

# REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEM



**PLYMOUTH**  
CITY COUNCIL

	<b>Title of Work Programme Item</b>	<b>Social Fund replacement</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Responsible Director (s)</b>	Carole Burgoyne (Director of People)
<b>3</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>  <b>Tel No.</b>	Peter Aley (Head of Safer Communities)  Telephone Ext 4044
<b>4</b>	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Cllr Chris Penberthy (Portfolio holder for Cooperatives and Community Development)
<b>5</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	To advise the Council on the delivery options for the new scheme.
<b>6</b>	<b>Who will benefit?</b>	In April 2013 the Social Fund (SF) is going to be abolished. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will hand partial funding to Local Authorities (LA) to design and deliver a localised welfare assistance scheme. Funding is based on figures from 2005/6 and 2010/11 and PCC will have approximately £750,000 to spend. The scrutiny panel will have the opportunity to influence how this money should and could be spent on the new Social Fund replacement scheme.
<b>7</b>	<b>Criteria for Choosing Topics (see table at end of document)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High budgetary commitment</li> <li>• New government guidance or legislation</li> <li>• Issue consistently identified by Members as key through constituency activity</li> <li>• Public interest issue covered in local media</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<b>What will happen if we don't do this review?</b>	This review enables us to get as wide a consultation base as possible. Without this review, the consultation audience would be good, but not as varied.
<b>9</b>	<b>What are we going to do?</b>	Task and finish group.
<b>10</b>	<b>How are we going to do it? (witnesses, site visits, background information etc.)</b>	Background information Scrutiny reports supplied by officers Witnesses.
<b>11</b>	<b>What we won't do.</b>	Scrutinise the principles of the new scheme as this would have already been agreed by Cabinet in August 2012.

<b>12</b>	<b>Timetable &amp; Key Dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principles of scheme – cabinet planning – 28<sup>th</sup> August 2012</li> <li>Stakeholder consultation – August to September 2012</li> <li>Delivery method – cabinet planning – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012</li> <li>Final decision on overall scheme – Cabinet – 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013</li> <li>Social Fund scheme delivered from PCC – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013</li> </ul>
<b>13</b>	<b>Links to other projects or initiatives / plans</b>	This is part of the Welfare Reform big ticket item in the new Corporate Plan
<b>14</b>	<b>Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel / Membership if Task and Finish Group (to be decided by OSP before submission to OMB)</b>	Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Task and Finish Group – Councillors Ball, Damarell, Jarvis, Ricketts and Tuffin
<b>15</b>	<b>Where will the report go? Who will make the final decision</b>	Customers and Communities – 7 November 2012 Cabinet – 13 November 2012 or 15 January 2013
<b>16</b>	<b>Resources (staffing, research, experts, sites visits and so on)</b>	Staffing from across several departments Scrutiny reports supplied by officers Witnesses.
<b>17</b>	<b>Is this part of a statutory responsibility on the panel?</b>	N/A
<b>18</b>	<b>Should any other panel be involved in this review? If so who and why?</b>	The Scrutiny Management Board is undertaking a task and finish group on the overall Welfare Reform programme and it may be appropriate that this piece of work is aligned with that.
<b>19</b>	<b>Will the task and finish group benefit from co-opting any person(s) onto the panel.</b>	Yes – Co-opted person to be decided.
<b>20</b>	<b>How does this link to corporate priorities?</b>	The Social Fund replacement scheme has direct links with Reducing inequalities, and Value for Communities.