

# Scrutiny Task and Finish - Progress Updates and Next Steps (November 2017)

	Group Title	Progress update and next steps
1	<b>Parks</b>	The first meeting took place on 20/9/17. Members had an overview of the savings proposals for 2018/19 and 2019/20, and details of these. Decision was taken to focus the next meeting on the budget gap in 2019/20 where savings have not yet been identified. Next meeting arranged for 8/11/17
2	<b>Council Commissioning &amp; Contracts</b>	The first meeting took place on 20/9/17. Members received a policy briefing and in light of this, agreed to pick up a time critical piece of work to update the Council's Procurement Rules. The group met on 4/10/17 and 11/10/17 to explore this in detail. The updates form part of the Council's proposed constitutional amendments expected to go to Full Council in November. The next meeting will focus on finalising the group's scope and work programme.
3	<b>Demand on Social Services</b>	Separate policy briefing and discussion sessions were held on 18/09/17, in respect of Adults and Children's Social Services, to provide an overview of the latest legal, financial and operational position. It was agreed that the Group Chairs would meet with the respective Cabinet members and Senior Officers to determine the resources available, methodology and the proposed timeframe for addressing the areas of investigation, as outlined in the scoping documents. Meetings held/to be held on 17/10/17 and 25/10/17 respectively.
4	<b>Council Assets</b>	<p>On 9/10/17 the group met with Cabinet Members Cllr Smith and Cllr Craig to discuss a number of points including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What the councils current policy position is and the decision-making pathway for the management of council properties</li> <li>• What the future strategic direction of travel is</li> <li>• How is the status and future for each building or piece of land currently decided</li> <li>• Clarity of Cabinet Member role's</li> </ul> <p>A brief summary of the key discussion points are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bristol will soon undertake a comprehensive corporate asset review, including a revised community asset management and disposal strategy. It was agreed that the task and finish group will be involved in this piece of work.</li> <li>• The group were informed that the criteria for declaring whether land or property should be a commercial sale, disposal or a community asset will also form part of the forthcoming review.</li> <li>• In future there will be one 'assets strategy'</li> <li>• The group requested and it was acknowledged that communication on this subject area should be improved</li> <li>• It was agreed the group would meet with Cabinet Members again in the New Year</li> </ul> <p>Current meeting dates going forward are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22/11/17</li> <li>• 22/01/18</li> </ul>
5	<b>Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood</b>	On the 12/10/2017 the group met to have a general discussion about their aims and objectives and agree whether there is anything else they want to do / look at. The meeting proved to be a useful way for the members present to share information

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		<p>and ideas about other related issues to the development and the area.</p> <p>The group reaffirmed what their main focus will be and how they'd like to contribute and agreed on a number of initial actions. One of these was to submit a Public Forum Statement to the (YTL LTD) planning application to South Gloucestershire Council's - DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (WEST) COMMITTEE – 19 OCTOBER 2017.</p> <p>Amongst a number of other key areas, the group's main objective going forward will be to input into in the traffic re-modelling of Crow Lane and input on the emerging master plan, public transport strategy and consultation exercises. The group have also expressed a wish to do the following going forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a dialogue with BCC officers about plan regarding cycling, walking, supported buses and rail</li> <li>• Have a dialogue with First Bus about their plans</li> <li>• Have joint meetings between Bristol Councillors and South Glos Councillors (and possibly WECA)</li> <li>• Be a group of Members that builds up knowledge of best practice for subsequent large developments</li> </ul> <p>It will be November now when the traffic re-modelling information is available for the group to view. Future meeting dates are currently as follows but it might be necessary to add another date when the traffic modelling information is ready.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29/11/17</li> <li>• 11/01/18</li> </ul>
6	<b>Air Quality &amp; Pollution</b>	<p>The group met with officers on the 11/9/17. Officers briefed the members on the situation as it currently stands i.e. Client Earth and High Court ruling, Legal Tests and delayed Mayoral cabinet decision. At the time Officers were still waiting for the necessary guidance from Defra before they could move forward with preparation work for the feasibility study to identify measures for the development of a 'Clean Air Plan' rather than a 'Clean Air Zone'. There is now a 4-5 month delay on the cabinet decision and officers explained how they are using the time that the 'pause' in decision-making has created.</p> <p>Due to the delay it was suggested that the group could ask the Chair and / or representative of the Mayors Congestion Task Group to come and speak to the task and finish group. The Scrutiny Advisor is trying to arrange this.</p>
7	<b>Children's Centres</b>	<p>This group has not met. Activity to commence October.</p>
8	<b>Libraries</b>	<p>The second meeting was held on 6/10/17 - this focussed on the outcomes from the public consultation and the revised "offer" along with an interactive tool to enable modelling of different aspects of the service. This was followed by a facilitated member-only workshop in the afternoon (with scrutiny support officers) to discuss the information received and agree conclusions. The final report was subsequently drafted and circulated to members on 10/10/17 for comment, and will go to OSMB on 1/11/17. Following this it will go to Cabinet on 5/12/17 under the standing agenda item "Reports from scrutiny". The Library Service proposals will also go to the same Cabinet meeting.</p>
9	<b>Fire Safety in Council-owned High Rise Buildings</b>	<p>Proposed that this would take place after the government recommendations have been issued. The timescale for this is unclear at the present time.</p>

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<b>10</b>	<b>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) / Budget</b>	Members held meetings on the 21/09/17 and 28/9/17 in order to scrutinise budget proposals prior to the launch of the public consultation. The meeting on 17/10/17 focused on a deep dive of specific budget areas. The next meeting to be held on 31/10/17 will focus on public engagement opportunities.
<b>11</b>	<b>Youth Council</b>	Councillors Anna Keen and Tom Brook plus Scrutiny Advisor - Jo Holmes went to the Bristol City Youth Council's (BCYC) formal meeting on 11/10/2017. After the councillors gave an introduction about what scrutiny is and how it now works a discussion took place about whether or how scrutiny could support BCYC in delivering their priorities within their manifesto. The BCYC are going to discuss this further at their next informal / campaign meeting but it was suggested that they may well welcome some support provided with their priority of 'Education for Life - Current PSHE curriculum'.