



#coopscrutiny

Democratic Support

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Co-operative Scrutiny Board – Supplement Pack

Wednesday 9 March 2016

4pm

Council House, Plymouth

Members:

Councillor James, Chair

Councillor Mrs Aspinall, Vice Chair

Councillors Mrs Beer, Bowie, Mrs Bowyer, Sam Davey, Jordan, Murphy, Ricketts, Storer and Kate Taylor.

Please find attached supplementary information in relation to items 6, 10 and 11 on your agenda.

Tracey Lee

Chief Executive

Co-operative Scrutiny Board

Agenda

6. Tracking Decisions (Pages 1 - 4)

The Co-operative Scrutiny Board will monitor the progress of its previous decisions.

10. Strengthening the Overview and Scrutiny Function (Pages 5 - 42)

The Co-operative Scrutiny Board will consider the report on strengthening the overview and scrutiny function – co-operative review.

11. EU Referendum Review (Pages 43 - 64)

The Board will undertake a wash up session on the EU Referendum review.



The Rt. Hon. Gregg Clark MP
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(By email)

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The Council House
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Date 9th March 2016

My Ref: BS.16/17 STI

Your Ref

Dear Mr Clark

I write to you in the capacity of Chair of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board at Plymouth City Council. The role of the Board is to act as a critical friend to the council executive and to reflect the voice of the people through the scrutiny process. Each year the Board undertakes a wide ranging scrutiny of the City Council's draft budget, held over two to three days in January, which is made available to the general public via a webcast.

The work of the Board and undoubtedly the work of the executive and officers is hindered by the painfully slow release of information from Whitehall on the Local Government Finance settlement, the impact of which is to prevent local authorities from being able to carefully consider the impact of further reductions in budgets in a timely manner.

The key decision for tax payers in Plymouth is whether the council tax charge will be increased. The Local Authority has always set out to be open and transparent with this decision, as early as possible. This year has been particularly difficult, the lack of detailed information regarding the proposed 2% Adult Social Care precept, and extremely late confirmation of the withdrawal of the council tax freeze grant for 2016/17 have not only impacted upon our budget but has also removed the prospect of any meaningful engagement with the general public.

Any major initiatives which are planned, such as the 2% adult social care levy, should be shared with local government well in advance, alongside early confirmation that the indicative settlement figures will not be reduced. This will allow local authorities to make measured and informed decisions, and most importantly to engage with the people of the city.

The Board urgently requests that you reconsider the process for the announcement of the final settlement in order for councillors to have time to consult with local people on how to deal with cuts from central government to our core funding.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor David James, Chair, Co-operative Scrutiny Board.

CC.
Oliver Colville MP;
Gary Streeter MP;
Cllr Tudor Evans, Leader, Plymouth City Council

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Date 22 February 2016

My Ref **MP.16/17 I**

Your Ref

Dear Mr Mercer

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Chair of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board. You will be aware that we recently held a scrutiny session with your parliamentary colleagues from the city which you were unable to attend.

As a result the Board agreed to put forward some questions which were raised at that meeting in writing to you and request a written response.

- Would you explain why you have not engaged with partners in Plymouth on our Armed Forces Community Covenant?
- Would you tell the Board what veteran's organisations you have engaged with in Plymouth?
- Would you explain why you did not attend the annual meeting with local HMS Heroes?
- Would you explain why in October you voted for a reduction in the Employment and Support Allowance, reducing the amount paid to ill or disabled people by £29.05 a week, which would affect a significant amount of veterans in our City?
- As the a major tertiary centre and regional hospital in the Southwest is within your constituency, would you make enquiries with the Secretary of State for Health on how many additional junior doctors and what extra funding will be provided to Derriford Hospital to accommodate the 7 day working week?

I would like to thank you for your offer of alternative dates to come and meet us, unfortunately due to the municipal calendar none of those dates are suitable however I hope we can come to mutually convenient time in the new municipal year. I look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

Councillor David James
Chair, Co-operative Scrutiny Board

CC'd. Board members, Oliver Colvile MP, Gary Streeter MP

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PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Review of Scrutiny
Committee: Co-operative Scrutiny Board
Date: 9th March 2016
Lead Member: Councillor David James, Chair, Co-operative Scrutiny Board
CMT Member: Giles Perritt, Assistant Chief Executive
Author: Ross Jago, Lead Officer
Contact details: 01752 304469
Ref:
Key Decision: No
Part: I

Purpose of the report:

This report proposes a number of recommendations to strengthen the scrutiny function along with options for structural changes to the Scrutiny Board and its panels to improve effectiveness.

The proposals modernise the Overview and Scrutiny Function and bring them in line with the Council's values. This report details the proposed recommendations for consideration at City Council.

Amendments to terms of reference will be considered through the recommended implementation plan.

The Brilliant Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14 -2016/17:

Effective scrutiny impacts upon all aspects of the Corporate Plan by providing a process for challenge to decision making and development of policy.

The recommendations within the report will open the function to community involvement and enable members to demonstrate check and balance to executive power within the City Council.

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
Including finance, human, IT and land:**

Implementation of recommendations within the report will likely require increased officer resource if members are minded to retain the structural status quo. If alternative structures are considered appropriate recommendations could likely be implemented at a reduced cost overall, subject to a review of special responsibility allowance by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

There is a risk that by not making recommended changes to the scrutiny function the Council will be ineffective in challenging decision-making and monitoring the performance of the Cabinet.

Equality and Diversity:

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken?

No: the overall scope of services included within the overall scrutiny function terms of reference remain the same.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

The Board is asked to -

1. agree, in principle, recommendations R2 – R17 as outlined on page 27 of the report;
2. delegate to the lead officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, the preparation of an implementation plan to define the tasks, actions and resource required to implement each recommendation;
3. delegate to the lead officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair the development of a scrutiny training programme;
4. delegate to the lead officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair the preparation of a report to council to include the implementation plan and recommended structural option.

Reason: The recommendations outlined above will allow presentation of the full resource implications of changes to the current scrutiny function and a timescale for delivery to Full Council.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The establishment of this review satisfies an undertaking in the working arrangement agreed by the City's largest political parties.

Published work / information:

Background papers:

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin		Leg	DVS 2520 4	Mon Off		HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member – Giles Perritt													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the content of the report? N/A													



F 9J =9K 'C: **SCRUTINY REPORT** 2016



	Page
Foreword	I
How did we get here?	2
What do our members think of the status quo?	6
Scrutiny Peer Review Feedback	9
Review of Scrutiny	10
What's the Point in Scrutiny?	12
Councillors Learning and Development - Rights and Responsibilities	16
Support Requirements	19
Public Engagement	21
Recommendations	27
Appendix i (Structural Options)	29



Foreword

Following the election in May and the resulting working arrangement the Co-operative Scrutiny Board has taken the opportunity to strengthen the scrutiny function that sits within the council and deliver against the Council's pledge 49, to enhance the scrutiny programme.

During the review which followed we have recognised that the tools available to us are numerous and diverse and while there are members who want to focus on particular issues or processes there are others who prefer a more varied approach.

Since the Local Government Act of 2000 we have seen scrutiny take place through written and oral questions to the Council and the Cabinet, through ward casework and the Scrutiny Process. The effectiveness of the latter has lately been a cause of concern for many members and, although effectiveness will differ according to the issue and the individual, we must acknowledge there is not an automatic, positive, relationship between the quantity of scrutiny and the quality of its outcomes.

During the review process we have acknowledged that scrutiny is finite. It is impossible and undesirable for council members to scrutinise absolutely everything all of the time. The scale of the challenges ahead of Local Government and the multitude of demands on councillors, make such scrutiny impractical even if it were desirable.

We believe that we do not enjoy a monopoly of scrutiny. The media in particular perform a scrutiny role, but also pressure groups, bloggers and our residents are all part of what is a network of scrutiny. So through our review of scrutiny we have sought to understand how we can place ourselves at the heart of this network and through a series of workshops have used some new approaches to aid our discussions.

In producing this report and its findings the Board was greatly assisted by the cooperation of the council officers, especially those providing support to scrutiny panels. We were also encouraged by the support from the Cabinet Members and Senior Officers who attended some of our workshops.

In addition to the support from Plymouth City Council the Board received assistance and cooperation from officers and members from local authorities across England, and the Board has drawn on published works from institutions in the UK and elsewhere.

Finally I would like to thank members of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board itself, who bravely initiated a form of scrutiny review which enabled purposeful self-examination of the work of scrutiny.

Councillor David James, Co-operative Scrutiny Board Chair

I How did we get here?

Local Authority Scrutiny

- I.1 The concept of 'overview and scrutiny' was originally introduced by the Local Government Act 2000. Prior to this Act, all local authorities in the UK made decisions through meetings of the full council or of committees; this was known as 'the committee system'.
- I.2 The 2000 Act obliged local authorities to adopt political management systems with a separate executive. The 'executive' would take the form of a leader, or elected mayor, and a cabinet of no more than nine members in addition to the Leader / Mayor. Reflecting the relationship between Parliament and government, the remainder of the council was required to scrutinise the executive by establishing at least one overview and scrutiny committee. The committee or committees would investigate the policies of the executive and their implementation, issuing reports and drawing attention to shortcomings.
- I.3 With the priority of central government being to establish new, swifter, streamlined, corporate- style decision-making processes, it could be said that the idea of retaining accountability through the establishment of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee came as an after-thought. Of the thirty-eight sections within Part II of the Local Government Act 2000, only one deals with 'Overview and Scrutiny' and the Act is not prescriptive about how scrutiny should be organised.
- I.4 Since its introduction, the legislative provision for overview and scrutiny has changed and for scrutiny in England, the main provisions can now be found in schedule 2 of the Localism Act 2011, which mostly consolidated previously existing law.
- I.5 The Localism Act 2011 extended a fourth option of a 'streamlined committee system' to all councils in England, and since then many councils have readopted the committee system. Councils which adopted this system were still required to establish at least one overview and scrutiny committee, which would scrutinise the decision-making committees.
- I.6 The powers and functions of overview and scrutiny committees, include:
 - Any member of an overview and scrutiny committee has the right to refer a relevant matter to the committee. This provision does not apply to matters concerned with planning and licensing, or to any matter which is vexatious, discriminatory or not reasonable to be included in the agenda;
 - Overview and scrutiny committees may hold inquiries and produce reports;

- Committees may require executive members and officers of the authority to appear before them. Individuals from outside the council can be invited, but not compelled to attend (except with regard to Health Services);
- Overview and scrutiny reports must receive a response from the council executive within two months;
- Overview and scrutiny committees cannot oblige the executive, the council or external bodies to act upon their findings.

- 1.7 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 legislated that each authority must appoint at least one 'scrutiny officer' although it made no provision for dedicated staff or financial resources for the overview and scrutiny role. The 'scrutiny officer' does not have to be a dedicated post, and may be combined with other responsibilities.

External Scrutiny

- 1.8 The 2000 Act provided for a system of overview and scrutiny which was directed solely at the internal functions of the council. However, many committees set up under the new arrangements covered policy areas spanning both the council and other public bodies, and thus began to take an interest in matters outside their council's direct control. This form of overview and scrutiny, which examines the influence of other public and private bodies in a policy area of interest to the council has become known as 'external scrutiny'.
- 1.9 External scrutiny demands a different dynamic from scrutiny of council functions. Councillors who have conducted an enquiry and drafted a report on council functions will be able to influence the outcome of the report through the council's procedures, and potentially through their party group. Councillors have no such direct influence over external bodies. It follows that external scrutiny relies on good relationships and joint working with external bodies to allow the councillors to influence other organisations' behaviour.
- 1.10 Overview and scrutiny committees have accumulated a number of powers to undertake 'external scrutiny' of specific additional bodies. These have been enacted through legislative changes such as the NHS Act 2006 which requires Local Authorities to set up Health Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.11 Many local authorities in the UK continue to struggle with the implementation of scrutiny arrangements. Executives do not have a great incentive to firstly grant, and secondly protect, the powers that scrutiny needs to be effective. As such common sense needs to be applied in discerning what balance of power is in the interest of the local residents and to ensure that this is achieved. The legislation relies on a culture of 'fair-play' and 'reasonableness' that it is in everyone's interest to uphold.

Scrutiny in Plymouth

- I.12 The form and function of scrutiny at Plymouth City Council has changed and developed over the years since its initial implementation and since 2013 the work of scrutiny in Plymouth has been coordinated by the Co-operative Scrutiny Board. As required under rules of proportionality this Board has cross party representation and is currently chaired by a member from a different political group to the Leader of the Council.
- I.13 The City Council appoints members to form the Co-operative Scrutiny Board and the four scrutiny panels that the Board manages. The panels include councillors from all political groups as well as a number of statutory and non-statutory co-opted representatives.
- I.14 The Cabinet and Council can ask scrutiny to undertake reviews on its behalf, although ultimately scrutiny determines its own work programme and the issues that it will review.
- I.15 There are currently four scrutiny panels made up of councillors, statutory and non-statutory co-opted representatives. The four scrutiny panels are:
- Ambitious Plymouth
 - Caring Plymouth
 - Working Plymouth
 - Your Plymouth
- I.16 The four scrutiny panels have their own terms of reference (found in the Constitution) to ensure that work between panels is focused, relevant to the priorities of the Council and not duplicated.
- I.17 The work scrutiny function should reflect the Council's corporate priorities, as set out in the current Corporate Plan. Members of each scrutiny panel have the opportunity at the beginning of each year, and at each panel meeting, to submit suggestions for topics to be reviewed by the scrutiny panels.
- I.18 Selecting the right issues for a scrutiny work programme has historically been a challenge. To make the best use of panel members' time and to achieve measurable results for scrutiny work, the function is required to prioritise its work load in an environment of reducing resources.
- I.19 At the start of each municipal year each panel is provided with an update on the challenges, priorities and issues that are expected over the next 12 months for the Directorate and service areas that each panel is responsible for. This information is provided by senior officers and Cabinet members and partner organisations. It provides a good basis for each panel to identify issues to be suggested for inclusion in the work programmes.

- I.20 Following the election in 2015 a working arrangement under which The Chair of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board and the Chairs of the Scrutiny Panels will be held by the largest opposition group (Conservative) and Vice-Chairs held by the largest group (Labour). This working arrangement has been a key driver of the current review of scrutiny.

Summary of 2014/15

- I.21 Following a comprehensive review of agendas and minutes we have found that in 2014/15 the committee room time allotted to scrutiny was 13.5 working days. This time did not account for report, agenda and minute preparation or any other preparatory work such as research.
- I.22 During this period scrutiny made 13 actionable recommendations¹ from 58 hours spent in business meetings (£541 per recommendation) and 57 actionable recommendations from 37 hours in Co-operative Reviews, including budget scrutiny (£77 per recommendation)². The break-down of recommendations (actionable and non-actionable) is detailed below.

I.23		Administrative (work programme, terms of reference etc.)	Agreed recommended course of action	Noted Report	Required action outside scrutiny
	Panel Business Meetings	81%	7%	7%	5%
	Scrutiny Reviews	9%	35%	6%	50%

- I.24 Given the lack of an appropriate tracking mechanism it is difficult to evaluate the impact of actionable recommendations. However recommendations were agreed by an acted upon by the Cabinet in relation to Budget Scrutiny 2015 and Co-operative Reviews into Problem Debt and the Transformation Programme.
- I.25 To support the scrutiny process during this period 218 reports were written and provided to scrutiny members within agendas which in total resulted in approximately 40,000 printed pages costing approximately £5,000. (this figure does not include supplementary paper work such as printed copies of presentations etc).

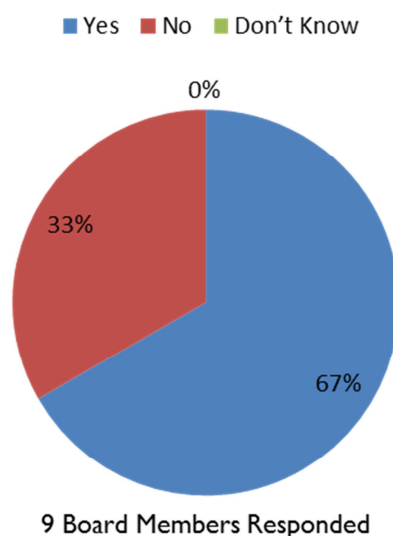
¹ These actions were capable of being acted upon by a body other than the originating panel.

² Estimated figures based on £120 per hour (Total membership allowances, one Democratic Support Officer and Panel Lead officer + 25% on costs)

2 What do our members think of the Status Quo?

- 2.1 At the beginning of the 2014-15 municipal year members of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board met informally to discuss the previous year's work and how to take scrutiny further in the future. Before the meeting members of the Board undertook a short survey³ on which to base their discussions.
- 2.2 Overall members of the Board agreed that Scrutiny in Plymouth provided a 'critical friend' challenge to the executive, reflected the voice and concerns of the local community and making an impact on the delivery of public services.⁴
- 2.3 All members agreed that opportunities were available for scrutiny to question cabinet members, challenge the executive and that financial priorities and how they met corporate objectives were effectively scrutinised.
- 2.4 However, opinions were split on the questions of public involvement and executive challenge.

Does Scrutiny effectively challenge the Executive?



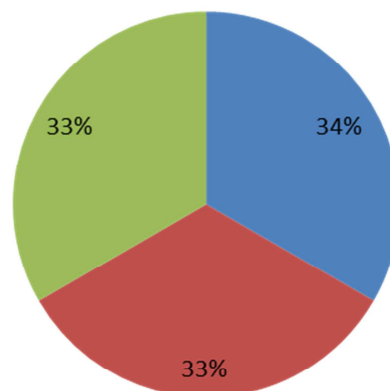
- 2.5 Members felt that Cabinet members did not respect the function as essential for local accountability and democracy. Some felt that executive members were active in preventing items being included on scrutiny agendas until the last possible minute, preventing meaningful pre-decision scrutiny which could enhance the policy development process.
- 2.6 Concerns about the impact of scrutiny were also raised as illustrated below.

³ Based on the Centre for Public Scrutiny Self-Assessment

⁴ Centre for Public Scrutiny: Principles for Effective Scrutiny

Has Scrutiny had a direct impact on the work of the Executive?

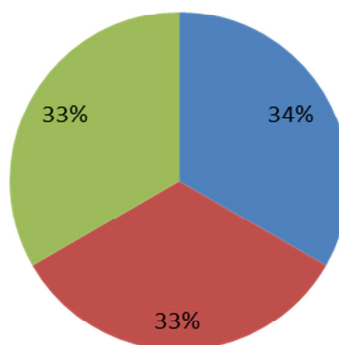
■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know



9 Board Members Responded

Has a Cabinet Member had a change of mind on a decision due to Scrutiny?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know

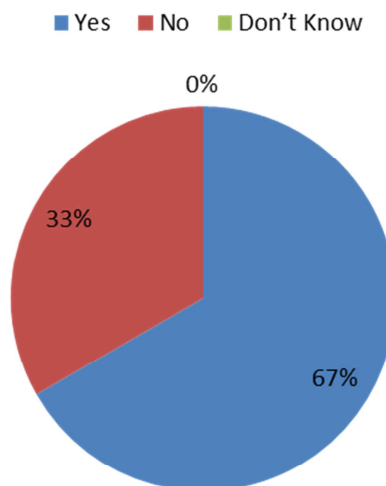


9 Board Members Responded

- 2.7 Whilst these results may suggest an executive which is unwilling to listen or act upon the views of the Scrutiny function, members were clear that further development of the skills and capability of members involved in scrutiny was required to ensure that scrutiny recommendations were relevant, appropriate and therefore had impact on the decision making of the executive.
- 2.8 Public involvement and communication continued to be a cause for concern of

many scrutiny members.

Does Scrutiny make itself accessible to the public?



9 Board Members Responded

- 2.9 Members felt that successful internal communication is critical to getting all parts of the organisation involved with the scrutiny process. It was also felt that external communication needed the same care in order to communicate the successes of scrutiny and develop its role to reflect the voice of the people. Members highlighted that the review of scrutiny must look at how members of the public can both access scrutiny and suggest items for its forward work programme.

3 **Peer Review**

- 3.1 As part of our review process we asked, via the Centre for Public Scrutiny website, for Officers and Elected members across the country to view a webcast meeting of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board and provide feedback on the meeting via an online survey.
- 3.2 The webcast meeting took place on the 19th August 2015. The agenda included the Corporate Plan Performance report and the Capital and Revenue monitoring report.
- 3.3 The webcast was viewed by around 75 people and we received 11 responses from Local Government Officers and Members from around the country to our short survey.
- 3.4 Overall responses were generally positive, most respondents agreed that members contributed to the success of the meeting and that the opinions of all members were taken into consideration when offered.
- 3.5 Respondents also agreed that the time allotted to each agenda item and that the general pace of the meeting was appropriate. Respondents found that the agenda papers were easily accessible and were useful.
- 3.6 However the survey suggested that we still have work to do. 45% of respondents believed that there was little evidence of scrutiny of financial priorities and 72% felt that the meeting did not offer robust challenge.
- 3.7 The results of this survey are not based on a statistically valid sample size and are reflective of only a single meeting. However the survey does support some of the views held by members involved in scrutiny and suggests that change may be required to further strengthen the scrutiny function.

4 Review of Scrutiny

- 4.1 Following the development of the working arrangement at Plymouth City Council an opportunity arose to strengthen the role of the scrutiny function. The review sought to identify where changes to Plymouth City Council scrutiny function may enhance the process of open, transparent and democratic decision making.
- 4.2 The City Council will continue to experience significant sustained change which requires many new and innovative approaches to service delivery. The development of effective scrutiny arrangements for new delivery vehicles which may result will be a key focus in Plymouth over the coming years and the scrutiny function will also need to continue to respond to the changes introduced through national legislation.
- 4.3 Any changes to the scrutiny function will need to include the requirement to take into account the views of the public, and the ability to form joint overview and scrutiny committees with one or more local authorities.

Scope of Review

- 4.4 The scope of our review included customers, processes, services, products and technology aligned with the scrutiny function and included –
- 4.5
- Scrutiny Processes and Procedures
 - Members Development and Training
 - Democratic Support
 - HR and OD
 - Scrutiny lead officers
 - Statutory Lead Officer role
- 4.8 The establishment of the review satisfied an undertaking in the working arrangement agreed by the City's largest political parties.

Methodology

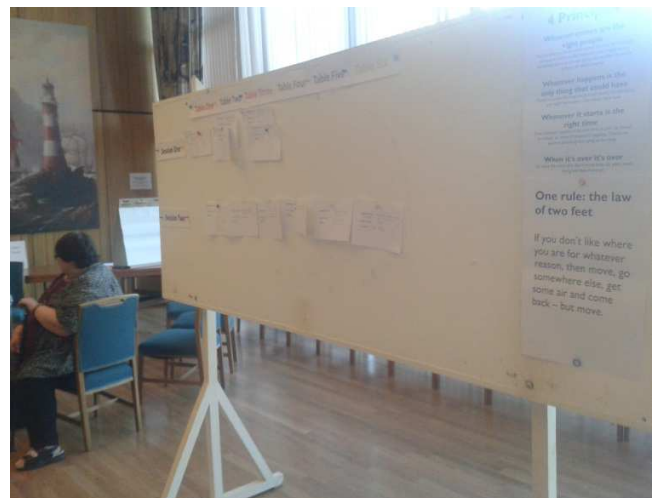
- 4.9 A new approach has been required in developing the recommendations for this review. Scrutiny is a member led process as such the methodology for this review has put members at the centre of the process.
- 4.10 We have attempted to use a number of new and existing tools such as nominal group technique, Open Space and World Café⁵ in addition to the standard processes of review meetings.

⁵ <http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/docs/The%20Art%20of%20Change%20Making.pdf>

- 4.11 The review has also used the technology with the Council House and the online surveys to assist in the development of recommendations.

5 What's the point of scrutiny?

- 5.1 The first meeting of the review was aimed to discuss the purpose of scrutiny and to develop a view of what good scrutiny seeks to achieve, what it would look like and how we and the public could recognise it.
- 5.2 We considered that this question (What's the point of scrutiny?), if answered, could provide a shared understanding of the purpose of Scrutiny and provide a foundation on which to build the rest of the review.
- 5.3 Such a complex question, and one which many members had not had a previous opportunity on which to comment, demanded a new way of attempting an answer.
- 5.4 Led by the Chair, the Board invited all elected members, the council's senior management team and other officers from across the council to take part in an 'Open Space' event. The purpose of the event was to identify where changes to Plymouth City Council scrutiny function may enhance the process of open, transparent and democratic decision making and offers participants a chance to discuss, in an informal setting, their understanding of scrutiny and make suggestions for the future.
- 5.5 In Open Space events participants create and manage their own agenda of parallel working sessions around a central theme. Open Space is a powerful tool for engaging large groups of people in discussions to explore particular questions or issues.
- 5.6 Although it is true that an Open Space event has no pre-determined agenda, it must have an overall structure or framework. This framework is not intended to tell people what to do and when, instead it creates a supportive environment in which the participants can solve those issues for themselves.





5.7 The attendees undertook the following process -

- **Welcome from Chair and Lead Officer**
 - We placed everybody in a circle and welcomed them with a description of the session. Sitting in a circle placed everyone equally. It changed dynamics, removed positions of power and allowed everyone to speak and be heard.
- **The bulletin board**
 - Everyone in the room was asked to post anything and everything they would like to talk about on the bulletin board which was provided in the room.
- **Open the market place**
 - The person who posted the idea for discussion persuaded people asked people to join them.

5.8 During the process attendees agreed to adhere to the following guiding principles⁶ –

- **Whoever came to the session were the right people**
 - The fact that they came showed that they cared enough to want to work on the issue and cared enough to do something about it.
- **Whatever happens is the only thing that could have**
 - There was no point thinking about could haves, should haves and might have beens.
- **Whenever it started was the right time**
 - True creativity happens in its own time, it can't be forced or rushed, so when it happens it happens.
- **When it's over it's over**
 - Do what needs doing and then move on.

5.9 Attendees also agreed to abide by one rule: **the law of two feet**⁷ –

⁶ <http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/docs/The%20Art%20of%20Change%20Making.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/docs/The%20Art%20of%20Change%20Making.pdf>

- If you don't like where you are for whatever reason, then move, go somewhere else. We had to ensure people owned their own learning, they could not be forced or pressured and they must want it.

5.10 Over 30 people, both members and officers, attended the session from across the council. We had many suggestions for group sessions, but 6 questions were chosen by the group for further discussion and resulted in some valuable conversations.

How do we ensure good quality debate?

5.11 Conversations in this group focused around –

- Whether the quality of paperwork / information provided was good enough on which to base debate and recommendations. It was felt that often information had been filtered down through a number of different processes which resulted in only a small amount of information to be scrutinised.
- The capacity and capability of scrutiny panel members. This was informed by what was seen as a lack of focus on issues presented at scrutiny with often irrelevant lines of enquiry being pursued.
- The number of panels meant that scrutiny members did not prioritise appropriately, which could lead to discussion of “pet projects”
- That whilst party “whipping” was not present within scrutiny, many members still felt unable to challenge the party line stifling debate.

Is there an alternative to scrutiny?

5.12

- It was not felt that there was an alternative arrangement to scrutiny, however during this discussion it was considered important to make scrutiny more accessible.

How can the local community be involved?

5.13 Conversations in this group focused around –

- What is a community? It was felt that the scrutiny function required a clearer understanding of what a community was and subsequently how communities could be targeted.
- Profile – It was felt that scrutiny did not have sufficient public profile which made it difficult to represent the views of local residents through the process.
- Panels – it was felt that communities did not understand what the panels were for, it was felt that in the main the panels were not effective and smaller, focused task and finish groups provided improved results on

issues that members of the public care about.

How much scrutiny before scrutiny?

- 5.14
- This discussion considered whether scrutiny members received the full story when presented information when at scrutiny.
 - It also considered whether scrutiny could provide an opportunity for officers to say what could be done differently to improve services.

The scrutiny process

- 5.15
- This discussion included a number of process considerations, including –
 - Membership of scrutiny reviews
 - Creation and ownership of agenda and work programmes
 - Refresher for panel members at start of municipal year
 - Timing of reports
 - Flexible meeting times
 - Meetings in the community
 - Webcasting

How do we evaluate scrutiny?

- 5.16 This group considered that –
- Panel meetings don't always appear 'achieve' anything a lot of items can be for information only and don't have any obvious impact on the citizens of Plymouth.
 - There was no tracking system in place for recommendations that come out of business meetings.
 - There is no solid methodology for filtering what is actually considered at a business meeting or even for review.

Recommendations

- 5.17 All of the group leaders were asked to feedback the outcomes of the discussion to form the basis for recommendations within this report.

6 Councillors Learning and Development - Rights and Responsibilities

- 6.1 Ensuring that individuals involved in the scrutiny process have the right skills and competencies is a key element of preparing for effective scrutiny. This is not limited to those involved in supporting and providing information to scrutiny committees, but also applies to scrutineers themselves. Access to training for scrutiny members that is focused on need positively supports effective scrutiny. Both the Scrutiny Peer Review and ‘What’s the Point of Scrutiny?’ event suggested that strong scrutiny skills such as chairing and questioning skills were less evident and needed to be improved.
- 6.2 The Board met in October to discuss their rights and responsibilities in relation to learning and development. This session was planned to have been delivered in through the ‘World Café’ but unfortunately due to a low level of attendance that was not possible. During the session the Board considered the following questions –
- 6.3
- What learning and development do you need to challenge more effectively in a safe and respectful way?
 - How do you strike a balance between effective challenge and support?
 - What are the risks of challenging too much or not enough?
 - What kind of practical training do you think you may need?
 - How can you build your own knowledge base?
 - What do you need to know?
 - When do you need to know it?
 - How much should you be expected to know about the work of the panel?
 - How much should you expect to know about the system of scrutiny?
 - How we evaluate the effectiveness of the learning and development activities undertaken by Members?
 - How can we measure the impact on individual councillors?
 - How can we measure the impact of the work of the panels and board?
 - How will we know what we are doing is right?
- 6.4 During the discussion the following comments were made –
- Working councillors did not have the time to read long agenda reports.
 - Agenda reports needed to be shorter, in plain English, with an executive summary.
 - If agenda reports did not meet these criteria, Chairs should reject them.
 - Late agenda reports should also be rejected by Chairs. If Chairs were

aware of the schedule of dates when reports were due, they could take an active role in chasing them.

6.5 It was noted that on occasion agenda reports needed to be detailed in order to tackle complex issues; the alternative was a risk of challenge to the legitimacy of decisions, including judicial review. However, there was clearly a balance to be achieved.

6.6 The subsidiary issue of officers attending panel and Board meetings to talk to agenda reports was raised. Points considered included –

- Lead officers were likely to be more protective of their own departments.
- Officers talking to agenda reports were expected to be truthful but there was the possibility that they would tell councillors what they felt they wanted to know. Officers could be good at ‘spin’, focussing on the positives. As a result, councillors might experience difficulty in identifying any negatives and challenging them effectively.
- Panels/Chairs could consider making a formal challenge when officers did not attend to talk to reports or expected reports did not appear as agenda items.
- Meetings for panel training were traditionally not well attended, and the pros and cons of either holding them half an hour before the start of the actual meeting or on an earlier day were explored.
- Holding pre meets with a multidisciplinary team was proposed, as this would better enable lines of enquiry to be identified for members to pursue at the meeting itself.

6.7 During the discussion on training the following points were made –

- Training should not be restricted to classroom training at specific times, which traditionally had a number of drawbacks. There were other training delivery methods, such as e-learning, shadowing and briefing reports, that could usefully be explored.
- Councillors felt that holding training sessions at weekends was not viable.

6.8 Evaluating the success of training and other measures to improve the effectiveness of scrutiny could be undertaken by –

- Recording if there was an increase in scrutiny challenge.
- Implementing a range of relevant, cost-effective training.
- The scrutiny annual report reflecting the effectiveness and impact of improvement measures.

Recommendations

- 6.9 The outcomes of these discussions form the basis for recommendations within this report.

7 Scrutiny Support Arrangements

7.1 Scrutineers are charged with a wide range of activities, including holding decision-makers to account, informing policy, and performance review. Given the complexity of the public sector, it is clear that the different groups of people engaged as scrutineers work all require adequate support in order to work most effectively, and to focus their limited time on activities where they will be of the most value.

7.2 The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) undertakes a survey of local authority scrutiny annually. It has reported that in 2014-15 scrutiny capacity and resources are in decline.

7.3 The CfPS reported that -

- The average full time equivalent officer support for Scrutiny at Local Authorities in the municipal year of 2014/15 was 1.87.
- 19 of 271 respondents provided no policy support to councillors performing a scrutiny role at all
- Only 43% of councils reported having one or more dedicated scrutiny officers, the lowest level in a decade.
- 22% of respondents expected scrutiny resources to decline⁸

7.4 CfPS are concerned with the continued declining resources dedicated to scrutiny, and state -

“Inevitably, it fails to take into account the unique skillset required by dedicated scrutiny officers, and risks officers’ time for scrutiny support being “crowded out” by work for the executive, to say nothing of the potential for conflicts of interest between executive, and non-executive, support.”

7.5 In order to learn from members what level of support would enable them to carry out their scrutiny role we held a short workshop session. During this session we discussed two issues; Support Arrangements and Public Engagement which is covered in the next section. Using an augmented World Café process we encouraged a structured conversation by asking members to outline what the best and worst scenario would be and given the currently financial restraints on the authority what other form support could take.

