

**Teignbridge District Council
Overview and Scrutiny
12 November 2024**

Potential new Review Groups

Purpose of Report

To provide members of Overview & Scrutiny with an update from the first meetings of three potential Review Groups. These will be prioritised alongside the continuing Medium Term Financial Plan Group and will be dependent on resources available in terms of members and officers including the Senior Leadership Team.

Recommendation(s)

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee RECOMMENDS that:

The Three working groups be confirmed as the priority foci for Overview and Scrutiny at this time.

The Leisure T&F work may enable impact on the MTFP T&F and should therefore inform the MTFP T&F as its work progresses to avoid duplication.

(It is acknowledged that members sit on both committees which will support this)

It is further acknowledged that at present there are unusual pressures on officer administration which may cause delays in the prompt effectiveness of all Task & Finish Groups including MTFP.

Financial Implications:

There are no direct financial implications by using existing staffing resources. There may be potential implications from recommendations arising from the findings of the task and finish group if implemented.

Martin Flitcroft - Director of Corporate Finance

Report Author

Cllr Suzanne Sanders, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny and Kay Fice, Scrutiny Officer

Executive Member

Cllr Richard Keeling, Leader of the Council

Appendices

A) Terms of Reference Planning (principles behind process) – outline draft

- B) Terms of Reference Leisure (provision, policy and strategy) – outline draft
- C) Terms of Reference Housing (high number on waiting list) – outline draft

Background Papers

Introduction/Background

At the informal Overview & Scrutiny Committees held on the 15 October 2024, three review groups were created to meet and agree the potential scope of work and Terms of Reference to be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee alongside the continuing work of the MTFP (Medium Term Financial Plan) Review Group and others.

A) Planning (principles behind process)

The following members are on the group (October 2024);

- Cllr Phil Bullivant
- Cllr Alex Hall
- Cllr Charles Nuttall
- Cllr Colin Parker
- Cllr Suzanne Sanders
- Cllr Robert Steemson
- Cllr Bill Thorne

They are supported by Kay Fice, Scrutiny Officer and Neil Blaney, Director of Place and Paul Woodhead, Monitoring Officer

1. Work of the group

The group met on 17 October and Cllr Bullivant was unanimously appointed as Chair and Cllr Steemson was nominated as Vice-chair (subject to his acceptance).

After a helpful first meeting (Chaired by Cllr Bullivant), it was decided that the review would have the following aims:-

External

- Ensure the Planning Committee has appropriate training and information to deliver the planning consents requested to meet the homes required by residents of Teignbridge

By

- Developing a greater understanding of current situation
- Highlighting areas needing more focus
- Recommending actions for change

2. Recommendations of the group

That the Task & Finish group meet fortnightly in person or online to consider the various lines of enquiry raised by Members and outlined above. That a comprehensive review is commenced by end January 2025 subject to officer availability.

B) Leisure (provision, policy and strategy)

The following members are on the group (October 2024);

- Cllr Phil Bullivant
- Cllr Rosie Dawson
- Cllr Alex Hall
- Cllr Stuart Rogers
- Cllr Dave Rollason
- Cllr Suzanne Sanders
- Cllr Robert Steemson
- Cllr Bill Thorne

They are supported by Kay Fice, Scrutiny Officer and Neil Blaney, Director of Place

3. Work of the group

The group met on 24 October and recognising that Leisure was a very wide service area (including open spaces, playing pitch provision and other services) agreed that they would focus the first piece of work on Leisure Centres. All three Centres (Newton Abbot, Broadmeadow and Dawlish) require investment due to a backlog of repairs and Newton Abbot Leisure Centre only has an estimated 10 year life remaining and added complications of a dual use arrangement with Devon County Council for school use and unsatisfactory parking. Both Newton Abbot and Broadmeadow are sited in areas of high deprivation and any activity that includes swimming pool provision is inevitably expensive to operate.

After a helpful first meeting (Chaired by Cllr Hall), it was decided that the review would have the following aims:-

Focussing on Leisure Centres

- To understand the current offer, demand and relevant needs of our residents
- To determine the value for money of our centres
- To determine the strategic direction and purpose of our Leisure Centres

It was recognised that the term 'Leisure' covers a much wider area e.g. Open spaces, playing pitch provision and Tennis, Bowling, Cycling etc but for the first piece of work by the group it would concentrate on Leisure Centres

4. Recommendations of the group

That the Task & Finish commences to explore options on a fortnightly basis either in person or online commencing no later than end January 2025 subject to Officer support.

C) Spotlight Review Housing (high number on waiting list)

The following members are on the group (October 2024);

- Cllr Phil Bullivant
- Cllr Rosie Dawson
- Cllr Robert Hayes
- Cllr Jack Major
- Cllr Colin Parker
- Cllr Stuart Rogers
- Cllr Suzanne Sanders

They are supported by Kay Fice, Scrutiny Officer and Amanda Pujol, Director of Customer Experience & Transformation

5. Work of the group

The group met on 24 October for an informal discussion due to the number of apologies received.

6. Recommendations of the group

That a further meeting of the committee be arranged to finalise the terms of reference and organise the contributors for the spotlight while agreeing the date for presentation at pre-scrutiny December 2025 target date.

Conclusion

That the recommendations detailed above are implemented.

Further reports will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.

Appendix A)

Task and Finish Group (T&FG) Planning (Principles behind process) Terms of Reference (TOR) *Outline draft*

Scope

Aims of the review:

External

- Ensure the Planning Committee has appropriate training and information to deliver the planning consents requested to meet the homes required by residents of Teignbridge

By

- Developing a greater understanding of current situation
- Highlighting areas needing more focus
- Recommending actions for change

Name of T&F Group

Task & Finish Group – Planning – principles behind process (October 2024)

Group Membership

Group members (others may join the group later)

Cllr Bullivant
Cllr Hall
Cllr Nuttall
Cllr C. Parker
Cllr Sanders
Cllr Thorne
Cllr Steemson

Chair

Cllr Bullivant was unanimously appointed as Chair
Cllr Steemson was nominated as Vice-Chair in his absence (subject to his acceptance).

Lead Officer(s)

Neil Blaney is the SLT representative with additional input from Paul Woodhead (Monitoring Officer)

Possible lines of enquiry the T&FG could explore (to determine the Background/history and current position

- Complaints from members of the public, councillors, Town & Parish,
- Records of Appeals granted
- Developer feedback/comments at planning presentations when re-visiting.
- Costs associated with re-submissions (Planning, Democratic Services, SLT)
- Other districts behaviour, methodology, challenges – Chairs of Planning?
- Impact on economic drivers
- Impact on TDC Reputation- recruitment, staff-retention and losses
- Performance data and comparators
- Call-ins data by ward/impact
- Size of committee
- Housing delivery what effect a 5 year supply/locations etc?
- Bespoke training to be explored e.g. review decisions/issues watch live recordings etc
- Suggest a presentation at an Informal O&S

Proposals will be developed as a result of the review

Time limit for work and to whom report should be submitted

Initial feedback on ToR to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 12 November 2024
Updates at subsequent O&S formal meetings

Meeting dates

To be determined

Possible witnesses/consultees/interested parties

- Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council
- Executive Members with specific responsibility for the impact of this service
- Council Members including SLT and relating to new Local Plan
- Parish and Town Councils
- Local Residents
- Developers
- Housing Forum
- Other Chairs of Planning
- LGA advisors
- Environment Agency

Resources

- Councillors on Task & Finish Group
- Council Officers – Scrutiny Officer
- Council Officers – e.g. Service manager and SLT member(s)

SLT/CMT Officer comments if any

To be completed

Point of contact: *Democratic Services team email address:* [Democratic Services](#)

Appendix B)

Task and Finish Group (T&FG) Leisure (Provision, Policy & Strategy) Terms of Reference (TOR) *Outline draft*

Scope

Aims of the review:

Focussing on Leisure Centres

- To understand the current offer, demand and relevant needs of our residents
- To determine the value for money of our centres
- To determine the strategic direction and purpose of our Leisure Centres

It was recognised that the term 'Leisure' covers a much wider area e.g. Open spaces, playing pitch provision and Tennis, Bowling, Cycling etc but for the first piece of work by the group it would concentrate on Leisure Centres

Name of T&F Group

Task & Finish Group – Leisure – Provision, Policy & Strategy (October 2024)

Group Membership

Group members October 2024 (others may join the group later)

Cllr Phil Bullivant
Cllr Rosie Dawson
Cllr Alex Hall
Cllr Stuart Rogers
Cllr Dave Rollason
Cllr Suzanne Sanders
Cllr Robert Steemson
Cllr Bill Thorne

Chair

*Cllr Hall agreed to chair the first meeting.
Although he was not present, Robert Steemson was proposed as vice-chair (or Chair). It was agreed that Cllr Hall and Cllr Steemson would liaise and hopefully agree between them which role each would have*

Lead Officer(s)

Amanda Pujol would be the senior officer (from SLT) but due to his extensive experience in this area, Phil Shears (the Managing Director) would also contribute

Possible lines of enquiry the T&FG could explore (to determine the Background/history and current position)

- New Leisure Policy/Strategy
- Dawlish Leisure Centre Refurbishment/business case long term
- Newton Abbot Leisure Centre (Dyrons) – long term viability
- Needs Assessment Report
- Primary school swimming needs- solutions
- Learnings from new package/marketing of Broadmeadow on Membership (review of other centres?)
- Recruitment of swimming staff – engagement with schools/colleges?
- Data on membership, other districts, private centres (where available)
- Potential to work with private enterprises to meet local needs/risk to membership of our Centres
- Private pools – potential for primaries to access provision?
- Life-saving clubs volunteers as witness
- Business case & wellbeing/health benefits
- NHS witness & for mental and physical health referrals (social prescribing)
- Devon County (Steve Brown: Director of Public health)
- 2 of our 3 existing Leisure centres are sited in areas of high deprivation
- Active Devon
- Health & well-being strategy
- Learn from other authorities e.g. Exeter City about outsourcing and bringing back in-house
- Joint use agreements
- National Governing bodies e.g. Swim England
- Other clubs – what is the local need?
- Performance data
- Assets appraisals - isolate costs of pools?

Proposals will be developed as a result of the review

Time limit for work and to whom report should be submitted

Initial feedback to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 12 November 2024

Meeting dates

To be determined

Possible witnesses/consultees/interested parties

- Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council
- Executive Members with specific responsibility for the impact of this service
- Council Members
- Parish and Town Councils
- Local Residents
- Schools: Primary Secondary and Colleges
- Swimming clubs
- Other representatives from earlier in this TOR

Resources

- Councillors on T&F Group
- Council Officers – Scrutiny Officer
- Council Officers – e.g. Service manager and SLT member

SLT/CMT Officer comments if any

To be completed

Point of contact: *Democratic Services team email address:* [Democratic Services](#)

Appendix C)

Spotlight review Housing (High number on waiting list) Terms of Reference (TOR) *Outline draft*

Scope

Aims of the review:

- To gain an understanding of Devon Homes Choice and how it works in practice
- To identify factors contributing to the increase of the number on the waiting list and the reduction in supply
- To seek opportunities to influence e.g. encourage down-sizing by suggesting incentives
- For the above to consider Teignbridge 'Circles of influence'/lobbying where appropriate

Name of Group

Spotlight Review Group – Housing: High number on waiting list (October 2024)

Group Membership

Group members (others may join the group later)

Cllr Phil Bullivant
Cllr Rosie Dawson
Cllr Robert Hayes
Cllr Jack Major
Cllr Colin Parker
Cllr Stuart Rogers
Cllr Suzanne Sanders

Chair

Cllr Dawson agreed to chair the first meeting

Lead Officer(s)

Amanda Pujol is the SLT representative on the group

Possible lines of enquiry the T&FG could explore (to determine the Background/history and current position

- Officers Tammy Hayes and Graham Davey to advise on their areas
- Review allocation policy and Devon Homes Choice reports
- Data on demand by beds, category B-D, (Cat A- needs met?) Quarterly PowerBI reports to be reviewed. This will include those leaving care
- Waiting times – case studies, both desktop and in-person to be explored
- Impact private housing market- current and after budget
- Elderly or extra care needs
- Other districts – comparable statistics?
- Existing stock held by registered providers and downsizing progress and incentives

Proposals will be developed as a result of the review

Time limit for work and to whom report should be submitted

Initial feedback to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 12 November 2024

Meeting dates

To be determined

.Possible witnesses/consultees/interested parties

- Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council
- Executive Members with specific responsibility for the impact of this service
- Council Members
- Parish and Town Councils
- Local Residents affected including those selected as case-studies

Resources

- Councillors on Spotlight Review Group
- Council Officers – Scrutiny Officer
- Council Officers – e.g. Service managers and SLT member

. SLT/CMT Officer comments if any

To be completed

Point of contact: *Democratic Services team email address:* [Democratic Services](#)