

## **Scrutiny Committee**

## **Tuesday 7th January 2020**

10.30 am

## Chamber B, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, BA20 2HT

(disabled access and a hearing loop are available at this meeting venue)



The following members are requested to attend this meeting.

**Chairman:** Crispin Raikes

**Vice-chairmen:** Sue Osborne and Gerard Tucker

Robin Bastable Mike Lewis Jeny Snell Nicola Clark Mike Lock Mike Stanton Brian Hamilton Paul Maxwell Rob Stickland

Charlie Hull Robin Pailthorpe

If you would like any further information on the items to be discussed, please contact the Case Officer on 01935 462596 or <a href="mailto:democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk">democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk</a>

This Agenda was issued on Monday 23 December 2019.

Alex Parmley, 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

#### What is Scrutiny?

The Local Government Act 2000 requires 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 held monthly on the Tuesday prior to meetings of the District Executive at 10.00am in the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

Agendas and minutes of these meetings are published on the Council's website www.southsomerset.gov.uk.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the agenda co-ordinator named on the front page.

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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

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# Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 7 January 2020

#### **Agenda**

Preliminary Items

#### 1. Apologies for absence

#### 2. 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.

#### 3. Public question time

#### 4. 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.

#### 5. Chairman's Announcements

Items for Discussion

- 6. Productivity Analysis Verbal Update (Page 4)
- 7. Monitoring SSDC Council Tax Support Scheme Draft Report of the Task and Finish Group (Pages 5 16)
- 8. Verbal update on reports considered by District Executive on 7 November 2019 and 5 December 2019 (Page 17)
- 9. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 9 January 2020 (Page 18)
- 10. Verbal update on Task and Finish reviews (Page 19)
- 11. Update on matters of interest (Page 20)
- **12.** Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 21 22)
- **13.** Date of next meeting (Page 23)

#### **Productivity Analysis - Verbal Update**

Lead Officer: James Divall, Income & Opportunities Manager

Contact Details: james.divall@southsomerset.gov.uk

The Income & Opportunities Manager will attend the meeting to provide a verbal update on the work to date to create and use a productivity analysis tool - to understand the cost of services, products and processes, in order to inform future management decisions.

# Monitoring SSDC Council Tax Support Scheme – Draft Report of the Task and Finish Group

Lead Officer: Joann Gale, Specialist (Members)

Contact Details: joanna.gale@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462077

#### **Purpose of the Report**

To present the findings of an Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group that conducted a monitoring review of the South Somerset District Council Tax Support scheme.

#### **Action Required**

Scrutiny Committee members are asked to consider the draft report (as attached) of the Task and Finish Group and endorse the recommendations to District Executive and Full Council.



# Monitoring SSDC Council Tax Support Scheme

Report and Findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group

December 2019

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has commissioned a Task and Finish review each year since the introduction of Council Tax Support (CTS). The Task and Finish group conduct specific monitoring work to ensure the scheme continues to be effective and balances the needs of support recipients and all South Somerset Council Tax payers. This report summarises the monitoring activity and work conducted since the last Task and Finish report in December 2018.

The original Task and Finish report and December 2018 report are available at

https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/Data/South%20Somerset%20District%20Council/201 30117/Agenda/7%20Appendix%201%20-

%20Report%20and%20Findings%20of%20the%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Task %20and%20Finish%20Group%2017-01-2013.pdf

https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/documents/g2364/Public%20reports%20pack%2017th -Jan-2019%2019.30%20South%20Somerset%20District%20Council.pdf?T=10

#### Task and finish group members:

Tim Kerley
Sue Osborne
Jeny Snell
Rob Stickland – Task and Finish Chair

#### Officers supporting:

Joanna Gale – Scrutiny Specialist Tamsin Gold – Specialist - Benefits Ian Potter – Lead Specialist – Vulnerable Customers

Members met and worked individually to consider the actions in response to the previous task and finish group's recommendations, and the outcomes of the monitoring activity shown in appendix 1 to assess the success and sustainability of the present Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme.

The Task and Finish group concluded that the scheme was still successful in achieving the original ambitions and that there was no evidence to suggest the scheme disadvantaged any particular group, or combination of household makeup, in terms of qualification of support. However, evidence did suggest that the scheme might need to alter to try to provide more stability to recipients due to external pressures:

- The changes in employment contracts and in particular zero hours contracts
- More CTS recipients in receipt of Universal Credit and the frequency of changes to the level of support which adversely impacts on the number of instalments available and the amount to be paid each month. (Universal Credit awards frequently change due to the real time link for earnings with HM Revenues & Customs).

With more frequent changes in an individual's income, altering the amount of Council Tax Support given and consequently the sum of Council Tax to be collected, the bill payer can be

offered fewer instalments, making it more difficult to pay<sup>1</sup> and this can result in Council Tax being carried forward to the following year, causing debt to accumulate.

With more changes to income and consequently the Council Tax Support award, there is much greater staff administration time to manage these cases.

Currently there is little flexibility in the scheme to cope with these frequent fluctuations. Last year a £5.00 tolerance was introduced (so if a person's income changed by less than £5.00 per week no change to CTS would take place, if a second change took place altering the income by an additional sum that made the difference from the original award greater than £5.00 then the CTS would be revised).

Increasingly now, Councils are looking to move, or are moving to an income related banded scheme for CTS to provide stability for customers, and to reduce the administration costs. It is expected that more than 100 councils will have such a scheme from April 2020. Last year the Task and Finish group considered this but recommended reviewing the impact of others banded schemes and cross checking arrears, and in particular stacking arrears (arrears accumulating over multiple years).

Members considered the format and structure of other authority banded schemes, and if it was viable and appropriate, to consider a change of scheme for 2020. Members concluded that there was not enough readily available data to make an informed decision about the potential transfer to a banded scheme. They felt it would therefore be better to conduct a detailed impact analysis - comparing the current scheme with forms of banded scheme, to assess outcomes for the customer, administration costs for the Council and risk of financial vulnerability by reviewing real cases over at least one year long period using a variety of households and income types.

Members agreed this was too big a piece of work to conduct for the 2020 scheme given the amount of work officers are already managing and the tight timescales, so have requested this is done in preparation for the 2021 scheme.

The group concluded that a new principle needs to be included to underpin the scheme moving forward for 2021 – The scheme needs to provide stability to help recipients better manage their circumstances (household budgets) in response to external changes and minimise their risk of falling into debt.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> We are required by law to provide a minimum notice period before collecting an instalment because of this customers can have fewer instalments to pay their Council Tax, for example if a customer has chosen to pay their Council Tax on the first of each and a change of income is processed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month altering the award of CTS and the amount of the next Council Tax instalment, the next instalment on the first of the month would not be taken, consequently the Council Tax liability will have to be split out across fewer instalments, making each instalment higher in value.

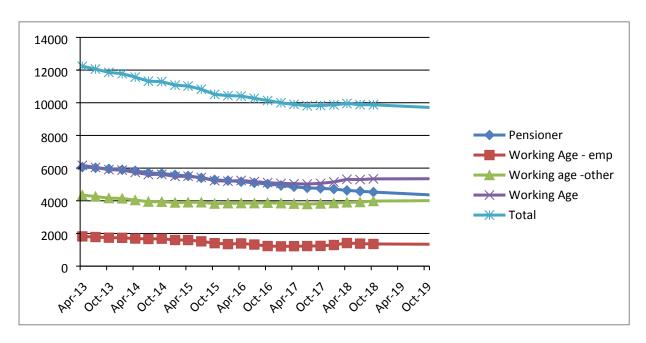
#### Recommendations

- a) A new principle is included to underpin the scheme moving forward for 2021 The scheme needs to provide stability to help recipients better manage their circumstances (household budgets) in response to external changes and minimise their risk of falling into debt. (The full set of principles is included at Appendix 2).
- b) In preparation for the 2021/22 scheme, officers conduct a detailed impact analysis comparing the current scheme with forms of banded scheme by examining sample cases over a year long period that cover a wide sample of differing types of households and income type to assess:
  - Accessibility of the schemes
  - Outcomes for the customers overall awards, variance in support amounts, frequency of instalment changes
  - Administration costs for the council
  - Impact of risk of financial vulnerability in Council Tax Support recipients and potential new approaches to mitigation.
- c) For consideration to be given to a corporate approach/policy to managing customer debt. It was evident in some case studies that arrangements with customers had to be repeatedly revised due to changes, but also due to SSDC wanting to collect other debts from the same individual. Members felt a single point of contact would provide a more efficient and customer friendly service.
- d) The Hardship scheme budget is reviewed, to assess if it will be adequate to accommodate the anticipated increase in people applying as a result of wider promotion, and the caseload no longer decreasing as a result of increased take up in Council Tax Support due to the roll out and promotion of Universal Credit.
- e) That for the 2020/21 scheme annual upratings are implemented as usual:
  - Personal allowances and premiums are uprated in line with those for Housing Benefit;
  - Non-dependent deductions are uprated in line with the annual percentage increase in Council Tax;
  - Non-dependent income bands are increased by the same percentage as those in the Prescribed Requirements relating to pensioners
- f) The Task and Finish group who review the scheme for 2021/22 seek advice from an expert on successful schemes across the country and further consider feedback from those who have:
  - Introduced fixed periods moving forward benefit on not altering instalment plans and reduction in number of customer notices- help mitigate upset and reduce avoidable contact/response.
  - Changed to an income banded scheme with specific focus on the customer experience, vulnerability, collection rates and stacking arrears.
  - Still award or have reverted to awarding 100% CTS in some circumstances.

#### Monitoring

#### **Number of CTS Recipients**

Number of Council Tax Support recipients from the start of scheme through to November 2019



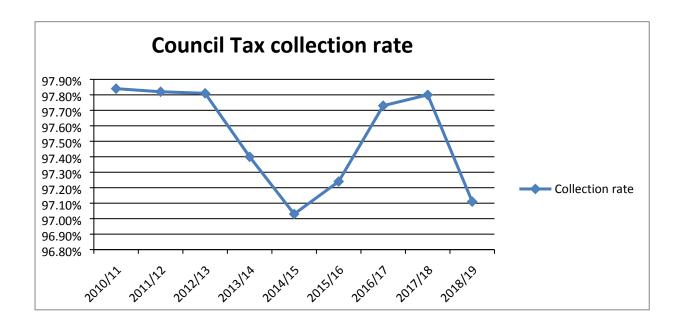
The above chart shows an overall slight decrease in CTS recipients over the last financial year. However, there has been a slight increase in working age recipients and this is likely to have been a consequence of the council accepting an application for CTS via the Department of Work and Pensions as part of the roll out of Universal Credit (UC). UC has been rolled out across South Somerset since October 2016 for new recipients of six benefits that moved to be included in UC. People have naturally migrated to receive UC and consequently apply for CTS either by a change of benefit award or change of address. At present approximately 60 cases a month transfer to UC through natural migration.

Please note the full UC roll out - Managed Migration, for people who are in receipt of the qualifying benefits but do not change address or have a change of benefit will take place in 2021 after a test migration in Harrogate.

With the full UC roll out there is a chance that numbers of CTS recipients could increase, however the scheme is already currently promoted via council tax bills and recovery notices, via partner organisations and charities and of course on SSDC website.

#### **Council Tax Collection Rate**

In the original Task and Finish report members recommended that Council Tax collection rates were monitored. (The collection rate is the proportion of all net collectable council tax that has been collected; this shows how much of a gap there is between what SSDC needs to collect and the amount actually collected). This was to assess if the council has adopted appropriate methods to successfully collect Council Tax from new Council Tax payers and to prevent the authority from any financial risk; the monitoring is carried out every quarter and reported in the Medium Term Financial Plan Quarterly monitoring.



The Task and Finish group were disappointed in the collection rate, but having discussed all the evidence and case examples with officers, concluded there was no evidence to suggest a correlation in the drop in collection rate with the Council Tax Scheme and in particular the changes to the scheme last year which were:

- 1. A Minimum Award of £0.50 being introduced.
- 2. Introduction of a tolerance for small changes in income of up to £5.00, which prevented a change to entitlement of up to £1.00 due to the income taper in the CTS means test of 20%.

	2011-	2012-	2013-	2014-	2015-	2016-	2017-	2018-
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Average								
Collection rate								
for England <sup>2</sup>	97.3	97.4	97.0	97.0	97.1	97.2	97.1	97.0
SSDC								
Collection rate	97.82	97.81	97.4	97.03	97.24	97.73	97.8	97.11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Department of Communities and Local Government

#### The cost of the Council Tax scheme since it has been in operation

2013/14 £9.359 million

2014/15 £8.882 million

2015/16 £8.219 million

2016/17 £8.496 million

2017/18 £8.417 million

2018/19 £8.773 million

At the time of writing this report we have 385 outstanding CTS application forms so it is difficult to predict what the cost of the scheme will be at the end of the financial year.

To date the scheme has been affordable whilst maintaining the objectives in the Council Plan and the ambitions of the Task and Finish group. With the reduction in the collection rate and changing external pressures, we always have to be reviewing the approach to this support and learning from good practice. The Task and Finish group intend to seek the advice of an external expert next year who can advise on lessons learned and best practice.

#### Council Tax Arrears where Council Tax support is awarded

Council Tax arrears arise when a resident falls behind with their Council Tax payments. The approach councils take to pursue missed payments or incomplete payment varies. The statutory procedure is for a council to send up to two reminders about unpaid Council Tax before embarking on further collection and enforcement strategies. This may include asking for the entire year's liability to be paid in one instalment (a "Final Notice"), before making an application to the magistrate's court for a liability order. An order permits the council to use a range of measures such as, an attachment of earnings or benefits (where the council collects Council Tax direct from the household's wages or DWP benefits). They may proceed also with enforcement measures, such as debt collection by Enforcement Agents.

The total amount of Council Tax arrears on accounts where CTS has been awarded is £1,252,459.71. This figure is for arrears accrued since the CTS scheme was introduced in April 2013.

We know from the evidence of reviewing cases no specific types of household are more adversely affected than others, however what we have yet to determine is if there is any trend to those who have fallen into arrears. The Task and Finish group request officer resource is committed to investigating if any particular group(s) have fallen into council tax arrears that are also in receipt of CTS. If there are to identify if there are any new measures that could be introduced to make the CTS scheme more fair and robust or if additional debt advice measures could be introduced to try to prevent arrears accumulating.

Having undertaken analysis of some accounts in arrears it was identified that there are some accounts in arrears where Council Tax Support is awarded where the customer has never paid any council tax instalments. The Task and Finish members request that officers contact the individuals with these accounts to identify if there is a pattern to these non-payers to see if there is an issue of education, process or financial vulnerability and report the findings to the next Task and Finish group.

#### **Discretionary Hardship**

The original Task and Finish report recommended, creating a hardship fund for those people who are financially vulnerable (unable to afford a basic standard of living shelter, heat, light, water and food) and that awards are monitored in terms of identifying trends.

Year	No. of	Awarded	Not Awarded	Total paid £
	requests			
13/14	171	121	50	11,292.82
14/15	152	115	37	11,581.32
15/16	163	136	27	14,551.14
16/17	152	128	22	16,540.95
17/17	107	84	23	14,211.00
18/19	123	98	25	14,362.37
19/20 (Nov 2019)	81	71	10	12,684.88

The Task and Finish group requested officers conduct a review of the applications made to the Hardship Fund, in order to identify if there were any trends, in terms of the numbers and age of people in the household, and the type of income they were in receipt of, to identify any trends. No trends were identified, The group were satisfied that the relatively low numbers of awards and the disparity to who they were awarded, gave no indication the scheme was the cause of any financial vulnerability.

To date there have been very few applications compared to the numbers of households that are in arrears with their Council Tax. However, having undertaken some analysis last year of cases in arrears, it was determined there was only a very small proportion of cases that could get some help through Council Tax Support and Discretionary Hardship that hadn't already applied. These cases are currently under review to see what support can be given. The Task and Finish group have requested the officer team consider:

- If there are any new approaches to further promote the Discretionary Hardship relief.
- If the current £30,000 annual budget is adequate for 2020/21 given that we still have
  a high number of cases to asses for Discretionary Hardship (as per the quarterly
  performance report), the high percentage of cases that have been awarded this year
  and the possibility that we may have more new people becoming aware of CTS
  through Universal Credit.

Members have requested monitoring of the hardship rewards continue. Monitoring this fund is the best internal way to identify real financial vulnerability, potential issues arising because of external changes and subsequent Council Tax collection problems

#### **Costs of collecting Council Tax**

Whilst it is important that SSDC collect Council Tax to pay for local services, we have to be sure that we do not inadvertently spend too much Tax Payers money trying to do so, therefore making the scheme inefficient.

The SSDC collection costs with effect from April 2019 are:

- Up to and including the cost of issuing a summons the cost of collection from 2<sup>nd</sup> reminder stage onwards is currently £50.00.
- The cost of the Liability Order is £21.75.
- The total charge is £71.75

The Task and Finish group are concerned that the actual costings of officer time have not been reviewed in the last year, and suggest this is done as part of the data to help inform the 2021/22 scheme in terms of proportional effort and costs, while recognising this is less straight forward in the new working model.

#### Previous Task and finish recommendations still in progress:

Recommendation	Progress
Providing a summary front sheet for Council	Some of the information that would be
Tax Support notification letters that detailed	provided on a summary sheet is available
the sum owed/received and how to proceed	through customer's personal online
	accounts
The letters have now been switched off as	
they are not a legal requirement. The award	
information is on the council tax bill.	
Benefits Officers explore the potential of	It is intended that this will be considered as
creating a consultative group who can meet	part of the Customer insight and
to discuss the Council Tax Support scheme	engagement work of the Transformation
	Programme

#### **Future monitoring**

The Task and Finish group request monitoring of:

- Discretionary Hardship rewards continue
- Arrears for cases where Council Tax Support is being given, this is to best manage the scheme and have an effective and efficient approach to collection and recovery
- Costs of collecting Council Tax It is important to ensure the balance is correct, whilst
  we must ensure we collect Council Tax to pay for local services, we have to be sure
  that we do not inadvertently spend too much Tax Payers money trying to do so,
  therefore making the scheme inefficient
- Other Local Authority schemes and National Best Practice to consider if the South Somerset scheme could be improved upon.

The Task and Finish group request officers:

- Contact individuals who are in arrears with their Council Tax, have been awarded Council Tax Support and have not paid any Council Tax instalments to identify if there is a pattern to these non-payers to see if there is an issue of education, process or financial vulnerability and report the findings to the next task and finish group.
- Assess the costs of collection of Council Tax arrears to ensure we have the assessment of affordability and financial vulnerability correct for the CTS scheme, and that appropriate sums of taxpayers money is being spent collecting unpaid council tax.
- Commit time to investigate if any particular group(s) that have fallen into council tax arrears that are also in receipt of CTS. If there are, to identify if there are any new measures that could be introduced to make the CTS scheme more fair and robust, or if additional debt advice measures could be introduced to try to prevent arrears accumulating.

#### **Future Risks**

The risk is always a downturn in the local economy and this is not possible to mitigate. It is a case of adopting a policy and working practices, that achieve the best collection rate, whilst protecting those who are financially vulnerable.

There are some groups suggesting CTS is unfair and too much of a postcode lottery and suggesting a national benefit or discount scheme should be reintroduced.

Food costs increase because of Brexit, making more people financially vulnerable. We will continue to publicise and monitor the hardship scheme, we work with numerous local agencies offering debt advice so we will be able to detect early any impact. We will signpost customers to receive the best support and advise whist considering the scheme and affordability for our customers, we may need to revise the scheme awards and increase the hardship fund.

#### Appendix 2

The Task and Finish group principles for the SSDC Council Tax Support Scheme:

- Everyone should contribute something towards the cost of local services through Council Tax
- All income should be included to ensure the scheme is fair
- Greater account should be taken of the total income of a household
- Provide incentives to encourage people into work or increase their hours
- Provide protection for those who may become vulnerable under the scheme 'Unable to afford basic shelter, food, water, heating and lighting and essential transport'
- Not penalise those that have already saved for the future (to a greater extent than the Council Tax Benefit scheme)

## Verbal update on reports considered by District Executive on 7 November 2019 and 5 December 2019

The Chairman will update members on any issues raised by Scrutiny members at the District Executive meetings held on 7 November and 5 December 2019.

#### Reports to be considered by District Executive on 9 January 2020

Lead Officer: Jo Gale, Specialist (Members)

Contact Details: joanna.gale@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462077

Scrutiny Committee members will receive a copy of the District Executive agenda containing the reports to be considered at the meeting on 9 January 2020.

Members are asked to read the reports and bring any concerns/issues from the reports to be discussed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 7 January 2020.

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 9 January 2020, 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 Chair or Specialist (Members) will give a brief verbal update on progress made.

#### **Current Task & Finish Reviews**

• Review of Council Tax Support Scheme

#### **Update on matters of interest**

Lead Officers: Jo Gale, Specialist (Members)

Contact Details: joanna.gale@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462077

#### **Action Required**

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

#### **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 (Members) to verbally update members on any ongoing matters.

#### **Scrutiny Work Programme**

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Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Background/Description	Lead Officer/ Lead Member
4 Feb	Draft 2020/21 Revenue and Capital Budgets	Scrutiny Committee review the reports and recommendations and provide comments to be considered by District Executive.	S.151 Officer and Lead Specialist (Finance) / Cllr Peter Seib
3 Mar	Equalities Strategy Update	Update on the progress of the Equalities Strategy.	Specialist (Strategic Planning)

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

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

#### **Current Task & Finish Reviews**

Date Commenced	Title and Purpose	Members
Jan / Feb 2020	Council Tax Support Scheme 2021/2022 - to ensure the Council Tax Scheme is still effective for both recipients and the Council.	Cllrs Rob Stickland, Sue Osborne and Tim Kerley. (with the Lead Specialist (Vulnerable Customers))
Jan / Feb 2020	Productivity Analysis – understanding the cost of services, products and process.	TBC (with the Income & Opportunities Manager)
Jan / Feb 2020	Understand the effect of Airbnb on Tourism, Business Rates, Housing and Regeneration across South Somerset.	Cllr Brian Hamilton.
твс	SSDC Environment Strategy - assist the Communities of Practice to aid delivery plan.	TBC

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

#### **Date of next meeting**

Members are requested to note that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will be held on Tuesday 4 February 2020 at 10.30am in Council Chamber B, Brympton Way, Yeovil.