

Scrutiny Committee

This report summarises the work of the Scrutiny Committee since the last Council meeting.

Items considered during Scrutiny Committee – 2nd December 2014

Planning Appeals – Update – item 7

At a previous meeting, members noted that there had been a drop in performance relating to the % of planning appeals allowed against the authority's decision to refuse. In response to this, the Development Manager attended the December meeting to update members on the remedial action taken to address this. Members were given a breakdown of all the appeals allowed, whether they were committee or delegated decisions, officer recommendations etc.

Members were pleased to note that in Quarter 3 performance is improving and suggested that a similar presentation is given to the area committees to provide a corporate context to this issue.

Members also commented on the reports due to be considered by District Executive on 4th December.

In relation to the proposals for the Somerset Rivers Authority:

- Members received a verbal updated report, including draft revised recommendations, from the Strategic Director (Operations and Customer Focus) and were pleased to note the progress being made.
- Members sought clarification about who would have responsibility for the funding coming to Somerset from Government.
- Scrutiny understood the time constraints involved with this fast moving issue and took the unusual step of voting on formally endorsing the proposals as explained by the Assistant Director, which was carried unanimously.
- It was queried if the word 'Authority' could be used in the title without legislation.

Quarterly Performance and Complaints Monitoring Report – 2nd Quarter 2014/15 – item 8

Members were pleased to note that the complaints figures remained relatively low.

Additional Revenues Team Resources – item 10

Scrutiny members did not raise any issues and were content the recommendations went forward. Scrutiny members were accepted that without the additional resource, there would be serious implications for the future performance of this statutory service.

Delivery of the Car Parking Strategy (Confidential) – item 16

Members thanked the Assistant Director (Finance and Corporate Services) for attending the Scrutiny meeting to explain the issues raised by the Scrutiny Committee last month. Members were satisfied that this addressed most of their concerns. Members agreed that the report now contained the additional information required, however there were mixed opinions about whether Scrutiny agreed with the principle as outlined.

*Sue Steele, Chairman of Scrutiny Committee
Emily McGuinness, Scrutiny Manager (01935) 462566*