7.6 Worst Scenario

- No ‘buy in’ from Cabinet
- No influence
- No power to request attendance

⁸http://www.cfps.org.uk/domains/cfps.org.uk/local/media/downloads/CfPS_Annual_Survey_2015_WEB_1.pdf

- No officer support
- No budget

7.7 Best Scenario

- Dedicated support - lead officer, two democratic support officers, Policy, Performance and Partnerships and Research Assistants
- High quality training
- PA for Chairs
- Full tracking of effectiveness of recommendations

7.8 The conversations held have highlighted a requirement develop the capability of the scrutiny functions by providing policy, performance, financial and communication support.

7.9 Direction and content of scrutiny work should ideally be driven by the members themselves. The role of officers is to facilitate this, providing evidence and support which adds value to the discussions held and recommendations made at scrutiny.

Multidisciplinary Approach

7.10 A future arrangement may include a multidisciplinary approach. This approach is an inter-professional working arrangement which has been recognised, particularly in healthcare, as playing a key role in ensuring that all aspects of service users' needs are properly considered and then providing appropriate advice and/or interventions.

7.11 Given the wide ranging brief of scrutiny such an approach should be utilised to ensure that scrutiny members have access to the information and advice they require in order to perform the scrutiny role.

7.12 A flexible Multi-disciplinary Team wrapped around scrutiny could enable a variety of skillsets to support scrutiny and provide horizon scanning and the ability to provide objective, evidence-based analysis of complex information and translate this into accessible information and advice for the scrutiny function.

7.13 This approach has the potential to provide a wraparound service to the scrutiny function, increasing the capacity of scrutiny members to deliver a member led, evidence based scrutiny function with robust outcomes.

Recommendations

7.14 The outcomes of these discussions form the basis for recommendations within this report.

8 Public Engagement

- 8.1 The Annual Audit of Political Engagement is produced by the Hansard Society. Now in its 12th year it provides a benchmark to gauge public attitudes to politics and the political process across Great Britain.
- 8.2 In 2014 it was reported that the proportion of people who are prepared to participate in action through a political process has declined significantly. Only 69% would be prepared to take action if they felt strongly about an issue compared to 80% in 2013 and 78% in 2012.
- 8.3 This national dip in willingness to participate when combined with the decline in the level of influence people feel they have over decision-making at the local level (see below) has been seen as a worrying development . Given that people's first practical experience of politics tends to be at the local rather than national level, disempowerment could drive disengagement from a range of political activities beyond just voting.⁹
- 8.4 At the national level just 20% of people feel that they have at least 'some influence' over local decision-making. This indicator has declined six percentage points between 2013 and 2014 and now stands at the lowest level ever recorded in the Audit series. This decline in perceived influence is particularly marked among older respondents age 55 and above.
- 8.5 Mirroring this decline in perceived influence, fewer people also want to be involved in decision-making in their local area, declining five percentage points to 38%.
- 8.6 If delivered effectively, scrutiny could offer an avenue to amplify the voice and concerns of the public. Public engagement through the scrutiny function could improve the evidence base for decision making whilst increasing public accountability and act as an advocate for the local community.
- 8.7 As with Scrutiny Support arrangements, in order to learn from members what kind of Public Engagement would be appropriate for Scrutiny and how it could be delivered we undertook a workshop exercise. Using an augmented World Café process we encouraged a structured conversation by asking members to outline what the best and worst scenario would be.
- 8.8 **Worst Scenario**
 - Public discussion already taking place through online Social Networks, without an established online presence we have no right of reply
 - No faith in message
 - No engagement at all

⁹ <http://www.auditofpoliticalengagement.org/media/reports/Audit-of-Political-Engagement-12-2015.pdf>

8.9 **Best Scenario**

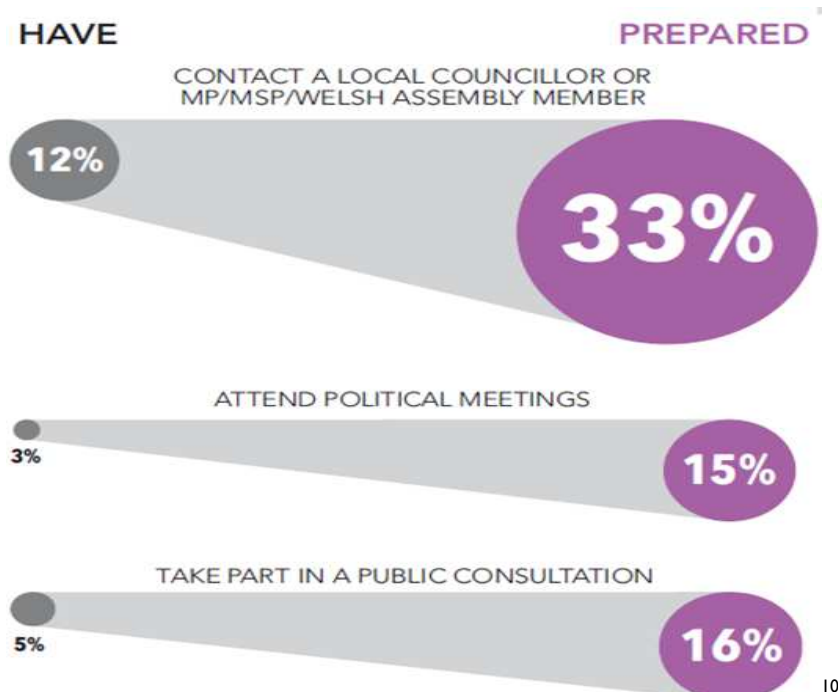
- Public Drive Agenda
- Issues Interest the Public
- Use social networks
- Improved authority of message
- User friendly scrutiny web page
- Training in technology
- Real time engagement with meetings
- We use partners networks
- Dedicated communication officers
- E-mail newsletter
- Publication in mainstream press
- Relevant to community
- Out in the community
- Big Screen
- Community Agenda Item
- Established Social Media Presence

8.10 Members felt that many of the “Best Scenario” suggestions could be delivered quickly and within current resources. Members suggested that engaging communities did not necessarily mean geographic communities and that meaningful enagement across the city on issues shared by wards could be delivered through greater use of online platforms.

8.11 Members also expressed concern that current routes for engagement such as councillor “call for action” and petitions were overly beauracratc and focused on single issues or areas. It was felt that these beauracratc processes led to a negative demand, “turning the public off” from enagement in local accountability. Members felt that that the scrutiny function could become more flexible in the way it works by embracing new technologies.

8.12 Why social media?

Political Activities :Actual and Potential



- 8.13 As the above diagram indicates there are significant groups of people who are prepared to engage with the political process. A simple and cost effective way to convert those prepared to engage into active participants may be the further use of online social networks within the scrutiny function.
- 8.14 In 2014, 38 million adults (76% of adults) in Great Britain accessed the Internet every day, 21 million more than in 2006. 22 million households (84%) had internet access in 2014, up from 57% in 2006 and fixed broadband Internet connections were used by 91% of households.¹¹
- 8.15 There are now vast levels of access to the internet by the public and an opportunity exists as a by-product of this increased usage. Web-based technologies provide a platform for open political participation and direct democracy outside of traditional hierarchies and bureaucratic processes.
- 8.16 The internet reduces the costs of becoming politically informed, it provides the means to influencing politicians and the public at large. It is now possible to present similar material to that disseminated by other means (traditional media etc), but at a higher speed and with higher flexibility for users to pick

¹⁰ <http://tinyurl.com/h6ckwkq>

¹¹ <http://tinyurl.com/nw2z2ow>

the topics of interest.

8.17 10 reasons to consider social media –

- It boosts the number of people we can reach when talking about the good work
- It allows for two way communication so immediate feedback can be received
- It allows us to connect with people who perhaps cannot give up the time to come to meetings
- It could widen involvement in the work of scrutiny
- It could help to bring a community around a specific issue
- Its simple and cost effective
- It would help us gather evidence for our reviews
- It overcomes council formality
- It engage people in issues that really matter
- It could provide interactivity for our webcasts

8.18 Social media platforms which could benefit scrutiny –

8.19 **Blogging:** For news sharing and comments from the scrutiny function

Swansea Scrutiny Bulletin Board Y diweddraf gan y Tîm Craffu
Updates from the Scrutiny Team Hysbysfwrdd Craffu Abertawe



Scrutiny shoots and scores

November 13, 2015 by Delyth Davies [Leave a Comment](#)



The [CSSIW](#) has just told us that our scrutiny of [child & family services](#) and [adult services](#) is doing all right, well, its more than all right, we have "effective and well managed" scrutiny arrangements!

8.20 **Twitter:** For signposting, news and quick conversations



8.21 **Facebook:** For reaching the public, polling for agenda items etc



Recommendations

- 8.22 Given the polar opposites of each scenario members were able to suggest a number of alternative options. The outcomes of these discussions form the

basis for recommendations.

Recommendations

Panel business meetings were not seen as effective as the work programmes are diffuse leading to lack of clarity on what should be scrutinised, when, how and what value is being added to the work of the council. By reducing the number of panels we introduce the concept of supply and demand into the scrutiny function. The reduced “supply” of seats on committees will increase the demand from members to be engaged, focus the work programme, driving up the impact and efficiency of decision making within the scrutiny function.

- R1** The number of panels should be rationalised down to either option A, B or C (detailed at appendix i) on a bi-monthly cycle. This will enable more robust prioritisation of matters for consideration. This new structure would be underpinned by “Select Committees” to deliver in depth reviews.
- R2** An effective methodology for the evaluation of issues for discussion through the Board/ and the “select committee” format should be developed.

To support the above recommendations in achieving better outcomes from the scrutiny function the following recommendations are made.

- R3** Members of a rationalised scrutiny function to take a more pro-active role in informing their own knowledge base and taking an active role in developing a scrutiny specific programme of member development.
- R4** A Multi-disciplinary approach should be taken to support scrutiny. A team around scrutiny should be developed to develop capability within the scrutiny functions with a specific focus on Policy, Performance, Finance and Communications.
- R5** A programme of training for the Board/s should be identified and included with the annual calendar of meetings. Subjects might include questioning skills, chairing skills and financial literacy.
- R6** Attendance statistics for training should be published on the council website in the same manner as attendance statistics for committee meetings.
- R7** Chair of scrutiny Board/s should come from the largest minority group reflecting the status quo and national best practice. This should be enshrined within the constitution.
- R8** Criteria to be agreed for attendance at external learning events, including the establishment of a discretionary fund.
- R9** Alternative training delivery methods such as eLearning and shadowing to be explored by the Member Development Group.

- R10** Establish a publically available tracking system for recommendations from scrutiny.
- R11** Where possible, agenda reports should be more concise than at present, written in plain English and including an executive summary.
- R12** Late agenda reports should not be accepted by Board/s Chair/s.
- R13** Establish a process which ensures that issues raised by local people with ward councillors can be considered through the scrutiny process.
- R14** Community agenda items voted for via a Social Media platform to be included in the work the Board/s.
- R15** Increase the use of social media before, during and following scrutiny meetings.
- R16** Scrutiny Boards should be entirely paperless, with members provided appropriate technology and training to enable this.
- R17** Webcast all meetings of the Board/s.

Appendix i

OPTION A

Do nothing and retain the status quo

There has been a number of changes during this municipal year to strengthen the scrutiny function, these include –

- Greater flexibility to arrange extra meetings without having to complete bureaucratic paperwork
- Cooperative Scrutiny Board requiring Panels to carefully manage workloads through the scrutiny of Corporate Plan deliverables
- Webcasting
- Calls for Evidence to support the Co-operative Review process

The Annual Report of scrutiny also highlighted particular successes in 2014/15 including scrutiny of the Transformation Programme, Problem Debt and Customer Service reviews, mostly delivered via the Co-operative Review process.

However the perception of the current Scrutiny function is not held in high regard. Opinions gathered during the preparation of this report suggests that challenge within the function is not robust and that the function could achieve more with regard to policy development and the impact on delivery of council services as a result of recommendations.

Elements of the function are seen to be strong; in particular, the focused nature of “Co-operative Reviews” has led to a number of recommendations for action and currently delivers the most efficient use of resource in the scrutiny.

Maintaining the current approach taken by the Council will continue to see the scrutiny process carried out, although the function will not fully embrace opportunities to further engage with the public and partners and will risk the quality outcomes a more focused approach could deliver.

The opportunities outlined in the recommendations made by the review would apply to this option and are likely to strengthen the overall function, but would require additional officer support.

Option B**Co-operative Scrutiny Board and Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Board**

Two Boards covering the following areas -

Co-operative Scrutiny	Health and Wellbeing
Corporate Policy Development Corporate Communications Human Resources ICT Business Continuity and Civil Protection Revenue Budget Capital Programme Strategic Procurement Corporate Property Transformation and Change Management Child Poverty Welfare Reform Development planning Highways and Car Parking Plymouth and Peninsula City Deal Regional and local economic strategy Social enterprise support Strategic Housing Delivery Sustainable Transport policies and strategies Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Waste management, recycling and street scene Climate change and sustainability Services Licensing	Adult and Children's Health Drug and Alcohol Services Integrated Health and Social Care (Commissioning and Delivery) Learning Disability Services Health Services Older people's services Personalisation Physical Disability Services Public Health Children's Social Care Adoption and Fostering Early years Development Education Grants Leisure management and Sports Development Safeguarding Schools and Colleges Youth Services Anti-social behaviour Community safety Public protection service Community and neighbourhood development Community cohesion, equalities and fairness Green spaces, Culture, Heritage and Events (to include Mayflower 2020) Homelessness and Housing
This Board would consider call in and councillors call for action.	The Board will undertake statutory NHS and community safety partnership scrutiny functions. This Board would consider call in and councillors call for action.

Membership and Special Responsibility Allowance

Proportional membership based on 11 members. Special Responsibility allowance payable to Chair and Vice Chair of both Boards. Due to changes to the role and

responsibilities of members this would need to be reviewed by the Independent Remuneration Panel which could result in a responsibility payment for all members of both Boards given the emphasis placed on “Select Committee” style work.

Urgent Decisions

Chair of each Board would be expected to sign urgent decisions within the Board’s terms of reference.

Call-ins / Call for Action

Each Board would consider call-ins and councillors’ call for action based on the terms of reference of each Board.

Frequency

Boards would need to meet bi-monthly to deal with what is likely to be a substantial work programme.

Reviews

Reviews to be conducted within current processes; however Chair of reviews must be members of the relevant scrutiny Board.

Support

Support as detailed within the support to scrutiny section of the report.

Option C

Co-operative Scrutiny Management Board

Single Scrutiny Management Board which plans and commissions time-limited task and finish groups and reviews.

Areas of work for reviews could be suggested by members of the public and all Members via online tool.

Membership and Special Responsibility Allowance

Proportional membership based on 11 members. Special Responsibility allowance payable to Chair and Vice Chair of the Board. Due to changes to the role and responsibilities of members this would need to be reviewed by the Independent Remuneration Panel which could result in a responsibility payment for all members of the Board given the emphasis placed on “Select Committee” style work.

Urgent Decisions

Sign off of urgent decisions to remain with the Chair.

Call-ins / Call for Action

The Board would consider call-ins and councillors’ call for action.

Frequency

The Board would meet monthly with programmed provisional meetings to deal with what is likely to be a substantial work programme.

Reviews

Reviews to be conducted within current processes; however Chair of reviews must be a member of the Co-operative Scrutiny Management Board.

Support

Support as detailed within the support to scrutiny section of the report.

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EU REFERENDUM

Co-operative Scrutiny Board



1. **Purpose of Report**
2. **Fiscal Impacts**
3. **Trade**
4. **Inward Investment**
5. **EU Regulation of Products and Markets**
6. **Inward Investment**
7. **Agriculture**
8. **Fisheries**
9. **Safety and Security**
10. **Conclusions and Recommendations**
- Appendices**

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 At Full Council on the 23 November 2015 a motion was debated and agreed to - *Ask the Chair of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board to create a cross party EU task group, including representatives from all parties, that will invite evidence from local business leaders, the LEP, trade unions, local universities, the police, the NHS, agricultural representatives, charities, district and parish councils and other partner agencies in order to compile a comprehensive report that will be presented to full Council, all partner agencies, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and be made available to the public prior to the referendum. The Co-operative Scrutiny Board is required under the constitution to undertake work as directed by Full Council.*
- 1.2 This report provides the findings of a session of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board into the advantages / disadvantages of European Union membership on the City of Plymouth.
- 1.3 Due to the Budget Scrutiny process the request was agreed by the Board on the 17th February 2016.
- 1.4 In preparation for the session the Board invited local representatives to provide evidence on the advantages / disadvantages of EU membership for Plymouth. Requests were made to representatives of –
 - Other Local Authorities
 - Blue Light Emergency Services
 - National Health Service
 - Voluntary and Community Sector
 - Universities and Higher Education
 - The Business Community
 - Fisheries and Agriculture
- 1.6 In addition all members of the Council were invited to submit evidence and take part in the scrutiny process and to distribute the call for evidence amongst their networks.
- 1.7 As a result of the Call for Evidence two written submissions were provided. Submissions from the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Plymouth and Devon Chamber of Commerce are attached as appendices to this report. In addition the City Council's Economic Development service was asked to prepare a short report as outlined in the Project Initiation Document and Full Council Motion.
- 1.8 In order to achieve a wider response to the call for evidence the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board agreed to post-pone the initial meeting in February until early March 2016, during which time the Prime Minister concluded negotiations and the timing of the referendum was announced. The Board

agreed to meet on 2nd March 2016 to consider evidence put forward by witnesses and to receive information from council officers.

- 1.9 This report draws on the information provided at the meeting of the 2 March 2016 and the extensive *Reading list on UK-EU relations 2013-16: reform, renegotiation and withdrawal*¹.

2. Fiscal Impacts

- 2.1 It is almost impossible to quantify the advantages and disadvantages of EU membership for Plymouth in monetary terms.
- 2.2 It is not possible to extrapolate fiscal data down to a local level as figures relating to national contributions and receipts are only available at national or regional level. For example, European Social Fund allocations are only available at a regional level and there is no further project data available publicly. Similarly we are unable to obtain local data for other European funds such as INTERREG or FP 7 (Europe's research programme).
- 2.3 Data on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investments in the last programme round (2007-2013) for the South West are available publically. From this data it was possible to identify projects that were primarily based in Plymouth (Appendix 1) and as such have benefitted Plymouth.
- 2.4 Further to this, ERDF has funded several programmes which targeted the whole South West region, meaning that while not exclusively aimed at Plymouth or located in Plymouth, Plymouth businesses were able to participate and benefit from these projects. The investments presented in Appendix 2 show these regional-wide ERDF funded programmes.
- 2.5 Without project data from each project it is impossible to identify to what extent Plymouth's businesses have benefitted from these programmes.

3 Trade

- 3.1 The UK has traditionally had strong trade links with Europe. Despite changes in the composition of the global economy, the EU in 2015 accounted for 43.9% of UK exports of goods and services, and 53.4% of UK imports of goods and services². As the Eurozone economy continues to underperform against forecast, the proportion of British trade accounted for by the rest of the EU is falling.
- 3.2 Within the South West region dependency on trade with EU countries appears to be higher than nationally: 59.2% of all South West exports are to the EU (£8.2bn out of £13.8bn), compared with 45% nationally; 40% of SW imports are from the EU (£7.6bn out of £11.5bn).

3.3 South West Exports

	2014	2013	2012
EU	£8,180m	£8,015m	£7,465m
EU (%)	59.2%	58.6%	58.6%
Non-EU	£5,631m	£5,662m	£5,268m
Non-EU (%)	40.8%	41.4%	41.4%

South West Imports

	2014	2013	2012
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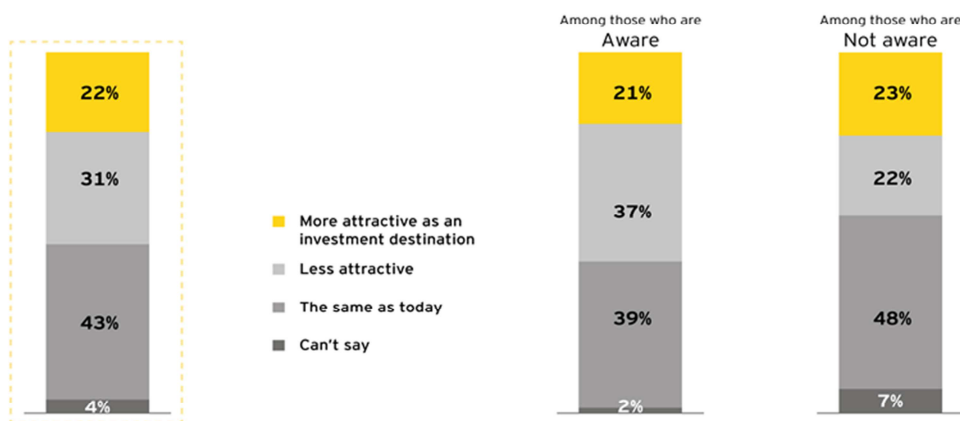
¹ <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7220/CBP-7220.pdf>

² Source: UK Regional Trade Statistics, HMRC 2015

EU	£7,626m	£7,750m	£7,093m
EU (%)	39.9%	39.9%	39.5%
Non-EU	£11,489m	£11,683m	£10,866m
Non-EU (%)	60.1%	60.1%	60.5%

4 Inward Investment

- 4.1 In their latest UK attractiveness survey, EY have highlighted that the UK remains the 4th most attractive Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) location in the world, after US, China and India and before any other European country.³
- 4.2 EU countries are an important source of FDI for the British economy. In 2014, the EU countries accounted for 46% of the United Kingdom's stock of inward foreign direct investment. However, inflows of foreign direct investment by EU countries have been slowing over recent years and more investment has been flowing in from non-EU countries.
- 4.3 Of the largest 20 companies by sales turnover registered in Plymouth (excluding education and government), 50% are owned in the UK and 50% are foreign owned. Of these half are owned by an EU company and the other half are subsidiaries of multinational US or Japanese firms.
- 4.4 72% of surveyed investors in the EY report stated that access to the European market was an important part of the UK's attractiveness. Furthermore, several foreign government leaders have named the UK as their preferred entry point to Europe and the European market⁴.
- 4.5 The extent to which a decision to leave the European Union will influence future FDI decisions is unclear and assessments regarding this are contested.⁵ Already the prospects of an EU referendum seem to have an impact on FDI, with 31% of investors stating they were likely to reduce or put on hold any investments before the EU referendum.⁶ When asked whether leaving the EU (while still maintaining access to the Single Market) would affect the UK's attractiveness, 22% believed it would be more attractive and 31% believed the UK would become less attractive as a FDI destination.⁷
- 4.6 If the UK did vote to leave the EU but retained access to the single market on similar terms as today but with no political links to the EU, would this make the UK more or less attractive as an FDI location, or the same as today?



Source: EY 2015 UK attractiveness survey

³ <http://www.ey.com/UK/en/Issues/Business-environment/2015-UK-attractiveness-survey>

⁴ http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/en/japanUK/governmental/130711_UKEU.html

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-33647154>

<http://www.cityam.com/228670/eu-referendum-indian-prime-minister-narendra-modi-says-uk-is-indias-entry-point-into-the-eu>

⁵ <http://assets.woodford.in/the-economic-impact-of-Brexit.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.ey.com/UK/en/Issues/Business-environment/2015-UK-attractiveness-survey>

⁷ <http://www.ey.com/UK/en/Issues/Business-environment/2015-UK-attractiveness-survey>

5. EU regulation of products and markets

- 5.1 The Board has not received evidence from local stakeholders on whether local businesses feel that EU regulations have a negative or positive impact on their business.
- 5.2 The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has stated in their report 'Our global future: the business vision for a reformed EU' that, "Despite frustrations with a number of specific pieces of legislation, the majority of CBI members continue to believe that the benefits of EU membership through enhanced market access and competitiveness outweigh the costs of regulation. 71% of CBI member companies reported that, on balance, the UK's membership of the EU has had a positive impact on their business – with over half (52%) saying that they had directly benefitted from the introduction of common standards. Only 15% suggested this had had a negative impact."⁸
- 5.3 Much of the UK's public procurement is regulated by the European Union. The rules which are summed up in terms such as OJEU⁹ and Alcatel¹⁰ are often criticised as being too bureaucratic and a barrier to buying British¹¹. Withdrawal from the EU may lead to such regulations disappearing however; the potential for public body decisions to be subject to judicial review will remain. As such public bodies are unlikely to be left to regulate themselves, and it is likely that the UK government would step in to provide regulation and the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 provides the opportunity to do so. In addition, if the UK was to exit the EU but negotiate to remain a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) bodies in the UK would continue to be subject to EU regulation but would be unlikely to be able to influence their review in 2024.¹²

6. Agriculture

- 6.1 The Board has not received evidence from local stakeholders regarding this issue.
- 6.2 Farms surrounding Plymouth, registered in PL1 to PL9 postcodes received £4.5million total payments under the CAP in 2014. Included within this were payments to Plymouth City Council of approx. £20k in Rural Payments and Market Schemes¹³.
- 6.3 The National Farmers Union has not established a position on the question of whether to leave or remain within the EU. The NFU in *UK Farming's Relationship with the EU*¹⁴ highlighted a number of industry benefits derived from EU membership including the Single Market, labour availability, market standards and the CAP's ability to protect Farmers from volatile markets and ensuring a fair income. Latest figures from Defra show that 55%¹⁵ of UK Total Income from Farming comes from CAP support payments.
- 6.4 The NFU are more critical of the UK rebate and suggest that the rebate causes reluctance on the part of the UK Government to draw down discretionary funds which results in the UK's share of the Rural Development Fund being one of the lowest of all member states.¹⁶
- 6.5 Withdrawal from the EU could allow the UK to negotiate bilateral trade deals with countries outside the EU and at the WTO which could have a positive economic impact; benefits would depend on the terms on which the UK joined a different trade area, if it chose to do so.¹⁷

7 Fisheries

- 7.1 The Board has not received evidence from local stakeholders regarding this issue.

⁸ <http://news.cbi.org.uk/reports/our-global-future/>

⁹ Official Journal of the European Union (S Series, Invitation to Tender)

¹⁰ Alcatel mandatory standstill period a period of at least ten calendar days following the notification of a contract award decision tendered via OJEU before the contract is signed

¹¹ <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7213/CBP-7213.pdf>

¹² <http://www.cips.org/en-gb/supply-management/analysis/2015/september/what-would-a-brexite-mean-for-public-procurement-in-the-uk/>

¹³ <http://cap-payments.defra.gov.uk/SearchResults.aspx?Page=1&Sort=ARuralDevelopmentTotal>

¹⁴ <http://www.nfuonline.com/assets/52824>

¹⁵ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/480012/agriaccounts-tiffstatsnotice-26nov15.pdf

¹⁶ <http://www.nfuonline.com/assets/52824>

¹⁷ <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7213/CBP-7213.pdf>

- 7.2 The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is the fund for the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014-2020. It is one of the five European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds which complement each other and seek to promote a growth and job based recovery in Europe. The fund attempts to –
- help fishermen in the transition to sustainable fishing
 - support coastal communities in diversifying their economies
 - finance projects that create new jobs and improve quality of life along European coasts
 - make it easier for applicants to access financing.¹⁸
- 7.3 Plymouth Fisheries is now the second largest fresh fish market in England and sustains over 600 direct and indirect jobs.¹⁹ A recent investment of £1.2million into facilities based at Sutton Harbour has been part-funded by grants totalling more than £500,000 from the European Fisheries Fund (EFF).²⁰
- 7.4 Total allowable catches (TACs) or fishing opportunities, are catch limits (expressed in tonnes or numbers) that are set for most commercial fish stocks. The Commission prepares the TAC proposals, based on scientific advice on the stock status from advisory bodies. TACs are set annually for most stocks (every two years for deep-sea stocks) by the Council of fisheries ministers. TACs are shared between EU countries in the form of national quotas. For each stock a different allocation percentage per EU country is applied for the sharing out of the quotas.²¹
- 7.5 EU countries have to use transparent and objective criteria when they distribute the national quota among their fishermen. They are responsible for ensuring that the quotas are not overfished. When all the available quota of a species is fished, the EU country has to close the fishery.²² In the UK management of quotas is delivered by the Marine Management Organisation, an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.²³
- 7.6 In December 2014 south west fisheries quotas remained stable however the Council of Ministers agreed to cuts of 10 per cent to channel-caught plaice and sole, 26 per cent of cod, 14 per cent whiting and 12 per cent haddock, all species regularly caught and landed at ports in Devon and Cornwall. The Manager of Plymouth Fisheries and Harbour Master of Sutton Harbour said in 2014 “The new quotas are the best result for the South West fishing industry that we could have hoped for from what is now accepted to be a bad management system, and admittedly not the disaster we first feared. But whilst they may not herald the demise of the industry entirely, they will still increase the pressure on fishermen already struggling to operate viable businesses.”²⁴
- 8 Safety and Security**
- 8.1 There is no evidence that Britain's membership, or lack thereof, of the European Union would directly impact Britain's membership of NATO or seat on the UN Security Council. However it is not possible to accurately assess whether and to what extent intelligence sharing would cease if the UK left the EU and what the effects of this would be.
- 8.2 The submission from the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner outlined a number of European Treaties and Agencies which increase co-operation, security and intelligence sharing such as Europol, Eurojust and the European Arrest Warrant.
- 9 Conclusions and Recommendations**
- 9.1 Whilst the Board has provided information in this report regarding the advantages and disadvantages for Plymouth of EU membership as far as it has been able, the Board has not been able to provide a

¹⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index_en.htm

¹⁹ <http://www.plymouthfisheries.co.uk/news/2015/3/9/plymouth-fisheries-fact-file>

²⁰ <http://www.plymouthfisheries.co.uk/news/2015/2/24/plymouth-fisheries-celebrates-20th-anniversary-as-turnover-soars-by-1795million-in-two-decades>

²¹ http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/tacs/index_en.htm

²² http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/tacs/index_en.htm

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation>

²⁴ <http://www.plymouthfisheries.co.uk/news/2014/12/17/fishing-industry-experts-respond-to-new-eu-quotas>

comprehensive report as set out in the motion on notice.

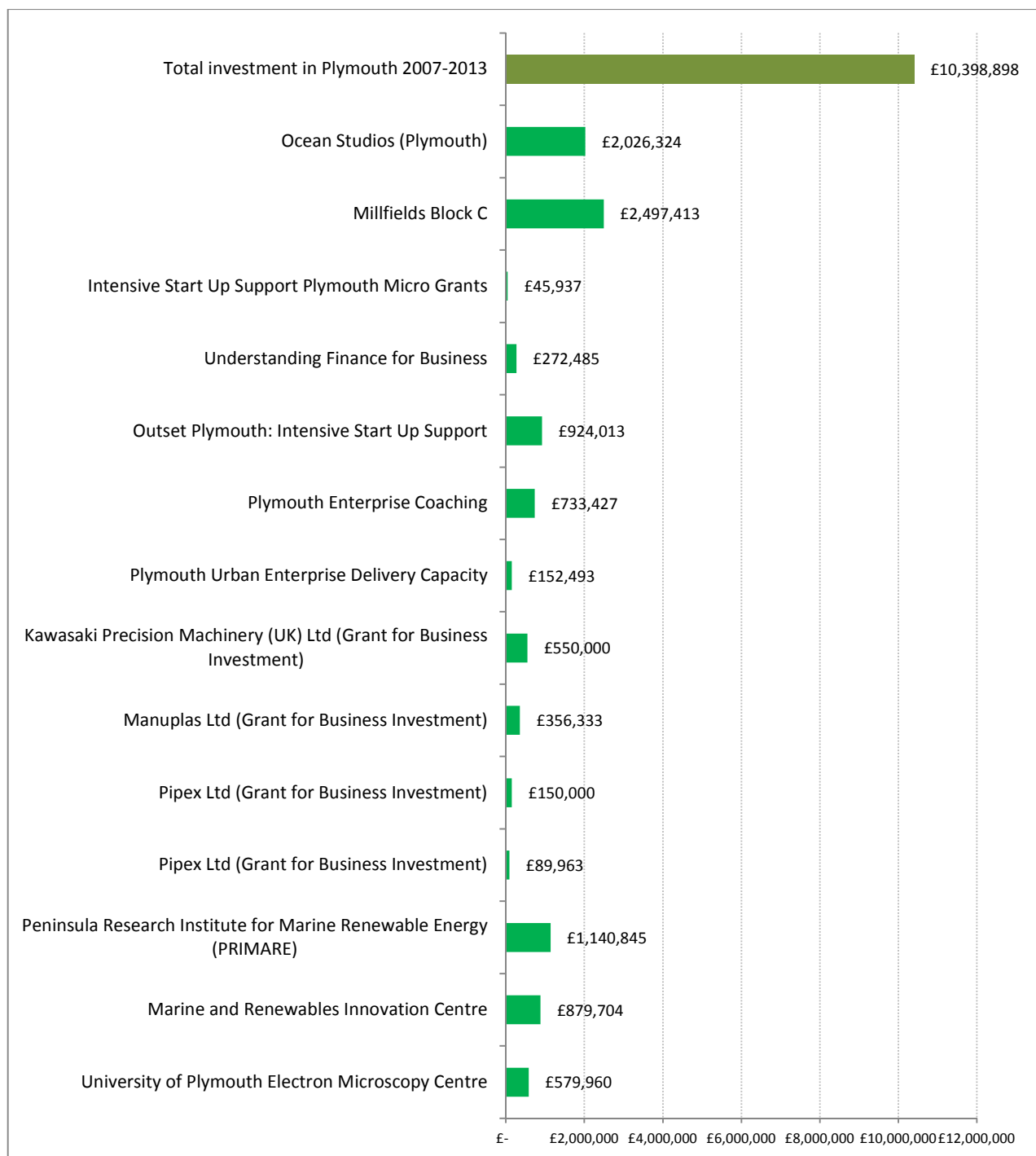
- 9.2 Members were struck by the vast amount of information available on a national and regional level and the lack of information on how the EU has impacted on Plymouth at a local level.
- 9.3 Overall the Board concluded that the EU is a subjective decision for every eligible voter with advantages and disadvantages being interchangeable dependent on personal beliefs and circumstance. As a result voters would be well advised to consider carefully the large amount of information available in the public domain, particularly with a decision of this gravity which is likely to impact upon subsequent generations.
- 9.4 To assist the public, the Board requested the lead officer to investigate the feasibility of holding an EU debate at the Plymouth Guildhall and the City Council website hosting information for the public on the arguments for and against continued membership of the European Union.
- 9.5 The date of the referendum pre-election period (15 April to 23 June) will overlap with regulatory timeframes for the May 2016 polls. This pre-election period is regulated by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Section 125 (7) of the Act places a specific restriction on the publication by a local authority of material relating to a referendum and as such it is not considered feasible for information to be placed on the City Councils website on the advantages and disadvantages of EU membership. It is also felt that this would preclude free use of the Plymouth Guildhall for an EU debate, but further information will be sought from the Monitoring Officer when official Leave and Remain campaigns have been designated by the Electoral Commission.
- 9.6 The Board identified the European Referendum as an opportunity to encourage eligible people to register to vote. The Electoral Commission has confirmed that they will run a public awareness campaign ahead of the referendum to provide voters with clear, neutral and accessible information to enable them to cast their vote confidently. The Commission will send an information booklet to every household in the United Kingdom which will include a page from designated campaigns setting out their position and web address where voters can find more information on the consequences of a remain/leave decision.

Recommendations

1. Recommend to the Assistant Director for Learning and Communities that schools in Plymouth are encouraged to hold debates on the EU referendum
2. the content of this report is forwarded to Full Council on the 21st March 2016 as directed by the motion on notice agreed at Council on the 23rd November 2016.

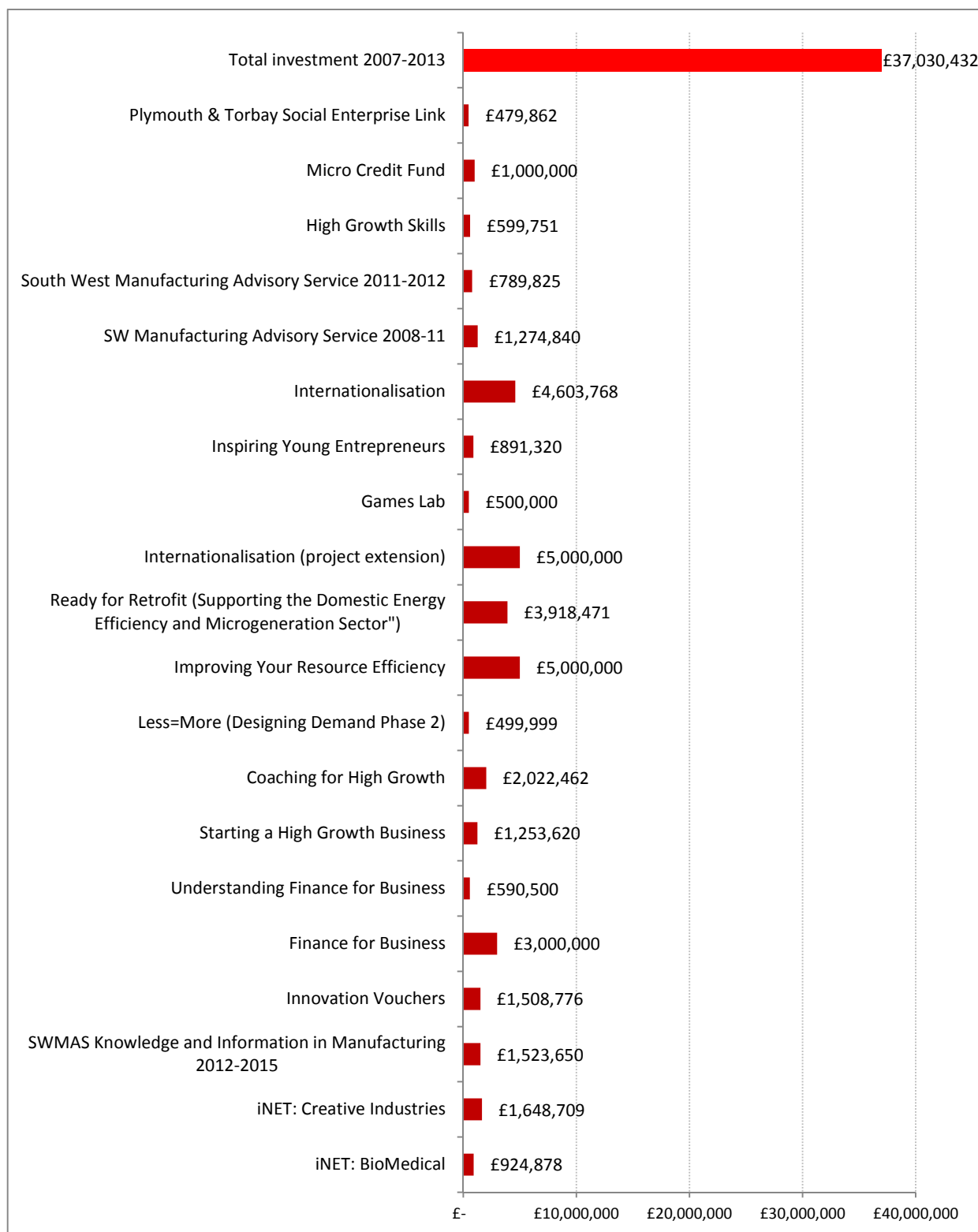
Appendix I

Total ERDF Structural Investment in Plymouth 2007 – 2013



Appendix 2

Additional ERDF Structural Investment with benefits to Plymouth 2007 – 2013



Appendix 3

Call for Evidence – Organisations Contacted

- Theatre Royal Plymouth City Council
- Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
- University of St Mark and St John
- University of Plymouth
- Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
- Livewell South West
- NEW Devon CCG
- Local Members of Parliament
- Devon District Councils
- Devon and Somerset Fire Service
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Growth Board
- Plymouth and Devon Chamber of Commerce
- Plymouth Octopus Project
- Plymouth Trade Union Council
- The Fishermen's Mission
- New under Ten Fishermen's Association
- National Farmers Union
- Interfish
- Devon Communities Together
- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner
- National Farmers Union
- Devon Local Pharmaceutical Committee
- Plymouth Association of Secondary Heads
- Plymouth Association of Primary Heads
- City College Plymouth City Council
- Devon County Council
- Plymouth Fisheries at Sutton Harbour

All elected members of Plymouth City Council

From: George Cowcher
Sent: 24 February 2016 17:00
To: Scrutiny
Cc: Amanda Bishop
Subject: European Referendum

I write on behalf of the Devon Chamber of Commerce which represents more than a 1000 businesses of all sizes and sectors and over 40,000 employees. The Chamber would wish to make the following points:-

- In the last survey of Members 60% of respondents said that they preferred to stay in the European Union and 30% responded that they wanted to leave. The percentage in favour was even greater amongst those companies who trade in the European Union. The Chamber is about to survey its Members again and will have up- dates on these figures in March.
- Companies who currently receive economic support from Europe are concerned that they will suffer, unless assurances are given that a future UK Government would replace any money lost as a result of exit.
- There is a similar concern that public infrastructure currently funded by Europe will not be provided unless the UK Government gives assurances that it will replace any money lost.

Yours faithfully

George Cowcher

f Facebook.com/chamberdevon
t @Chamber_Devon
www.devonchamber.co.uk





Plymouth City Council EU Referendum Scrutiny Review
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House, West Hoe Road
Plymouth
PL1 3BJ

Email to Scrutiny@plymouth.gov.uk.

24 February 2016

Dear Sir

I offer the following submission to Plymouth City Council's EU Referendum Scrutiny Review which is offered solely from the perspective of crime, policing and community safety in the city.

Individual Member States remain responsible for ensuring internal security within their own borders but with growing and complex threats posed by continental criminality, EU members increasingly rely on the support and assistance from other countries.

As part of UK policing, Devon and Cornwall Police benefits from a number of European agencies and treaties aimed at increasing co-operation, security and intelligence sharing.

A number of such are outlined here.

Europol - the European Union's law enforcement agency. Europol's main goal is to achieve a safer Europe by assisting Member States tackle serious international crime and terrorism.

Europol assesses that the biggest security threats to EU citizens come from terrorism, international drug trafficking and money laundering, organised fraud, counterfeiting of the euro currency, and people smuggling. New dangers are also accumulating, in the form of cybercrime, trafficking in human beings, and other modern-day threats.

Eurojust - the EU's Judicial Cooperation Unit which coordinates investigations and prosecutions and improves the cooperation between Member States. Eurojust supports EU counties to make their investigations and prosecutions more effective when dealing with cross-border crime.

European Judicial Network- a network of national contacts for the facilitation of judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Schengen Information System – This is the largest law enforcement exchange platform in Europe, containing over 62 million alerts on wanted persons and objects which led to over 128,000 police actions in 2014.

European Agenda on Security – This agreement assists the police and other law enforcement services in different Member States to share data and better cooperate against cross-border crime. Member States can rely on support by EU Agencies to improve information exchange , increase operational cooperation, and through supporting actions such as training and co-funding.

Eurodac - The EU asylum fingerprint database to address data protection concerns and to help combat terrorism and serious crime. When someone applies for asylum or is apprehended having crossed an external border, their fingerprints are transmitted and updated to the Eurodac central system within 72 hours,.

European Criminal Records Information System – This supports information exchange between EU law enforcement authorities. Approximately 100,000 messages are exchanged between national authorities each month.

European Arrest Warrant – Applied throughout the EU, the European Arrest Warrant replaced lengthy extradition procedures within the EU's territorial jurisdiction. It improves and simplifies judicial procedures designed to surrender people for the purpose of conducting a criminal prosecution or executing a custodial sentence or spell in detention.

EU countries can no longer refuse to surrender, to another EU country, their own citizens who have committed a serious crime or are suspected of having committed such a crime in another EU country, on the grounds that they are nationals

Financial Intelligence - A platform bringing together Financial Intelligence Units from the Member States is now fully in place. Its purpose is to detect and disrupt terrorist finance and money laundering activities and packages to deter money laundering. FIU's closely cooperate with EUROPOL.

Internet Referral Unit - Europol's Internet Referral Unit aims to help reduce the volume of terrorist material online.

Prüm - An information exchange tool offers automated comparison of DNA profiles, fingerprint data and vehicle registration data – which are key to detecting crime and building an effective case for prosecutions.

Border Package and Smart Borders: The Border Package to be presented before the end of the year will create a European Border Guard with much stronger obligations in terms of cooperation. The Smart Borders initiative – planned for 2016 – will provide for a much more effective EU entry/exit system permitting to trace the movements of third country nationals across the EU's external border. This information could be highly valuable for law enforcement



The EU debate is a complex matter. I do not offer an opinion on whether the UK should remain a member.

However, given the provisions set out above, I am of the view that there are clear benefits to the public and policing in Devon and Cornwall by being a member of the EU.

Tony Hogg
Police and Crime Commissioner

EU Referendum Scrutiny Review

Submission from the UKIP Group to Co-operative Review to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of EU membership on Plymouth.

The scope of this review has been set out as a consideration of a number of issues which may include.

1. How leaving or remaining in the EU will impact on UK influence and security both in Europe and Globally;
2. The overall economic advantages and disadvantages of membership on the City of Plymouth;
3. The EU's regulation of products and markets;
4. The economic effects of the free movement of people on the economy, market and public finances;
5. The extent to which EU membership attracts and maintains inward investment into the UK, and how this might be affected by "Brexit".

We would argue the Review group may have set itself an almost impossible task, the reason being, so many of the issues under consideration are a matter of opinion, whether they are individuals or organisations/employers, will have a direct bearing on their opinion. Also, the actual quantification of the financial impact of the topics listed above would take months of work and possibly thousands of Freedom of Information requests of Plymouth City Council.

We would also argue that to demonstrate the impact EU legislation has on local authorities is far easier. It is important to understand almost everything is affected by European Law, and this includes the operations of our local Councils.

Most people are unaware of the extent to which Local Government officers spend their lives enacting legislation that comes from the EU Parliament.

To give a perspective of the volume of legislation that is involved, in the three year period between the 2010 election and 2013 Brussels handed down 3600 pieces of new regulation and directives affecting British businesses. See note 1.

A number of these laws are worth mentioning.

Firstly, the EU Procurement Rules which have several adverse effects. Public bodies now have to acquire tenders for goods and services not only from British companies but from member states across the entire European Union. This costs time, especially when there is the bickering of unsuccessful bidders to deal with. It also costs money, which has to be provided by the tax-payer.

Building new houses is affected by these rules as well and these, according to the National Housing Federation, cost £30 million annually, reducing the Association's financial ability to build new homes. The Procurement Rules are also considered both complex and costly by the Partnership for Schools who say they bring no obvious benefit. See note 2.

Transport may soon be affected further by EU legislation. At present there is a draft proposal to compel Britain, in the name of EU harmonisation, to accept lorries which are substantially longer and heavier than those at present onto our roads. Enlarged roads and the inevitable surface damage they cause will, of course, be paid for by our local Councils and so, ultimately by the taxpayers. The British Government may not want these huge lorries but if the law goes through the Brussels Parliament, they will have no choice in the matter.

It is EU legislation that has caused the closure of so many of our smaller post offices by opening up postal services to other EU countries, such as Deutsche Post which now undercuts our Post Office deliveries in such lucrative markets as business post. In rural areas these post offices often form part of the only shop in the village and are an essential of the community yet without the postal service these shops would not be viable. Knowing this, the Government has tried its best to keep them open by offering subsidies, but Brussels now insists that Britain must ask for permission before doing so. So, our Post Office is currently in a critical

financial state so that post office closures have become inevitable, to the benefit of other EU countries.

Population growth, due largely to the EU's basic right of 'Free Movement of Peoples' throughout the Union, has resulted in over 300,000 people per year for the last two years coming to the UK to live, work and claim benefits.

We know the Prime Minister has recently negotiated a separate set of rules for new migrant benefits, how much this will stem the flow of migration is again debateable, but neither central nor local government will be able to control the demand for services which will obviously follow.

Open door immigration is having a massive effect on local councils, on planning and house building and therefore on schools, hospitals and social services.

The extra population will inevitably cause extra waste, but EU Rules state that by 2020, half of our waste must be diverted from landfills, possibly to incinerators which are being built around the country. Because of this, householders are now seeing their council taxes go up while waste collections in many areas have gone down to once in two weeks.

EU Rules can have a farcical effect. In 2005 an EU Regulation on 'Working at Heights' came into effect which means that any work involving ladders is banned. To avoid litigation, some Councils now ban ladders across their estates' properties and have introduced the expensive alternative of scaffolding instead, more money for the taxpayer to find.

They can also have a disastrous effect, a Draft Efficiency Directive will compel Councils to refit local properties, both old and new-build, to the highest energy efficiency standards. This would, for instance, make Victorian Town Halls and other old buildings obsolete if the local authority did not have the required funding to meet the new efficiency standards.

And the Local Government Association estimates that applying this legislation would cost Councils £50 billion — at a time when they really don't need yet more financial pressure. See note 3.

There is also the “Membership Fee”, we pay to belong to the EU, currently estimated at 13 billion pounds per annum. We do, of course, receive subsidies in return but our net contribution to the EU is roughly 8.5 billion pounds per year. Could we use this money more effectively if we had control of it? We believe we could. See note 4.

Councils around this country are mainly full of people with a genuine desire to serve their community through Local Government who now find themselves powerless because all the big decisions are taken elsewhere in the EU.

Nationally and even locally, whether it is our post offices, our bin collections, the lorries which drive on our roads or how our homes are built — the European Union, of which Britain is merely a 28th part, rules on everything.

Now, returning to our argument that the demonstration of EU legislation on PCC is relatively easy, we do acknowledge what one person or organisation will consider an advantage, another may consider a disadvantage, so it follows that even if a piece of legislation has a financial impact on a Local Council some may consider that a price worth paying, ie good value for money, others not.

And so, all of the above could be considered our opinion, arguments or views on EU legislative impact on local authorities to a greater or lesser extent.

However, we in the UKIP Group, believe there are two undisputable Facts regarding the upcoming EU referendum if the UK votes to Leave.

1. We will make own laws in our own Parliament, and,
2. We will control the quantity and quality of those wishing to come here to live and work from wherever in the world.

So, in a world in which we are constantly being told is uncertain and unsafe we would conclude that the two certainties listed above would be the best mechanism by which the UK and therefore, PCC would best serve the citizens in their care.

Some legislative areas and EU rules that apply but by no means all.

Agriculture which together with Fisheries accounts for about 30% of all legislation.

Impact on food prices.

School meals, school milk, meals on wheels and food in care homes.

Public Contracts Directive 2004/18/EC and Public Procurement Remedies Directive 2007/66/EC
Cost of Council contracts

The Landfill Directive 99/31/EC
Direct Cost to Council

Agency Workers Directive COD 2002/0149

Working Time Directive 93/104/EC

Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU

Drivers Hours Directive 2006/561/EC

Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by Directive 97/11/EC

Note 1. Source <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-35658731>

Note 2. Source <http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/eu-tendering-costs-9000-homes-a-year/6513618.article>

Note 3. Source http://www.local.gov.uk/eu-policy-and-lobbying/-/journal_content/56/10180/2944145/ARTICLE

Note 4. Source <https://fullfact.org/europe/our-eu-membership-fee-55-million/>

EUROPEAN UNION

Call for Evidence



The Government is committed to holding an in-out referendum on the UK's membership of the EU by the end of 2017. At the request of Council the Co-operative Scrutiny Board is establishing Co-operative Review to evaluate the advantages and dis-advantages of EU membership on Plymouth.

The review will consider a number of issues which may include:

- How leaving or remaining in the EU will impact on UK influence and security both in Europe and Globally;
- the overall economic advantages and disadvantages of membership on the City of Plymouth;
- the EU's regulation of products and markets;
- the economic effects of the free movement of people on the economy, market and public finances;
- the extent to which EU membership attracts and maintains inward investment to the UK, and how this might be affected by "Brexit".

Written Evidence

In its evidence-gathering, the review wishes to hear from all organisations, both public and private, and individuals with an interest in this subject. In particular we are keen to hear from –

- Local business leaders and the local enterprise partnership
- Trade unions
- Local education establishments
- Police
- Representatives of the NHS
- Agricultural / Fisheries Representatives
- Charities
- Other partner agencies

Written submissions are sought in word version. Ideally, they should be no more than five sides of A4 and should be emailed to by **as soon as possible to Scrutiny@plymouth.gov.uk, please let us know in your submission whether you would be prepared to attend the Review public meetings as a witness.**

Our normal practice is to publish all relevant evidence that is sent to us on our website and we may also include it in the hard copy of any report. Therefore, if you wish your evidence to be treated as confidential, or for your evidence to be published anonymously, please contact us via Scrutiny@plymouth.gov.uk or by contacting the Democratic Support Officer before you submit your evidence. For further information on how we deal with evidence please see our [policy](#).

For organisations and individuals giving evidence:

The information you give to the review will be used only for the purposes of the review. **The only exception is information received that suggests someone is currently at significant risk of harm or an indication of criminal activity. In that case there would be an obligation for the review to report that information to the appropriate authorities, but it would keep you informed about any action it intended to take.**

REQUEST FOR A COOPERATIVE REVIEW



Please submit this document to Democratic Support once complete.

The request will be submitted to the Co-operative Scrutiny Board for consideration against the approval criteria and you will be notified of its success. If the Board approve the request for a Co-operative Review on the subject matter below then a project plan will be completed and you may be asked for further information.

What is the name of the review?	EU Referendum Task Group
<p>Please provide a brief outline of the subject and scope of the review?</p>	<p>This review request follows a motion on notice moved and agreed at the meeting of the City Council on the 23 November 2015. The motion noted that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That the United Kingdom had been a member of the European Union since 1973, and that the Council recognised that the UK's continued membership of the EU is now in question and will be subject to a national referendum. ● That the Council believed that the people of Plymouth have a right to take part in the forthcoming referendum. ● That the Council further believed that it has a responsibility to ensure that local residents have the facts regarding the socio-economic impact that the UK's membership of the EU has on Plymouth before the referendum takes place.
<p>Please outline the reasons as to why you believe a review needs to take place?</p>	<p>The main reasons of the review are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This is the result of a motion at council. The scrutiny function has a duty, under the constitution, to implement the wishes of full council. ● The EU referendum is likely to be of significant interest to the general public.
<p>What will the review attempt to achieve?</p>	<p>The Co-operative Scrutiny Board will establish a cross party EU Co-operative Review which will seek to include representatives from all parties.</p> <p>The review will invite evidence from -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local business leaders and the Local Enterprise Partnership

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trade Unions ● Local Education Establishments ● Devon and Cornwall Police ● Representatives of the NHS ● Agricultural Representatives ● Charities ● District and Parish Councils ● Other Partner Agencies <p>A comprehensive review report will be provided to full council before the referendum vote.</p>
Who will benefit from the review?	The beneficiaries will be the Plymouth citizens for whom the review will establish and identify the social, economic and cultural benefits and disadvantages that the UK's membership of the EU has on Plymouth.
How long do you think the review might take?	The review is anticipated to be undertaken over three public meetings and will report before the EU referendum, date yet to be confirmed.
When do you think the review should commence and why?	The review will commence in February 2016.
When do you think the review should be completed by and why?	<p>The review is anticipated to be completed in March 2016.</p> <p>This will allow adequate time for the panel to complete the review and consider all the relevant and required evidence and witness statements and ensure that any recommendations are prepared in sufficient time to be presented at the next available Cabinet meeting.</p>
Review requested by?	Full Council

Received in Democratic Support Section:	Reviewed by the Co-operative Scrutiny Board:
Date:	Date:
Scrutiny Review Approved/Rejected	
If approved initial Project Plan meeting date:	

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