

Scrutiny Report to Council

December 2015

Report of the Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee

1. This report is submitted by the Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee (CSMC), in accordance with the constitutional requirements set out in Standing Order 4.2.1 (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 and Performance

2. Since the last report to Council on 8 October 2015 only the Health & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee has received a 2nd Quarter Finance & Performance Monitoring report. Scheduled reports to CSMC and the three other standing scrutiny committees were deferred until their January meetings due to Executive meetings being put back until the end of each month.

Attendance of Executive Members

3. The Executive Member for Economic Development and Community Engagement (EDAT) attended the November meeting of the Economic Development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Committee to outline his priorities and challenges within his portfolio area for the municipal year. This was later in the year than would have been preferred but was because the EDAT remit includes the portfolio areas of four Executive Members.

Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee

Call-ins

4. Since the last report to Council CSMC has considered one post-decision call-in: Park & Ride Bus Contract Options. CSMC resolved there were no grounds on which to refer back the decision for further consideration and the decision was therefore upheld.

Petitions

5. At each of its meetings, CSMC continues to receive its standing report on Council petitions providing details of new petitions received by the Council and the appropriate course of action.

Scrutiny Work

6. CSMC has met once since the last report to Council when Members also received an update report on the Council Tax Support Scheme review.
7. As requested by the Executive, it is considering a full report, at a future meeting, on reviewing scrutiny remits, taking into account any organisational changes in Directorates, currently being reviewed by the Chief Executive.
8. As Chair of CSMC I am continuing to consider the implementation of the new post-decision call-in process, in particular the timescales involved of publication on the forward plan, consideration by scrutiny, and decision made by the Executive. The format of the notification email for the Forward Plan has been amended to highlight when new items are added.
9. I attended and spoke on the process of the pre-decision call-in at EDAT (see Paragraph 12) to encourage members of both Scrutiny and the Executive to consider the timescales involved in order to maximise the possible influence of the call-in. I was appreciative of the Executive Member deferring his final decision for this reason.
10. At time of writing of this report, I am aware of the first pre-decision call-in of an item going to Executive, and so for consideration by CSMC. I am interested to see how this will work in practice, and if any slight amendments to the process would be helpful.

Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee

11. This Committee has met once since the last report to Council. On 17 November, Members received an update report on the implementation of recommendations from the A-Boards Scrutiny Review and a report on the impact of the Council's new process for tackling horses that are fly grazing on Council land through the work of the horse bailiff. Members also received an interim report on the Stag and Hen Parties Scrutiny Review and feedback from a meeting with Friends of Rowntree Park over a proposed scrutiny review on Goose Management.

Economic Development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Review

Call-in

12. On 18 November 2015 EDAT considered a pre-decision call-in of the Air Quality Action Plan 3 following agreement of the new pre-decision scrutiny arrangements by the Executive which came into operation from early October 2015. As a result of consideration by EDAT the Executive Member for Environment agreed to defer his decision to allow time for him to consider the additional actions requested by EDAT and their implications in more detail.

Scrutiny Work

13. This Committee has met once since the last report of this nature and in November Members also considered six-monthly update reports on Major Transport Initiatives and Major developments within the city.

Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee

14. This Committee has met twice since the last report to Council. In October, Members received the bi-annual updates reports from York Safeguarding Board and from Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual Ltd. They also considered a School Improvement and Ofsted update report on Schools Performance and a feasibility report for a City Walls Scrutiny Review.
15. In November, the Committee considered a report on performance data for York Learning set against the Strategic Plan for the academic year 2015/16 and an introductory report on Reframing the Relationship between the Council and York Museums Trust. Members also considered an update report on the implementation of recommendations from the Narrowing the Gap Scrutiny Review.

Health & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee

16. This Committee has met three times since the last meeting to Council. In October 2015 Members took part in a summit meeting to discuss the closure of Bootham Park Hospital in York and heard evidence from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group, Leeds & York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Property Services.

17. In November the Committee considered the Quality Summit report following the CQC inspection of York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and the six-monthly update report from Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board. Members also received a report on GP Health Checks for People with Learning Disabilities.
18. Finally, in early December 2015, the Committee received the six-monthly Performance Update Report from Healthwatch York, a six-monthly Quality Monitoring report on Residential, Nursing and Homecare Services and the annual update report on the carers' Strategy. Members also considered an update report on the re-procurement of Musculoskeletal Services and a report on Elderly People's Homes.
19. The Committee will meet again on 22 December when Members will receive an update report on an interim solution for Bootham Park Hospital as well as a report on the re-procurement of Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services.

Training

20. As Chair of CSMC I have been discussing with officers how we might improve the training regime for scrutiny, in part to recognise the large proportion of new members.
21. A training programme encompassing scrutiny members, Executive members and senior officers is being considered. Further discussions, including with members of those groups, will take place and a report to CSMC outlining the proposals should hopefully come forward in the near future.