

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2015

Introduction

The Scrutiny Committee has continued to progress with its pro-active work plan and the focus of the June meeting was engagement with Town and Parish councils, education consultation, budget. The waste contract was also discussed and addressed within the parameters allowable following the dis - application of call in on this contract.

Town and Parish Councils

The Scrutiny Committee met on 18 June 2015 and was provided with the written responses received from many town and parish councils to a range of questions relating to the transfer of services. In addition, representatives from Bembridge Parish Council, Chale Parish Council, Newport Parish Council and Yarmouth Town Council attended to expand upon their written views. As a result of this scrutiny work, a small task group will now look at all the information provided and bring forward recommendations to the next meeting. The overall objective being to help achieve more effective working partnership between all local councils on the island.

Education Consultation

A comprehensive report was considered on the initial results arising from the consultation on the future provision of 11 – 16 and post 16 school and college places. This has enabled the committee to express a view on which of the options should be supported.

Budget

The in-depth work undertaken by the Committee's Budget Scrutiny Task Group into the revenue budget, savings, capital programme, carry forwards, reserves and balances led to a number of recommendations being forwarded to the Executive. The Committee's budget task group will maintain a monitoring role in relation to the regular monthly updates supplied for savings and the revenue budget - and refer any specific issue to the committee where there are concerns that require further exploration and scrutiny.

Work Plan

The Committee is continuing to develop its own work plan and included within this is the ability to look in greater detail at topics of wider public concern, as well as providing challenge and support for the Executive on proposed decisions. I am also in discussion with the Chairman of the Children's Services Select Committee on how we ensure more effective scrutiny of the delivery of safeguarding and school

improvement so to make best use of the resources that we have at both officer and member level.

Councillor Dave Stewart
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee