

# **Report of the Chair of Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee**

**31 October 2019**

1. This report is submitted by the Chair of Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC), in accordance with the constitutional requirements set out in Standing order 8.3 (m) 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. In July 2019 the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the newly reconstituted Policy and Scrutiny Committees met to discuss a common approach to scrutiny as the Council moved into the new municipal year under a new administration. At the meeting the Chairs and Vice-Chairs agreed that Finance and Performance monitoring reports would be presented to scrutiny committees on a six-monthly basis with the exception of the Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee which will continue to receive these reports quarterly. So, since the last report to Council on 17 July 2019, CSMC, the Economy and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee, the Health and Adult Social Care Policy, the Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee and the Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee all received their End of Year reports at their July meetings. The Health and Adult Social Care Policy also received its 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter report in September. No arrangements have been made for the newly-formed Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee to receive such reports, given its more specific area of operation.

## **Attendance of Executive Members**

3. As outlined in the July report to Council the Executive Leader (Policy, Strategy and Partnerships) and the Executive Member for Finance and Performance attended the June meeting of CSMC to outline to Members their priorities and challenges for 2019-20. The Executive Member for Economy and Strategy and the Executive Member for Transport attended the July meeting of the Economy and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee. The Executive Member for Economy and Strategy again attended a meeting of the E&P Policy and Scrutiny Committee in September, along with the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change

4. The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Communities attended the Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee meeting in July while the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education presented his priorities and challenges to the Committee's September meeting. The Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods attended the Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee meeting in July while the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care was welcomed to the July meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs**

5. The switch to monthly meetings for all scrutiny committees presents the opportunity for a more in-depth scrutiny of issues affecting the city. To ensure this opportunity is not lost Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs now meet on a six-monthly basis to coordinate the way scrutiny works and to increase collaboration and cooperation across committees. As it is part of CSMC's role to oversee the scrutiny function scrutiny Chairs now attend CSMC on a rolling six-monthly basis to report on their committee's activities. The Chair of the Economy and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee presented his report in September and the Chair of the Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee presented in October.
6. Reflecting on the move away from Pre-Decision Call-ins, Scrutiny Chairs are now meeting with the Chair of CSMC and their relevant Corporate Directors on a quarterly basis to "horizon scan" and receive outline briefings on items which may not yet have reached the Forward Plan.

### **Post-Decision Call-Ins**

7. There have been no Post-Decision Call-ins since the last report to Council.

### **Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee**

#### Petitions

8. At each of its meetings, this Committee continues to receive its standing report on Council petitions providing details of new petitions received by the Council and the appropriate course of action. However, the way CSMC receives petitions is under review and discussions are ongoing.

## Scrutiny Work

9. This Committee has met twice since the last report to Council. In September Members received an Update Report on E-Democracy as part of their ongoing overview of the Council's ICT Strategy and they also received Update Reports on the Implementation of Recommendations from three previously completed scrutiny reviews: Scrutiny Operations and Functions; Financial Inclusion and Single Use Plastics. Members signed off the recommendations that had been fully implemented and referred two recommendations from the Scrutiny Operations and Functions review to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs. They also referred the recommendations from the Single Use Plastics Scrutiny Review to the Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
10. In October Members received an update report on the Corporate Approach to Project Management and took part in a work planning session which resulted in eight significant issues being added to the work plan for the year and others being referred to the Economy and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee.
11. Work by an Ad Hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committee investigating Food Poverty in York and involving Members of CSMC, the Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee and the Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee is on-going and the Sub-Committee has met three times since August.

## **Health, Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee**

12. This Committee has met three times since the last report to Council. In July the Committee received the Healthwatch York six monthly performance report, which featured their engagement with NHS providers and themes arising from their discussions with patients. The Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care, in her capacity as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, presented the Board's Annual Report, indicating the work of the Board and its strategy for the coming year. The Director of Health, Housing and Adult Social Care gave an overview of the directorate outlining the structure and the issues arising that might be of interest to the Committee.
13. At the Committee's September meeting, Unity Health Medical Group attended to provide assurances that progress was being made to

address concerns about services highlighted in earlier reports and at previous scrutiny meetings. The Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) presented an update report on their new policy regarding Repeat Medicines Ordering, The CCG assured the Committee that vulnerable patients would not be adversely affected and agreed to share with scrutiny planned changes to services at an earlier stage in future. The Committee was also presented with a six monthly monitoring report on Residential, Nursing, and Homecare services and an Annual Assurance report on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

14. In October the Committee received the results of the Older Persons Accommodation Needs Survey and an update on the implementation of the Substance Misuse Scrutiny Review recommendations made to Executive in March 2019. Members received a report on the Community based approach to Mental Health, and an update report on developments around the Bootham Park Hospital site.

### **Children, Education & Communities Policy & Scrutiny Committee**

15. This Committee has also met three times since the last report to Council. In July the York Museum Trust presented their Partnership Delivery Bi-Annual Update Report, along with an update on the review of Ward Committees. The Committee was also asked to note and comment on a report on York Learning Governance arrangements.
16. At the September meeting the Committee was presented with the York Safeguarding Partnership Bi-Annual Update Report, highlighting the changes which have occurred in the organisational structure underpinning the work on safeguarding in York. Members also heard about the work being carried out to promote a Cultural Passport for Young People. The Assistant Director for Children's Specialist Services gave an overview of her work area and presented a report on Specialist Services in light of the recent Ofsted inspection into the service. Members also received an update report into Local Area teams, following the former committee's interest in this topic and a recent audit of the service which took place in May.
17. At the October meeting Members received an update regarding the recent activity of the Cultural Leaders Group. The Committee received an overview report of the Special Educational Needs Disabilities function at CYC and were also presented with an update report on resident involvement, as a follow up on a recommendation from the

former Committee.

### **Economy and Place Policy Development Committee**

18. Since the last report to Council, this Committee has met twice. In September Members received their CYC Flood Defences Action Plan biannual report from the Council's Flood Risk Manager and the Environment Agency's Partnership and Strategic Overview Manager.
19. In October the Committee welcomed the Chief Operating Officer of the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) who spoke about the developing Local Industrial Strategy and York's position within the YNYER LEP and also the Leeds City Region LEP. Members also had round table discussions with representatives from the University of York, York St John University, York College and CYC's Assistant Director, Education and Skills around high value employment and skills, graduate retention and apprenticeships. The outcome of the discussions is that the committee wants to undertake a scrutiny review into apprenticeships and skills.

### **Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

20. This Committee has met three times since the last report of this nature. In July Members received the draft Housing Delivery Programme Design Manual, and Members were given the opportunity to input before its full presentation to the Executive. For the discussion on the draft Manual, the Committee was joined by a number of external 'experts' for 'round table' discussions on this topic. Members also received a report on a consultation on Older Persons Accommodation Needs, and agreed to promote the survey in their respective wards.
21. In September the Committee received a report on the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and an independent consultant joined Members for the discussion on the Business Plan, bringing a perspective from outside of York. Members discussed a report on Decent Homes Standards and were joined in the discussions by a council tenant who is also a member of the Tenants' Panel and an advisor from Citizen's Advice York. The perspectives shared by these non-members again helped to inform the committee's discussion.
22. In October there was a round table discussion around County Lines when Members were joined by officers from the Police, Probation Service, Children Services and Public Health. The Committee also

received the Safer York Partnership Bi annual report and members considered a report that addressed a referral from Area planning and a topic request on Social Housing on Private Developments.

### **Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

23. This Committee has met twice since its establishment at the Annual Meeting of Full Council on 22 May 2019. It held its inaugural meeting in September 2019 when Members noted the Terms of Reference agreed by the Monitoring Officer in conjunction with the Leader and the Chair of the Committee. Members also considered a Climate Change Update Report, the Committee's approach to its work and ways of working and priorities that will help form the basis of the Committee's work plan.
24. In October, the committee received a report from the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change and a presentation from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority on their achievements and plans in this area.

### **Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Meeting**

25. As mentioned above, most of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the standing scrutiny committees attended a meeting in July to discuss ways of promoting and enhancing the scrutiny function. It was agreed that Chairs would work collaboratively to promote better engagement with scrutiny amongst Members, Officers and all relevant stakeholders. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs agreed that similar meetings should be held on a six-monthly basis going forward and a further meeting has been arranged for December.

### **Report Recommendation**

26. Members are recommended to:

- i. Note this report.

Reason: To comply with the Council's constitutional requirements

**Cllr J Crawshaw,**

**Chair,**

**Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee**