

PROPOSAL FORM FOR ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY SCRUTINY

Submitted by : Mike Allen

Item for Consideration: Economic Development and employment quality in Rural and Coastal areas

Expected outcome Review and/or scrutinize equality, transparency and procedures of the relevant Committees including the way policy proposals by other political groups than EDA are able to be discussed with Officers and assessed by the Council and investigated by independent advice which may lead to new policies, new procedures, in relation to policy objectives of cooperation, consultation, fairness and transparency

Priority for matter to be considered:

High (up to 3 months) Medium (3-6 months) Low (over 9 months).

Basis on which priority has been set: Urgent issues from the last Subcommittee and following criticism from the Standards Committee

The suggested item should be included in future programme(s) because: (please tick as appropriate)

- a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control
- b) It is a recently introduced policy, service area of activity which would be timely to review
- c) It is a policy which has been running for some time and is due for review
- d) It is a major proposal for change
- e) It is an issue raised via complaints received
- f) It is an area of public concern
- g) It is an area of poor performance
- h) It would be of benefit to residents of the district

Which of the Council's objectives does the issue address?

Prosperity and sustainability at Parish, Town and District level

Is there a deadline for the Council to make a decision? It is urgent to review this topic before the end of the Summer tourism boost

Members are requested to provide information on the following:-

What do you wish to achieve from the review?

Clarity of what has been done and what effect this has had to date. Fair, transparent and cost-effective procedures and greater cooperation between officers and Councillors

Are the desired outcomes likely to be achievable?

Yes

Will it change/increase efficiency and cost effectiveness?

That is the intention

Additional information – an explanatory sentence or paragraph to be provided below to support each box which has been ticked:

Initiatives to bring these discussions about have not been held for over 12 months.

A report to scrutiny should be prepared for July 2022 outlining How effective the current support measures have been in protecting jobs and in the processes of distributing current grants to businesses, has Economic Development:

- a) Considered how to ensure that reliable data covering as many people as possible can be used to determine economic development proposals so that fewer people suffering loss of income and more people have better jobs
- b) Clarify how support might be given to those organisations not eligible for current Government grants
- c) Report on how far current employment support schemes are protecting jobs in East Devon rural and coastal areas, recognising that our approach may need to adapt rapidly in response to how the pandemic evolves over the coming months and years

Please return completed form to Democratic Services.

Monitoring Officer's comments:

The expected outcome set out in the proposal form suggests a review that relates to the ability of non-administration members to bring forward policy initiatives.

The additional information at the bottom of the form then reflects scrutinising the effectiveness of support measures in protecting jobs and the process of distributing current grants (presumably relating to a Covid/post-Covid environment).

It is unclear how the first point (ability of non-administration members to bring forward policy initiatives) and the second point (effectiveness of support measures) fit together, perhaps a further proposal form could give further detail on the suggested remit of a report on this topic for clarity.

The second point is capable of scrutiny, I would suggest that relevant officers are identified and asked to comment on timescale and scope. Given committee deadlines it seems unlikely that meaningful research could be carried out in time for a report to come to the July committee, officers can be asked to comment.