Refresher on the role of both Scrutiny and Audit, with a clear definition of the lines between the two functions.	All members of Scrutiny and Audit with Specialist Scrutiny and Member development and S105 Monitoring officer.



Date of next meeting

Members are requested to note that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will be held a week later than usual (as will District Executive) due to the budget setting process.

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will therefore be on Tuesday 8 February 2022 at 10.30am, as a virtual meeting using Zoom.