

Scrutiny Report To Council

October 2010

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(I) 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. Since the last quarterly scrutiny report to Council in April, the Management Committee has met once, on 28th June 2010, where the Scrutiny Annual Report was discussed, together with the revised final report arising from the Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Review. The Annual Scrutiny Report was subsequently presented to Council at their July meeting instead of the usual quarterly report.
3. SMC have also considered the following call ins:
 - 4 May 2010
 - Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee Final Report
 - 14 June 2010
 - 20mph Speed Limit: Petitions for Sovereign Park & Dodsworth Avenue
 - Water End Cycle Scheme Evaluation
 - A Low Emission Strategy for York
 - 27 September 2010
 - Exit Provisions and Pension Discretions

Improving Scrutiny

4. In addition, as current Chair of SMC, I have been involved in a number of initiatives in an effort to improve the provision of and engagement with scrutiny across this Council. These include:
 - Chairing a regional scrutiny member event, which was held in York on 29th September 2010;
 - Establishing lead directorate officers to support scrutiny throughout the Council, at Chief Officer level;
 - A meeting with other Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs to establish what needs improving;
 - A training session for Members and 'lead officers', delivered by David McGrath, which offered some valuable insights into how we could take scrutiny forward in York

Next I am planning to attend all scrutiny meetings in the November/December cycle, together with key officers, to hear the concerns from more members doing scrutiny and talk about what we can change.

In conjunction with officers, I am supporting a change in the way we conduct scrutiny by trialing a simple 'one page' approach to assessing the potential for and scoping reviews. It is hoped to test this approach on some reviews coming up. This approach was recommended by the recent trainer.

Standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees

5. Further meetings of the standing overview & scrutiny committees have taken place since the last Council meeting.
6. **Health Scrutiny Committee** have met three times since the last Scrutiny report to Council and have given consideration to an update on dental services in York, a proposed scrutiny topic on care of new mothers and their newborn children as well as finance and monitoring reports in relation to Adult Social Services. They have also heard from the Local Involvement Network (LINKs) on several occasions and received their Annual Report as well as meeting with them informally through the LINKs Statutory stakeholder Group.
7. The Committee continues to build relationships with external health partners and has undertaken discussions with the Primary Care Trust in relation to 'Transforming Community Services'. They have also received an update from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service regarding their forthcoming priorities and challenges.
8. In addition to this they have also been consulted on the Government White Paper - 'Liberating the NHS' and have commented on the Joint Vision for Older People's Health and Social Care in York prior to it being considered by the Executive Member for Health & Adult Social Services.
9. The Childhood Obesity Task Group have now finished their work and their final report was considered at the meeting of the Committee on 22nd September 2010. The Committee approved the final report and the recommendation arising from the review and these will be submitted to the Executive in November 2010.
10. The Committee also continues to monitor the implementation of the recommendations arising from the dementia review.
11. **Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have met four times since last Council. The first two meetings, held in July, focused on finance, performance and budget strategy. At a meeting held in September 2010, the committee received presentations on Customer Services and ICT, and received a briefing report on measures to address external costs in Legal Services. As a result of the Customer Services presentation, the Committee agreed to carry out a review of customer feedback and complaints.
12. At a meeting in early October 2010 the Committee received a briefing on procurement and an update on 'More for York'.

13. **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met three times since the last report to Council. They have also considered reports and presentations on many issues including:
- The final report of the Councillor Call for Action in relation to Water End, which has now been received by the Executive.
 - An update on the Broadway Shops Councillor Call for Action
 - An update presentation on a proposed scrutiny topic on the acceptance of euros by York businesses – the Committee agreed that they would like to receive a further presentation from Visit York on a pilot scheme currently being undertaken within the city
 - Finance and Performance reports relevant to the remit of the Committee
 - Executive reports on the York North West site and on traffic management at York railway station
 - Proposed scrutiny topics on the adoption of new estates - the Committee decided not to progress this topic to review
 - Report on the future of Yorkshire Forward
14. In addition to this the Committee continues to work on the Newgate Market Scrutiny Review, which will hopefully be completed by the end of this calendar year. It also continues to monitor the implementation of recommendations arising from previous scrutiny reviews.
15. **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met twice since the last Council meeting. In July 2010, the Committee agreed their final report from their review of 'Casual Play Opportunities' and received a summary report on the changing policy landscape following the general election, which will impact upon the work of individual schools, the wider children's services agenda and the local authority.
16. In early October 2010 met again to receive a number of reports - a briefing on CYC's Youth Services; a report on opportunities for public art at the new CYC HQ, and an information report on Archives. The Committee were also consulted on revisions to CYC's play policy.
17. **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met twice since the last Council meeting. In June 2010 they completed their review on the council's Winter Gritting Policy, received a presentation from North Yorkshire Police and reports on the Policing Pledge, Safer Neighbourhood Teams Priorities, and Public Attitude Survey Results.
18. In September 2010, the committee received an update report on CCTV in the city, and information report on the Capable Guardian Scheme and Area Based Working Pilot. The committee also received a feasibility report on a possible scrutiny review of CYC Taxi Licensing Policy, and as a result set up a Task Group from within their committee membership to proceed with the review.
19. **School Travel Plans Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee** has met twice since their formation. In July 2010 they received an information report on the current arrangements for school travel planning in York, and agreed a remit and workplan for the review. In September 2010 the committee considered a range of travel plans for 26 York Schools and identified a cross section of those to participate in

the review. Committee members plan to visit these schools in October to gather best practice evidence and information on previous travel initiatives.

Councillor John Galvin
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee