

Scrutiny Report to Council December 2011

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 Planning

2. In its primary role of coordinating and managing collective scrutiny business, Scrutiny Management Committee led on a scrutiny work planning event held in July 2011 involving all Cabinet, Scrutiny members and Chief Officers. The event resulted in each of the scrutiny committees identifying a number of topics for review this municipal year, for which there was a corporate need and collective support.
3. At the last meeting of Council in October 2011, the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2010-2011 was presented, and therefore this report provides the first update on the work of the individual standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees this municipal year.

Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC)

4. At its meeting on 28 November, 2011, SMC agreed to recommend a small support budget for undertaking scrutiny reviews to Cabinet. Council will recall removing this budget entirely in 2011/12 as part of the overall budget set in February 2011. In accordance with its constitutional role to consider what budget might be appropriate for scrutiny in this regard, on balance and taking account of the present economic circumstances, SMC felt that a small budget of £5k would be invaluable in enabling scrutiny to perform more successfully. It is therefore making a recommendation to Budget Cabinet in February 2012 for scrutiny to be reprovided with this small support budget for its work.
5. At this same meeting, SMC received a report on the ongoing regional work activity in which the Scrutiny Team and SMC Chair have been involved. This included a Members Regional Scrutiny Network event held in the Guildhall, York on Friday 2 December 2011, focussing in particular on the implications of the Localism Bill and the Health &

Social Care Bill. As on many previous occasions, Councillor Galvin, as Chair of SMC had been asked to introduce and chair the event.

Standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees

4. Each of the standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees has received two quarterly finance and performance monitoring reports since the start of this municipal year.
5. The five standing overview & scrutiny committees each held a meeting before the work planning event in July 2011 to:
 - introduce their new members to the committee's remit and terms of reference;
 - receive presentations from the relevant Assistant Directors on ongoing work within directorates and future planned work;
 - meet with the appropriate Cabinet Members to discuss with them their priorities and challenges for the year ahead
6. **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have agreed to carry out scrutiny reviews on Anti-social Behaviour and Domestic Waste Collection & Recycling, and work on each of these is ongoing. The Committee has formed a Task Group to carry out the ASB Review, and have received a briefing on a recent city-wide consultation on recycling in support of their Waste review.
7. In addition, over a period of 4 meetings the committee has received a number of Safer York Partnership (SYP) and North Yorkshire Police performance reports. The Committee has looked at the restructure of North Yorkshire Police (NYP) and the proposals for restructuring Community Safety within NYP. It has also received presentations on the restructure of CANS and the roles supporting the SYP, and the role of the PCT within SYP. Finally, in October 2011 the Committee considered a final update on a recent regional CCTV shared services consultation which resulted in them agreeing not to proceed with a review of CCTV across the city.
8. **Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have agreed to carry out scrutiny reviews on CYC Sickness Absence Management, and the Future Use of the Guildhall. Having received a briefing on staff sickness levels, a Task Group was formed to identify an appropriate remit for the Sickness Absence Management and this was subsequently agreed by the full committee. The Task Group is now progressing with work on the review.

9. The Committee has also received updates on the implementation of the approved recommendations arising from their previous scrutiny reviews on CYC Apprenticeships and Customer Complaints.
10. **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have agreed to carry out scrutiny reviews on Primary School Demographics, Outcomes for 'Looked After' Children, and Public Parks. In addition, a further topic on the York Museums Trust is currently under consideration following its submission by Cllr Watson.
11. Work has commenced on the Demographics review, focusing on the Local Authority's oversubscription criteria and school travel policies. The Committee has held a number of information gathering sessions and met with a number of Head Teachers.
12. Outside of their review work, the committee has received a performance update from the York Theatre Royal and taken a tour of the Theatre and its new facilities within the De Grey Buildings. It has also received a detailed performance update on the York Museums Trust partnership delivery plan. Finally, the committee has signed off a number of fully implemented recommendations arising from their previous scrutiny reviews on the Cultural Quarter and Casual Play, and requested a further update on the remaining recommendations in six months time.
13. **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has agreed to carry out a review on 'Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector'. The Committee has received information to help them begin to scope the review and a small Task Group is being formed to undertake the review. A date is currently being sought for their first meeting.
14. In addition to this the Committee has given consideration to an update report on the implementation of recommendations arising from their previous scrutiny review on Newgate Market. They have also received two six monthly updates on major transport initiatives and issues and major developments within the city.
15. The Committee has also received an update report in relation to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP). As part of this report the Committee received a presentation from the Chief Operating Officer at the York & North Yorkshire LEP. The Committee requested a further report be brought to them in six months time and this would also include information on the Leeds City Region LEP.
16. **Health Scrutiny Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have agreed to carry out a review on 'End of Life Care – the use and effectiveness of Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR)' forms. The

Committee are undertaking the review as a whole rather than as a small Task Group and have met once to scope the review. Key health partners have been invited to a future meeting to present some background information and a series of evidence gathering sessions are currently being planned for early in the New Year.

17. In addition to this the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee has agreed to monitor the procurement of the Health Watch contract and receive regular updates on progress.
18. The Committee are in regular contact with key health partners in the city and have recently spoken to Yorkshire Ambulance Service about a reported increase in complaints received and to York Hospital and the Primary Care Trust regarding Transforming Community Services.
19. Keeping up to date with news on NHS reforms has been a priority alongside understanding the work of the Transition Board and the Terms of Reference for the Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board.
20. And finally this Committee has had a representative (Councillor Wiseman) on the Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (being administered in Leeds) looking into proposals to change the provision of Children's Cardiac Services. Councillor Wiseman has kept the Committee up to date on the work being undertaken in relation to this.
21. **City Centre Access Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee** – Councillor Gillies had submitted this topic originally allocated to the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee. After consideration it was decided that it would be more appropriate to form an ad hoc Committee to undertake this review and nominations were sought on the basis of interest in the topic. The Ad Hoc Committee have met to scope the review and have also visited some of the major pinch points in accessing the city centre. Further meetings are planned to gather evidence from the Police and Council enforcement officers.

Councillor John Galvin
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee