

Scrutiny Committee – Review Subjects 2015/16

Working Groups In progress

Source	Issue/Description	Stage	Meeting dates
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.	Scrutiny Working Group	9 March 2016 21 March 2016 14 April 2016

Timetabled for Scrutiny Meetings

Source	Issue/Description	Stage	Scrutiny Committee meeting date
Scrutiny Committee	Following the review on road repairs maintenance, presented to the January meeting of Scrutiny Committee. There was a further report to the March meeting on the implications on the capital and revenue budgets of the trunk status of the A72 and A7. Scrutiny Committee requested a further report identifying the revenue and capital costs of works to individual roads in the roads infrastructure.	Report from Asset Manager	Date to be confirmed.
Councillor Logan	Support for Highly Able Learners in Schools	Presentation by Service Director Children & Young People.	28 April 2016.
Councillor Torrance	School Transport and Escorts	Presentation by Service Director Children and Young People.	28 April 2016.
Councillor Nicol	Review of Bridges Assets. The review should include the condition of bridges on the register and the processes for inspection and maintenance.	Presentation by Service Director Assets and Infrastructure	9 June 2016
Royal Burgh of Peebles & District	This issue relates to how (and under what circumstances) community consultation is designed, planned and managed, and how the processes	Presentation from Shona Smith,	9 June 2016

Source	Issue/Description	Stage	Scrutiny Committee meeting date
Community Council	by which Council canvasses the views of local communities can be facilitated and improved upon. In particular, use the example of 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.	Communities and Partnership Manager	
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..	Date to be confirmed (awaiting Scottish Govt guidance)
Councillor Nicol	Recycling Centres. Update on the remarketing of goods for recycling at the Centre, including how other Local Authorities had approached this.	Jenni Craig	Date to be confirmed
Councillor Archibald	Artificial sports pitches. Briefing paper to be brought forward on existing artificial pitches in the Scottish Borders, to include information on the use, costs, benefits and issues of these facilities.	Rob Dickson	Date to be confirmed
Councillor Cockburn	Asymmetric Week	Donna Manson	Date to be confirmed
Councillor Torrance	Social Work Duty Hub.	Elaine Torrance	Date to be confirmed

Review Subjects to be considered/awaiting further information

Source	Issue/Description	Stage
Greenlaw and Hume CC	To consider outsourcing success stories from this Council and elsewhere in Scotland, in particular where the service has been outsourced to a third sector organisation.	Report to March meeting. Research currently being undertaken by Ms Watters on commissioning arrangements with the voluntary and third sector. Earliest report back likely to be in June 2016. Scrutiny to then decide the focus of the review.
Scrutiny Committee	Renewable energy – to include arrangements for biomass boilers at high schools.	Likely to be considered by the Executive Committee. Projects Team being contacted

Source	Issue/Description	Stage
		for update on developments.
Councillor Gillespie	Home Schooling. To consider the requirement for a change in the law to ensure health assessments for home schooled children are carried out. Also to investigate parents undertaking an examination to ensure that they were adequate educators for primary and secondary school education.	Service Director Children & Young People to discuss further with Councillor Gillespie.

Reviews completed

Source	Issue/Description	Recommendations	Scrutiny Committee meeting date
Scrutiny Committee	Planning Enforcement and the Building Inspection Regime	Noted in respect of building standards the requirement of additional staff resources if the economy was to improve. In respect of planning enforcement that the current resources were at capacity and that if the service was to become proactive rather than reactive, more resources would be required.	11 June 2015 Completed.
Scrutiny Committee	Home Schooling and Non-Schooling	None – briefing session	20 August 2015 Completed.
Scrutiny Committee	Attainment levels in Schools in Deprived Areas	None – briefing session	24 September 2015 Completed
Scrutiny Committee	Mainstream Schools and Children with Complex Additional Support Needs	None – briefing session	24 September 2015 Completed
Councillor Turnbull	Fees for taxi licensing – the amount paid to outside bodies in administering taxi licensing and how the fees for a licence in the Borders compare with those of neighbouring authorities.	Information emailed to Cllr Turnbull from	14 October 2015 Completed.

Source	Issue/Description	Recommendations	Scrutiny Committee meeting date
		Licensing Team Leader on 5/10/15. Cllr Turnbull does not wish to pursue further.	
Graeme Donald	Religious Observance Policy } }These were presented together at the } same meeting.	None – briefing session	29 October 2015 Completed
Scrutiny Committee	Faith Schools }	None – briefing session	29 October 2015 Completed
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.	Recommendation considered by Executive Committee 8 March 2016 – accepted.	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>	Recommendation to be considered by Executive Committee on 22 March 2016.	18 February 2016
Scrutiny Committee	Financing arrangements for the Transport Interchange in Galashiels - to include subsidy arrangements and departure charges.	None.	24 March 2016
Councillor Archibald	Equalities Legislation. Consideration on the Council's up to date grant application form and information on how the legislation is applied to local festivals, in particular where the Council awards grants.	None.	24 March 2016