

Scrutiny Committee – Review Subjects

The following are those subject areas which have been requested for Scrutiny to consider and the stage they have reached:

| Source | Issue/Description | Stage | Proposed Scrutiny Committee meeting date |
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| Ettrick and Yarrow Community Council | Great Tapestry of Scotland – to scrutinise the whole process through which the decision appears to have been taken by SBC Councillors to site the great tapestry of Scotland in a new-build at Tweedbank. In particular, to scrutinise the extent to which a full option appraisal was undertaken of all possible sites and that the detailed business case was presented for all options prior to any decision being made. | Short term Scrutiny Working Group established with membership as follows: Councillors Cockburn, Gillespie, Campbell and Garvie. | . |
| Ettrick and Yarrow Community Council – Allocation of Budgets for Road Maintenance and Repairs | To review the extent to which the SBC budget for road repairs and maintenance is sufficient to meet need and the not unreasonable expectation that roads will be maintained in a safe condition. Within this context, to particularly examine how the allocation of budget for <u>rural</u> roads is arrived at and whether more should be allocated. | Letter from CC dated 15 June 2015. Agreed to consider this. | 28 January 2016 |
| Councillor Bhatia | Protection of Private Water Supplies – <i>"in relation to Planning e.g. when a planning application is granted which requires an additional private supply or taking water from an existing private supply, how do existing householders ensure that their supply is protected? This may be purely a civil matter or the Council may have a role. This is further exacerbated with large forestry/windfarm applications."</i> | Presentation will include input from Planning, Environmental Health and SEPA | 18 February 2016 |
| Lib Dem Group | Implications of the Community Empowerment Act on the Council – <i>"there may be multiple implications of the Community Empowerment Act e.g. disposal of assets either SBC or Common Good, the transfer of local services to community groups who wish to take them on, future provision of allotments etc."</i> | Presentation from Shona Smith, Communities and Partnership Manager now scheduled. | 18 February 2016 |
| Scrutiny Committee | Financing arrangements for the Transport Interchange in Galashiels - to include subsidy arrangements and departure charges. | Consideration on whether to conduct a review of the | Private update and short presentation in March 2016. |

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| | | financing arrangements for the Transport Interchange would be decided in March 2016. | | |
| Councillor Logan | Support for High Achievers in Schools | | March 2016. Presentation by Service Director Children & Young People. | |
| Councillor Torrance | School Transport and Escorts | | March 2016. | |
| Greenlaw and Hume CC | <p>Local Authorities have for some time now had “their backs to the wall” with funding cuts and freezes. We know from dealings with various departments of SBC that activity levels are always being reviewed for yet more efficiencies. The reality however is that such reviews, after many years, will collide with the laws of diminishing returns. The efforts of the review in fact might outweigh the efficiencies delivered, some of which might be more theoretical than realisable.</p> <p>Another approach, often shied away from because of the implications for current staffing levels, is to consider whether any SBC activity could more efficiently and cost effectively be delivered by external service providers. Outsourcing can of course sound like a good idea, but years down the line can become an even bigger burden, if the terms and conditions have not been properly thought through, and the relationship has not been nurtured and kept healthy.</p> <p>So outsourcing is not an easy option, or one that should be entered into lightly, but for any of the 32 local authorities in Scotland there is a potential short cut to identify really good outsourcing opportunities i.e. by looking at best practice in other LA’s and learn from their outsourcing success stories.</p> <p>We think this is particularly relevant where the most obvious provider for</p> | To request the clerk ask the Community Council for further clarity. | | |

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| | <p>outsourced services is a not for profit organisation. The example we have in mind is in the area of social services where SBC's neighbouring authority, Dumfries and Galloway, have outsourced debt and benefit advisory service provision completely to Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).</p> <p>Like many Third Sector organisations operating on a national level, CAB can access a level of high quality trained volunteer resource, many from a professional background, that Local Authorities are simply unable to access. Like CAB many have a highly regarded reputation, network, and track record of performance delivery, which makes them an ideal partnership candidate, which already has deeply embedded credibility in the community.</p> <p>So our suggestion in summary is that SBC Scrutiny Committee should look at outsourcing success stories elsewhere in Scottish Local Authority bodies, in particular where the service has been outsourced to a third sector organisation.</p> | | | |
| Scrutiny Committee | Renewable energy – to include arrangements for biomass boilers at high schools. | Likely to be considered by the Executive Committee. <i>Scrutiny Review on hold.</i> | | |
| Royal Burgh of Peebles & District Community Council | <p>Review the process that led to the decision by the Council's Executive Committee to agree that Victoria Park, Peebles is the preferred location for a 3G pitch.</p> <p>This issue relates to how (and under what circumstances) community consultation is designed, planned and managed, and how the processes by which Council canvasses the views of local communities can be facilitated and improved upon.</p> | A presentation on the Community Engagement Framework be brought to the April 2016 meeting. Scrutiny then to decide how they wished to proceed. | April 2016 | |