

SELECT COMMITTEE REVIEW PLAN

Scrutiny Management Board



CYCLING FOOD DELIVERY IN THE CITY CENTRE

Raised by -	Councillor John Stephens (SMB Chair 2024-25)
Date -	September 2025

Purpose of Review

On 27 March 2025, the Scrutiny Management Board agreed to:

1. Support the ongoing education and enforcement operations undertaken by Devon and Cornwall Police in relation to e-bikes and food delivery riders in the city centre;
2. Organise a Select Committee of the Scrutiny Management Board to explore further the issues of e-bikes, food delivery and cycling in the city centre;
3. Request that the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board engages with members of the City Centre Company, along with representatives from food outlets, businesses, and delivery riders, to encourage their attendance at a future select committee;
4. Request that the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board, in partnership with the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, lobbies members of Parliament to investigate current progress, and lobby for the introduction of safer measures to facilitate safe cycling in the city centre, particularly relating to food delivery and e-bikes. (This could include new laws; accreditation schemes; licensing schemes; training schemes; and/or ID cards to assist enforcement and compliance with safe practise.

The above actions have made good progression, and the Scrutiny Management Board is now required to review the Select Committee Review Plan and discuss preparations and arrangements for the meeting.

The purposes of the Select Committee are to:

- I. Review the evidence;
- II. Respond to and act upon concerns raised by members of the public regarding pedestrian safety in the City. Concerns particularly related to food delivery riders' conduct, bike legality and heightened concerns for disabled and vulnerable pedestrian groups;
- III. Develop a greater understanding of the issues, responsibilities and potential solutions across multi-agency partners and organisations;
- IV. Work to ensure a balance is restored, where pedestrians and food delivery riders safely co-exist in the City Centre.

Select Committee Membership

11 Councillors (8 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Green and 1 The Independent Group).

This is the proportionality of all existing scrutiny panels, including the Scrutiny Management Board.

Process	
Methodology/Approach	<p>On 27 March 2025, the Scrutiny Management Board identified a number of areas for additional investigation. These included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Exploration of best practise from other local authorities and the Local Government Association, so that it may be adapted for Plymouth; II. Determination of who held the duty of care for delivery riders, and who was responsible when accidents occurred; III. Exploration of the potential implications and practical implementation of various potential mitigation measures, including: By-Laws, branded clothing, ID cards, and training and accreditation schemes; IV. Exploration of the possibility of the development of a communication plan, in partnership with D&C Police, to promote safe and responsible cycling in the city centre. <p>In order to provide clarity on these topics, the Select Committee will utilise a briefing paper from relevant departments, officers and external stakeholders, as well as direct expertise from invited attendees.</p> <p>Members previously identified the valuable service and employment provided by food delivery, which accounted for approximately 70% of City Centre trade. In order to ascertain a holistic view and prevent any unintended consequences, the Board identified a need to engage riders, pedestrians, food outlets and the City Centre Company in future discussions. Other relevant attendees will also be considered.</p> <p>Engagement with relevant parties (as set out below) will enable the Select Committee to establish a shared understanding of the issues and potential solutions, and develop a greater understanding the responsibilities and potential solutions available through multi-agency partners. This will shape any further conversations and/or actions for the Board.</p>
Sources of Information/Evidence	<p>A formal briefing paper will be provided to the Select Committee addressing the concerns and requests for additional information raised in the Board's initial discussions. This will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Exploration of best practise from other local authorities and the Local Government Association, so that it may be adapted for Plymouth; II. Determination of who holds the duty of care for delivery riders, and who is responsible when accidents occurred; III. Exploration of potential implications and practical implementation of various potential mitigation measures, including: By-Laws, branded clothing, ID cards, and training and accreditation schemes; IV. Exploration of developing a communication plan, in partnership with D&C Police, to promote safe and responsible cycling in the city centre. <p>In addition, the Select Committee will utilise the expertise and direct experiences of a variety of key witnesses/attendees. Attendees will be invited to provide a holistic view of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Public perceptions, experiences and concerns II. Rider perceptions, experiences and concerns

	<p>III. Businesses' experiences, expertise and contractual obligations</p> <p>IV. Police experiences, legislative expertise and ongoing operations</p> <p>V. Council expertise, partnerships and past actions</p> <p>VI. LGA / peer experiences and best practise</p> <p>VII. Context of the current city centre dynamic, the variety of issues faced, the legality of bikes and information regarding enforcement and engagement events</p> <p>Board members are encouraged to review, amend and/or expand the above as appropriate.</p>
Consultation Exercises	<p>N/A – The Select Committee will be a public meeting. Members of the public will be invited to attend, and may be considered to act as 'witnesses'.</p> <p>Further/wider consultation will be considered following the investigations of the Select Committee.</p>
Witness/Expert Participation	<p>I. Members of the public</p> <p>II. Delivery riders and drivers</p> <p>III. City centre businesses</p> <p>IV. The City Centre Company</p> <p>V. Devon and Cornwall Police</p> <p>VI. Relevant Council Officers</p> <p>VII. Relevant Cabinet members</p> <p>Board members are encouraged to review, amend and/or expand the above as appropriate.</p>
Site Visits	N/A
Resource Requirements	Will be met through existing scrutiny resources.

Post Review	
Reporting Process	The Select Committee will operate under powers delegated by the Scrutiny Management Board and will make recommendations to Cabinet.
Anticipated Completion Date	TBC – November
Report Deadline	TBC – November
Meeting Frequency	To take place over 1 day.
Dates of Meeting	TBC – Provisional - Wednesday 26 November
Further Information	None.