

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

<b>Subject:</b>	Items for Update
<b>Committee:</b>	Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel
<b>Date:</b>	12 September 2011
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	N/A
<b>CMT Member:</b>	Director for Community Services
<b>Author:</b>	Assistant Director for Safer Communities
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<b>Ref:</b>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Part:</b>	I

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### Executive Summary:

The report makes proposals for the process and scope of items in the panel's work programme for 'update' only.

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### Corporate Plan 2011 – 2014:

The scrutiny process supports the Corporate Plan by holding the decision-makers and policy-makers to account and thereby helping to ensure high quality public services.

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

None.

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### Other Implications: e.g. Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management and Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion:

None.

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### Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

1. the revenues and benefits service item is removed from the Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny panel's work programme and any issues concerning benefits make-up are considered within the universal credit and/or financial inclusion service items on the programme.
2. the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is asked to endorse a task and finish group on social media, to be undertaken by the Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
3. updates on locality working and police and crime commissioner/panel follow the process and scope outlined in this report

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**Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:**

None.

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**Background papers:**

Work Programme 2011/12.

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**Sign off:**

Fin		Leg		HR		Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member											

## **1.0 Background**

1.1 At its meeting on 6 June 2011 the Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel agreed its work programme including a number of items which would be for update only. These were each allocated as the responsibility of a named member of the panel. This member will receive updates on the topic and if required, be able to refer any arising issues to the panel. The idea is to avoid overloading agendas and tying up people's time with information that is not the subject of any effective scrutiny.

## **2.0 Items**

2.1 The items agreed for update -

- Revenues and Benefits Service (Councillor Thompson)
- Social Media Strategy (Councillor Martin Leaves)
- Locality Working (Councillor Peter Smith)
- Police and Crime Commissioner/Panel (Councillor John Smith)

## **3.0 Process**

3.1 Since agreeing this, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has highlighted that the revenues and benefits service item is the responsibility of the Support Services Panel. It is therefore suggested that this item is removed from the Customers and Communities panel's work programme and any issues concerning benefits take-up are considered with the universal credits and/or financial inclusion service items remaining on the programme.

3.2 The council does not currently have a strategy on social media, and on reflection, this would be better dealt with by a task and finish group, rather than updates.

3.3 This leaves locality working and police and crime commissioner/panel for updates. It is suggested that each member responsible receives two written updates during the year, copied to Chair and Vice of the Customers and Communities panel.

## **4.0 Scope**

4.1 The proposed scope of these updates is –

Locality working –

- outcome of review (reports to Cabinet and Plymouth 2020 in September 2011)
- plans for and progress with, implementation of changes agreed (to include any subsequent changes arising from further scrutiny of communications and voluntary sector)
- progress in Devon and Cornwall with plans for police and crime panel
- implications for Plymouth

## **5.0 Recommendations**

It is recommended that –

1. the revenues and benefits service item is removed from the Customers and Communities panel's work programme and any issues concerning benefits take-up are considered within the universal credit and/or financial inclusion service items on the programme.

2. the Over and Scrutiny Management Board is asked to endorse a task and finish group on social media, to be undertaken by the Customers and Communities panel.
3. updates on locality working and police and crime commissioner/panel follow the process and scope outlined in this report.