

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This report summarises the work of the Scrutiny Committee since the last report to Council in October.

Since the last report the committee have met on 3 occasions, 5 November and 7 January minutes are available as follows:

5 November

<http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/documents/g2520/Printed%20minutes%2005th-Nov-2019%2010.30%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=1>

7 January

<http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/documents/g2726/Printed%20minutes%2007th-Jan-2020%2010.30%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=1>

The meeting on 4 February minutes will be available via the website shortly.

In addition to considering the reports to go before District Executive and providing 'critical friend' challenge the Committee have:

- Considered quarterly performance data and Council financial monitoring reports
- Monitored the Transformation Programme through progress reports
- Successfully concluded another Council Tax Support Task and Finish group ending in a short report and recommendations for the 2020/21 scheme and the process to inform the 2021/22 scheme
- Provided feedback on the on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Needs Assessment and the first draft of the countywide Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2023
- Contributed to the Environment Strategy through workshops with lead officers
- Received a verbal update from the Income & Opportunities Manager provided on the work to create a productivity analysis tool to understanding the cost of services, products and process. The members subsequently agreed to support the Income and Opportunities Manager in a policy development capacity through regular workshops to consider setting fees and charges
- Commenced work to coordinate the work programme for the forthcoming year, full details are available on the Scrutiny Committee agenda

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are looking for non-executive members to participate in a Task and Finish Group to review how at South Somerset we currently calculate the level of reduction in council tax for low income households (Council Tax Support) to assess if the policy needs to be revised and propose how best to do this. This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in a significant piece of policy development work, working with staff from the service delivery team for Revenues and Benefits.

If you are interested, please contact the Specialist – Scrutiny

Crispin Raikes  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair

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