

Scrutiny Report To Council

Report of the Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee

1. This report is submitted by the Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC), in accordance with the constitutional requirements set out in Standing Order 4.3(l) to update Council on scrutiny work during the period of activity since the last Council meeting and to set out any recommendations such as may be made to Council in relation to that work.

Update on Scrutiny Work

SMC

2. There have been two meetings of SMC since the last update to Council, at which we considered reports on the following:

Updates on the implementation of recommendations

3. Scrutiny Management Committee have received updates on the implementation of the recommendations from the review on Recycling and Reuse, the review of City Centre Retailing and the review on Reducing Carbon Emissions.

Scrutiny Annual Report

4. Committee received a draft of the Scrutiny Report and suggested a few minor amendments before its presentation to this meeting of Full Council.

Protocol for Joint Scrutiny Reviews

5. Members of the Committee also received a revised protocol to enable York to host joint scrutiny reviews as and when the need arises. Members had now approved the protocol subject to some alterations regarding proportionality of joint committees.

Final Report of the 'Cultural Quarter' Ad Hoc Scrutiny Review

6. SMC has also received the final report of the 'Cultural Quarter' Ad Hoc Scrutiny Review and agreed that the report and its associated annexes be noted, accepted and forwarded to the Executive.
7. Finally the Committee approved a short extension to the timeframe of the Planning Enforcement Ad Hoc Scrutiny Review and received an information report regarding Councillor Call for Action (CCfA), which came into force on 1st April 2009. The report highlighted how the overview and scrutiny function in York has responded to the forthcoming new requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and highlighted the need to provide some best practice guidance for Members for resolving potential CCfAs. As a result SMC have commissioned a scrutiny report

outlining best practice from those Council's who have piloted CCfA in order to establish some agreed working practices for York.

Health Scrutiny Committee

8. Since last Council Health Scrutiny Committee has considered two feasibility reports in relation to a 'Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy' and 'Access to Dental Services in York' registered by Councillor Susan Galloway and Councillor Moore respectively. Health Scrutiny Committee decided not to go ahead with either of these at the moment but have requested further information in the form of briefing notes on both topics.
9. The Committee has continued work on the Annual Health Check, which is the system that the Healthcare Commission uses to assess the performance of all NHS Trusts and a few other types of organisations in the NHS in England. The Health Scrutiny Committee will work with North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (NYYPCT), York Hospital Foundation Trust and Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) to produce submissions to the Healthcare Commission by the end of April 2009.
10. The Committee also continues its work on understanding its relationship with Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), and in defining its relationship with the network. It has received a further update report regarding current progress and the steps and measures that need to be taken to ensure that LINKs establishes an effective working relationship with the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Education Scrutiny Committee

11. The Education Scrutiny Committee has met once since they last reported to Council. They have received an update on the recommendations stemming from the following scrutiny reviews and signed those off that have been implemented:
 - Inclusion in York Schools
 - Post 16 inclusion
 - School Governors
12. Work has continued on the review of the 'Extended Schools Agenda in York'. The Committee held a consultation event for schools and private providers of childcare and after school clubs in order to gather their views on the quality cost and up-take of the current provision in York. Feedback from the event is being fed into a draft final report which the Committee are due to consider at their next meeting.

Cultural Quarter Ad-hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committee

13. The work of this Sub-Committee is now complete and the final report was presented to SMC on 24th March 2009. The report will shortly be presented to the Executive for approval.

Hungate Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee

14. This Committee has met twice since the last report to Council. At the first of those meetings they discussed the information gathered to date, including the documentation provide by English Heritage as a result of a 'Freedom of Information' This resulted in a number of pertinent questions being raised and the Committee therefore agreed to invite English Heritage to attend their next meeting. They also requested further information regarding budgetary matters and the Strategic Site Study report and agreed to make a further 'Freedom of Information' request to CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment).
15. At their second meeting, the Committee were disappointed that English Heritage had refused to meet with them again and agreed to make a further request to them to attend their next meeting. Having considered all the other new information gathered, the Committee agreed to hold an informal meeting to meet with a representative of York Civic Trust and the former Executive portfolio holder for Resources, Quentin MacDonald. This meeting is due to take place on 9 April and the Committee plan to meet again on 1 May 2009 to consider and agree their final report.

Planning Enforcement Scrutiny Ad-hoc Sub-Committee

16. This Ad-hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committee has met twice since last Council. At the first of these meetings the Committee received an interim report containing the evidence gathered to date. Members of the Committee then formulated some draft recommendations for inclusion in the final report. The draft final report was presented to Members at their second meeting where it was agreed that further information was still required to complete the review. In light of this the Committee requested an extension to the timeframe of the review in order to gather the further evidence required. This was granted by SMC at a meeting on 24th March 2009. The Committee has scheduled two further meetings in April and May in order to complete the review.

Councillor John Galvin
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee