

Scrutiny Report to Full Council – June 2006

Scrutiny Management Committee

Since my last verbal report to Full Council in 11th April the newly convened and constituted Scrutiny Management Committee has had its first meeting. This meeting largely had a transitional role, in terms of managing the conclusion of outstanding scrutiny reviews from 05/06 and looking to the future management and resourcing of topics. As such, it had been hoped that all the outstanding Scrutiny Topics would have completed their reports in order that the Committee could look to set up some new ad-hoc sub-committees. However, four topics, due for completion by March 2006 are still outstanding:

Planning Guidance for Sustainable Development

Re-cycling and re-use

Sustainable street lighting

Reducing carbon emissions from York's housing

The Committee resolved to convert the above topics to ad hoc sub-committees and invite, where possible, the previous board memberships' to re-convene in order to agree the final reports by 24th July when SMC next meets. It was felt that no further time extensions would be appropriate given the need to begin to allocate new topics for review now that the new Municipal Year has started.

SMC is to look at enhancing its work programming processes so that future reviews can be effectively prioritised, taking into account available resources.

Late last summer, in response to a scrutiny topic registration SMC set up a children's health working group. The group centred on the quality and provision of school meals. The scoping report came to SMC in May who felt it had been overtaken by recent changes to legislation and recommended that it be passed to Education Scrutiny Committee to see if they wish to take it further.

The final report on Inclusive Decision Making went to the Executive on 13th June. However, its recommended formation of an Equalities Advisory Group has already been incorporated into the new constitution.

Scrutiny Calling-In Function

To date SMC has not been required to meet in its new constitutional calling-in capacity.

Scrutiny Committees

Education

This new Scrutiny Committee is to consider the first draft of the report on Extended Schools Provision in York in June 2006.

Health

New Committee Members are on a learning curve regarding responsibilities for Health Scrutiny. Members are currently concerned about the recovery plan for Selby and York PCT. They hope to take part in the National Health

Scrutiny Support Programme later this year. The Chair has attended an NHS finance training event in London.