

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT – 2022/23

As we approach the final weeks of Somerset West and Taunton Council, we also inevitably move towards the demise of Community Scrutiny Committee. We've only managed two years of existence, which is a shame, as keen Scrutiny can enhance Council operations, or at least try to ensure that key and sometimes difficult question, can be asked and answered in public. It's called democratic accountability!

Some key topics that have been covered in the last year and of note in two areas: -

- Housing Low Carbon Retrofit Programme
- Climate Neutrality and Resilience Plan / Ecological Emergency Action Plan.

I would like to put on record my particular thanks to Cllr Dave Mansell, Vice Chair of Community Scrutiny, who has led on these two areas – providing support and challenge wherever appropriate. It's also gratifying that the Portfolio Holders in the above areas have been actively engaged in discussions. I would like to thank them for their clear commitment to active scrutiny.

Other issues covered which are internal to SWT operations have included: -

- E-Scooters and their operation
- CCTV Review and Upgrade in Taunton
- Cultural Grants
- Parking Strategy
- Housing and Financial overview and Woolaway Project

One of the most important elements of Scrutiny is our engagement with outside agencies, and in the past year there have been three notable examples: -

- Everyone Active – Sports and Leisure Management
- Somerset Waste Partnership
- Avon and Somerset Police

Anyone with a keen interest in any or all the topics covered by Community Scrutiny can browse back through agendas and papers which are available via the SWT website. These will be available after the Council ceases to exist via the Somerset Council website or by contacting the Governance Team.

The process of Scrutiny could not happen without significant and ongoing input from a wide team of officers across SWT. My huge thanks must go to all of them and particularly the Democratic Services team who literally “keep our show on the road”.

And last, but not least, sincere thanks to all elected members who have participated in our Scrutiny process. Our efforts are often misunderstood and rarely fully appreciated but thank you!

Cllr Libby Lisgo
SWT Community Scrutiny Chair
2021 - 2023