

Scrutiny Report to Council 9 October 2014

Report of the Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee

1. This report is submitted by the Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee, in accordance with the constitutional requirements set out in Standing Order 4.3(I) to update Council on scrutiny work and to set out any recommendations such as may be made to Council in relation to that work.

Finance & Performance Monitoring

2. Throughout September and early October, CSMC and three of the four standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees received their 1st quarter finance and performance monitoring reports. Community Safety OSC will consider their 1st quarter report at their meeting in early November.

Refresh of Single Equality Scheme

3. During September and October all the standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees received update reports on the refresh of the Single Equality Scheme including the introduction of focus areas relevant to the four Committees.

Attendance of Cabinet Members

4. The Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Planning and Sustainability attended a meeting of the Community Safety OSC in late July and a meeting of the Economic & City Development OSC in early October to provide Members with an update on the priorities and challenges within his portfolio area during the municipal year.

Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC)

Call-ins

5. Since the last report of this kind in July 2014, there have been four call-ins:
 - Improving York's City Centre - Reinvigorate York Public Realm Improvement Projects: Exhibition Square/Theatre Interchange project.

- Lendal Bridge and Coppergate Traffic Regulation Orders
- Community Stadium and leisure Facilities Update
- City of York Local Plan Publication Draft

The decisions of the Cabinet were upheld in each of the first 3 cases, none of those being referred back for further consideration. At the time of writing this report, the Call In meeting for the Local Plan had not met.

Overview & Review Work

6. Since full Council meeting in July 2014, CSMC has met once. In early September CSMC received an update report on the progress of the Workforce Strategy 2012-15 relating to the work in the eight months between January and August 2014. The Committee also considered an update of the refresh of York's Equality Scheme which it had last considered in July 2014 and as a result of which four draft priorities had been identified:

- Economic Wellbeing
- Learning and Educational Wellbeing
- Health and Wellbeing
- Community Wellbeing

Progress with monitoring equalities priorities is being made with scrutiny having agreed that updates should be included in future Finance and Monitoring reports to the four standing Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

In addition at this meeting, CSMC also considered an update on the implementation of recommendations from the previously completed Loans and Grants Scrutiny review.

7. CSMC takes its management role very seriously in relation to effective scrutiny. As such it considered a report looking at recommended CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny) good practice in relation to evidence based scrutiny and outcomes. CSMC felt that, whilst this is a practice Scrutiny Officers currently attempt to adopt in supporting scrutiny reviews, it was not always consistently embedded as a practice across scrutiny reviews and recommendations. It acknowledged there could be many reasons for this but resolved to re-enforce this practice across scrutiny reviews. At the very least all reviews and reports should be evidence-based and

recommendations should lead to tangible outcomes, with targets where appropriate.

8. CSMC continues, too, to take an overview of progress with reviews by all Committees. Where they considered some to be 'flagging', they raised concerns, which the Chair has taken up with relevant Officers.

Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee

9. The Committee has met twice since the last meeting of Full Council. In late July they received their end of year Finance and Performance Monitoring Report and a scoping report on a proposed Discretionary Charges in Waste Management Scrutiny Review. They also received the annual report of the Cabinet member for Homes and Safer Communities.
10. In early September the Committee considered an update report on the work of AVANTE (Alcohol, Violence and Night-Time Economy) and the Draft Final Report on the Domestic Waste Scrutiny review.

Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee

11. This Committee has also met twice since the last meeting of Council. In late July they received a six monthly update report on key children's safeguarding issues, a scoping report for a possible scrutiny review on narrowing gaps in attainment and progress in York, a scoping report for a suggested review of Entrepreneurship for Young People and their end of year Finance and Monitoring Report. They also considered an update report on the implementation of recommendations from the previously completed scrutiny review into Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance.
12. In September the Committee received an update report on the progress and performance of York Theatre Royal under the current Service level Agreement. They also received the annual report of the City of York Safeguarding Board and an update report on recent developments and future plans for parks and open spaces across the City. Finally, they considered an update report on primary and secondary school performance in 2014 together with information about the position of York schools according to Ofsted judgements during 2013-14.

Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

13. The Committee has met twice since the last report to Council. In late July they received their end of year Finance and Performance Monitoring Report and considered a scoping report on the Supporting Older People Scrutiny Review to explore how economic growth benefits older people.

The Committee appointed a Task Group to carry out this work on their behalf. They also received an update report on the implementation of recommendations from the previously completed External Funding Scrutiny Review and considered York's latest Create Jobs and Grow the Economy Economic Dashboard. In addition, Members were given verbal updates on the progress of the ongoing scrutiny reviews into "Higher Value Jobs, Entrepreneurialism and Graduate Employment" and "Online Skills / E-Commerce".

14. At the beginning of October ECDOSC received an overview report on York's Low Emissions Strategy including an update of the Air Quality Action Plan and considered six monthly update reports on Major Development Schemes in York and Major Transport Initiatives in the City. Again Members were given verbal update reports on the ongoing scrutiny reviews being undertaken by Task Groups on behalf of the Committee.

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

15. This Committee has met just once since the last report to Council. In September they were given update reports on interim plans for Bootham Park Hospital by the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group and Leeds & York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. They were presented with the annual reports from the Chief Executive of Yorkshire Ambulance Service and York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and considered an update report on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Personalisation Scrutiny Review. Finally, they were given a presentation by Healthwatch on a report into Discrimination Against Disabled People in York. The Committee next meets on 15 October.

Councillor John Galvin
Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee