



Notice of meeting of

Scrutiny Management Committee

To: Councillors Kirk (Chair), Merrett (Vice-Chair), Blanchard, Cuthbertson, Hill, Hyman and Livesley

Date: Monday, 18 December 2006

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Guildhall

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members will be invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

2. Minutes p1 (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2006.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Committee's remit can do so. Anyone who wishes to register or requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer on the contact details listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is 10.00am on Friday 15 December 2006.

4. White Paper on Strong and Prosperous Communities - Report on Implications for Scrutiny Function [5-5.30pm] (Pages 5 - 14)

To receive a brief report on the main implications for the scrutiny function, arising from the Government's White Paper on Strong & Prosperous Communities.

5. Budget Monitoring and Consultation (Pages 15 - 20)
[5.30pm-5.50pm]

To consider a report setting out current budget spend in relation to the available budget for supporting scrutiny reviews and recommend a suitable budget to the Executive, as part of the budget setting process for 2007/8.

6. Floods Scrutiny - Update on Implementation of Executive Decisions in October 2005 (Pages 21 - 34)
[5.50pm-6.10pm]

To receive a report updating the position on the implementation of Floods Scrutiny recommendations and Executive resolutions in relation thereto.

7. Education Scrutiny Committee Workplan (Pages 35 - 38)
[6.10pm-6.20pm]

To receive a report giving details for the work plan of Education Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of 2006/7.

8. Any other business which the Chair decides is urgent under the Local Government Act 1972

Democracy Officer:

Name: Dawn Steel

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551030
- E-mail – dawn.steel@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DATE	20 NOVEMBER 2006
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS KIRK (CHAIR), MERRETT (VICE-CHAIR), BLANCHARD, HYMAN, LIVESLEY AND D'AGORNE (SUBSTITUTE)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS CUTHBERTSON AND HILL

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair invited any declarations of interest from Members in relation to business on the agenda. No such declarations were made.

32. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 23 October 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

33. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair reported that no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme had been received.

34. UPDATE ON WORK OF EDUCATIONS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members considered a report which detailed the scrutiny work undertaken so far during 2005/6 by the Education Scrutiny Committee.

Members were informed that a final report on the Extended School Service had already been considered by the Executive and that the Committee were now reviewing home-to-school transport contracts and how pupil safety could be maximised. Members were informed that the review would concentrate on primary schools and examine the implications of introducing seat belts onto all buses transporting pupils to primary schools in York.

It was noted that an outstanding topic on the role of school governors had been delayed pending available staffing support.

Members requested that a formal work plan for the Education Scrutiny Committee be drafted for consideration at the next meeting of the Scrutiny Management Committee.

RESOLVED: That:

- i. the progress of the Education Scrutiny Committee be noted.

- ii. A formal work plan for Education Scrutiny Committee be presented at the next meeting of SMC.

REASON: In order to meet the delegated authority of Scrutiny Management Committee as defined in CYC's Constitution.

35. TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN YORK - REGISTERED SCRUTINY TOPIC NO. 120

Members considered a report detailing a proposed scrutiny review on Traffic Congestion in York. It was noted that the registered scrutiny topic had been deferred at a previous meeting held on 23 October 2006 to enable a draft remit to be produced.

Members considered the remit which listed the key objectives for the review:

- To identify improvements to current and future congestion and air quality problems.
- To investigate issues around the 5 poor air quality 'hot spots' identified in LTP2 and other Council documents.
- To seek quick solutions to immediate problems rather than long term strategies, eg. School term time solutions, inclement weather difficulties or particular events (ie. Caravan show on Knavesmire)
- To promote the use of environmentally viable and financially practical alternative methods of transport.

It was noted that there was an anticipated rise in traffic in York to 7%. As traffic had been found to be a key contributor to air quality problems in York, Members suggested that it would be useful to know if the Air Quality Action Plan developed by the Council would have any influence on traffic congestion.

Members considered the impact on resources of undertaking this review and requested that a report or presentation on the key issues be brought to the next meeting by relevant officers from City Strategy to enable them to decide whether to proceed to review.

RESOLVED: That a further report and information be received as soon as possible as indicated above to give a fuller picture of the position in relation to a potential remit for any review of this topic.

REASON: In order to fulfil the responsibility of managing the scrutiny function in York

36. HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE PROCUREMENT REVIEW - PROPOSED REMIT

Members considered a report detailing the draft remit for Part A of the Highways Maintenance Procurement Review. It was explained that it was proposed to conduct this review in 2 parts, to enable the first part of the review to fit with timescales for the outcome of the PFI bid in January 2007, so far as was possible.

The remit for Part was attached as Annex A to the report and detailed the aims of the review and listed the key objectives as follows:

- to examine the potential efficiencies from a PFI arrangement
- make recommendations with regard to available longer term alternative options in the event that a PFI outcome is unsuccessful;
- look at the cost effectiveness of those options, including improved ways of working;
- profile expenditure over the lifespan of the PFI and any associated secondary costs.
- understand how to fund PFI if successful

Members agreed the timescale for the review as set out in the remit and requested that the final report go to Executive late February / early March.

RESOLVED: That the remit for Part A of this review be approved and the initial timescales for completion be noted, as indicated above.

REASON: To progress existing agreed scrutiny reviews within procedural and constitutional requirements

37. UPDATE ON PROGRESS MONITORING

Members considered a report on the progress made to date in implementing the new agreed processes and procedures for managing and monitoring scrutiny reviews.

The report included information on a new scrutiny database for monitoring:

- the progress of reviews
- the implementation of recommendations arising from reviews.

As the new process included the proposal of a Member Sponsor for each review, it was noted that the database allowed for the name of the sponsor to be recorded and it was recognised that the new database would help improve overall effectiveness.

The report highlighted that work was now ongoing to develop the reporting facility of the database which would provide Members with the following information:

- Current stage/status of new/ongoing/final reviews

- Progress against timescales per review
- Details of all topics registered and whether rejected or approved for review, including reasons why rejected where applicable.
- Timescale for reporting to Executive
- Details of any recommendations/revised actions agreed by Executive
- Implementation arrangements for agreed Executive actions (including responsible officers).

Members requested that subject to the reporting features being built in time, a first report off the system be considered at the next meeting of SMC.

RESOLVED: That work completed to date on the new database be noted

REASON: to progress development of the new agreed processes and procedures in order to increase efficiencies and maximise resources within the scrutiny function.

Councillor Kirk, Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee
[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 6.30 pm].



Scrutiny Management Committee18th December 2006

Report of the Chief Executive

Strong and Prosperous Communities: the Local Government White Paper and its implications for the scrutiny function**Summary**

1. This report brings to members' attention proposals for an extended scrutiny function, announced in the recently published White Paper on Local Government.

Background

2. The Local Government White Paper was published in October 2006 and its aim is to reflect the government's vision of 'revitalised local authorities, working with their partners, to reshape public services around the citizens and communities that use them'.
3. To achieve its vision, the Government plans to:
 - Give citizens and communities a greater say in how local services are provided.
 - Enable local partners to respond more flexibly to local needs.
 - Reduce the amount of top-down control from central government.
4. Proposals in the White Paper include new accountability and leadership arrangements for elected members, community empowerment initiatives and also a new performance framework. More specifically, the White Paper also includes proposals for extending the role of scrutiny in local authorities:
 - Community Call for Action – Local residents with concerns about their neighbourhood or who want to influence policy can raise these matters with their local councillor. The councillor will then deal with the issue informally by discussions with the executive and local service providers or by referring the issue to scrutiny. Exempt issues are: Planning, licensing, council tax and non-domestic rates because these have a statutory appeals process. Also exempt are crime and disorder issues as these are covered by a similar process under the Police and Justice Act 2006.
 - Extended scrutiny powers over services external to the council – Specified partners to be legally required to take part in council scrutiny and to have regard to scrutiny recommendations. (Specified partners include: the Police Authority, Primary Care Trust, NHS Health Trust, Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus, Health and Safety Executive, Regional Development Agency).

5. Further information on these proposals is included in the two annexes to this report:
 - Annex 1: LGIU briefing PB 1237/06L: White Paper 2006: Implications for political and electoral arrangements
 - Annex 2: IDeA Knowledge: White paper update (<http://www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=5550379>)

Consultation

6. No consultation has taken place with regard to this issue.

Options and analysis

7. Because this report is for information only, it does not offer options or analysis.

Corporate Priorities

8. The proposals in this report and the White Paper more generally will relate to delivery of the council's Organisational Effectiveness Programme (OEP), particularly three of the four OEP corporate priorities:
 - Improve leadership at all levels to provide clear, consistent direction to the organisation
 - Improve the way the council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York
 - Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services

Implications

9. There are no Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information technology or Property implications associated with this report.

Risk Management

10. There are no risks associated with this report as it is for information only.

Recommendation

11. Scrutiny Management Committee is asked to consider proposals in the government's White Paper for the extension of the scrutiny function as highlighted in this report.

Contact Details

Author:

Nigel Burchell
Senior Policy Development Officer
Tel: 01904 552055
Tel No.

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

David Atkinson
Chief Executive

Report Approved *tick*

Date *Insert Date*

Chief Officer's name
Title

Report Approved *tick*

Date *Insert Date*

Specialist Implications Officer(s): None

Wards Affected: *All*

All *tick*

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

- Annex 1: LGIU briefing PB 1237/06L: White Paper 2006: Implications for political and electoral arrangements
- Annex 2: IDeA Knowledge: White paper update (<http://www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=5550379>)

Annex 1: LGIU briefing PB 1237/06L: White Paper 2006: Implications for political and electoral arrangements

“White Paper 2006: Implications for Political and Electoral Arrangements (LGIU)

7/11/2006

Author: Jo Dungey

Reference No: PB 1237/06L

This covers: England

Overview

The briefing summarises the implications of the recent White Paper, *Strong and prosperous communities*, for political structures and powers, and electoral arrangements. These include:

- a forthcoming requirement to move to one of three executive structures (elected mayor, leader with four year term and cabinet, directly elected executive) where all the executive powers are vested in the leader or mayor
- new scrutiny powers related to a ward-level Community Call for Action, and for the scrutiny of services external to the council
- encouragement of moves to single member wards and all-out elections, but no requirement.

These changes will require legislation.

The briefing comments on these proposals, in particular the requirement to change leadership arrangements. It questions the DCLG use of commissioned research evidence to support the model of 'strong leadership' for which they intend to legislate.

Briefing in full

Context

The Local Government Act 2000 required the introduction of new constitutions in all councils in England and Wales. The proposals in the new White Paper, *Strong and prosperous communities*, are for England only and the Welsh Assembly Government will decide whether they should apply in Wales.

These constitutions provide a split between executive and scrutiny roles, although some district councils with populations below 85,000 retain a modified committee system (known as the 'fourth option'). Most councils introduced leader and cabinet constitutions, with the local choice as to whether the cabinet was elected by the council or chosen by the leader. Twelve councils in England have introduced directly elected mayors, one of which (Stoke on Trent) has the mayor and council manager option, and the others the mayor and cabinet option. The 2000 Act requires that there be a 'yes' vote in a referendum before mayoral arrangements are introduced. Two-thirds of the referendums held under the Act have resulted in 'no' votes.

Executive arrangements

The new White Paper says that councils will be required to change their executive arrangements, apart from the districts with 'fourth option' committee systems. There will be three options:

- directly elected mayor and cabinet, mayor to have four year term (as at present)
- directly elected executive (slate of leader and cabinet) with four year term
- leader elected by council for four year term, with cabinet chosen by leader.

All the executive powers of the council will be vested in the mayor or leader, who will appoint the cabinet, allocate any portfolios, and decide any delegation of executive powers to the cabinet, either to the cabinet as a whole or to its individual members. The White Paper's chapter on planning proposes that councils will have the option of having major planning applications determined by the executive, presumably by the mayor/leader, or delegated by him/her (see related briefing on planning).

There will be legislation to bring about these changes. The requirement to have a 'yes' vote in a referendum before introducing an elected mayor will be removed, but there will still be powers for the public to call a referendum by petition. Once an authority has adopted a mayoral or directly elected executive, the presumption will be that it will not change back to the leader/cabinet option. Current law is that there can be a referendum on this after a minimum of five years.

The White Paper claims that this will provide stronger and more visible leadership for councils.

Scrutiny powers

The White Paper proposes extending scrutiny powers in two areas, introducing:

- Community Calls for Action
- extended scrutiny powers over services external to the council.

Both of these are paralleled by extended scrutiny powers in the Police and Justice Bill, which will very soon receive Royal Assent. This introduces the Community Call for Action over crime and disorder matters, and scrutiny powers over Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

The Community Call for Action (CCfA) will enable members of the public to raise local and neighbourhood matters with their ward councillor. The councillor will play a gate keeping role in deciding how to resolve the matter, but where informal approaches do not work, there will be the option of reference to an overview and scrutiny committee. The committee will be able to investigate and make recommendations. The CCfA will cover 'those issues that local authorities are responsible for either alone or in partnership with others'. This will need to be defined more precisely in legislation, but will extend the powers of scrutiny committees to hold to account service providers, including some outside the council. Given that this will require legislation, it is likely that the CCfA will be introduced from Spring 2008, both for crime and disorder issues, and for the areas proposed by the new White Paper.

The White Paper also proposes a new duty on non-council services to co-operate in the development of Local Area Agreements. This will contribute to the work of Local Strategic Partnerships and the implementation of Sustainable Community Strategies. The agencies covered by this new duty will also be required to respond to local government scrutiny, taking part in meetings or providing information, and having regard to scrutiny recommendations.

The agencies to be covered by this duty are: Councils, Chief Officer of Police, Police Authorities, Local Probation Boards, Youth Offending Teams, Primary Care Trusts, NHS Foundation Trusts, NHS Health Trusts, the Learning and Skills Council in England, Jobcentre Plus, Health and Safety Executive, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Metropolitan Passenger Transport Authorities, the Highways Agency, the

Environment Agency, Natural England, Regional Development Agencies, National Park Authorities, the Broads Authority, Joint Waste Disposal Authorities.

The response to scrutiny will cover their work 'insofar as their actions relate to functions or service delivery connected with the authority' (i.e. the council).

These proposals will require legislation.

The paper also promotes the use of area or neighbourhood based scrutiny, and this is a model with which councils may wish to experiment.

Electoral arrangements

The White Paper proposes changes in the law to enable all councils to move to all-out local elections, where they choose to do so. There will also be scope to introduce single member wards. This will particularly affect metropolitan councils which currently elect by thirds; unitaries and districts have some scope to vary their arrangements, and counties elect all-out now.

All-out elections are intended to facilitate the four year term for leaders, and encourage longer term strategic thinking. There is some evidence they also increase electoral turnout.

Recruitment of councillors

The White Paper proposes an independent review of the incentives and barriers to serving on councils. It would like to see the range of councillors being more representative of communities in terms of age, gender and ethnic background, and acknowledges there may be current barriers to combining public service as a councillor with the need to work.

The government will promote clear roles for councillors and continue to support capacity building.

Research on new constitutions

To coincide with the publication of the White Paper, the Department of Communities and Local Government has also published various papers from the evaluation of the modernisation of local government. There are links to these above, and they cover the evaluation of new constitutions, and a summary of the evaluation of Best Value.

Comment

The requirement to change executive arrangements for councils will be contentious. The evidence from the government's commissioned research is that councils have implemented the new constitutions effectively. *New council constitutions: A summary of the ELG research findings* says: 'Executive arrangements have bedded down well, providing both more visible and more effective leadership and quicker decision-making, which is associated with better service delivery.' One of the main problems identified is with the role of councillors who are not members of the executive. Concentrating leadership powers on one individual and reducing the role of the elected council as a whole seems likely to add to this problem.

The White Paper claims 'Our research shows that leadership is the single most significant driver of change and improvement in local authorities.' and cites the *Long term evaluation of the Best Value Regime: Final Report Executive Summary* to support this. However, when we examine this research report it states: 'Leadership by officers and elected members was described as a key driver of improvement in 23 of our case study reviews, and statistical analysis suggested that there was a

positive association between leadership by managers and some aspects of performance.

Local government leadership is inevitably complex, split between the democratic and managerial role. The White Paper defines 'strong' leadership as the concentration of executive power on one person, failing to review the evidence that effective leadership can be exercised through a variety of styles: by a group, team, or democratic assembly, as well as by an individual. To focus all executive power on one individual may undermine many of the other aims of the White Paper such as reflecting diversity, attracting a wide range of councillors, community engagement, and so on. We need a wider debate about the characteristics of effective leadership in local government. Excellent performance has been achieved by councils with a range of constitutional options.

Despite the White Paper's ambition to concentrate executive power on one person, there is a growing tendency for government departments and legislation to ascribe particular roles to cabinet members. For example, councils are required to designate a lead member for children's services. A lead member for adult social services is likely to be required soon. Developments around the Police and Justice Bill require a lead member for crime and disorder issues. The proposals for a new statutory health partnership (paragraph 5.23 of the White Paper) are likely to define a portfolio holder's role.

It does not appear clearly thought out how these various roles and legal responsibilities are to be combined with the executive powers being vested in one individual. Some joined up thinking on this from government would be welcome.

The extension of scrutiny powers is positive, and the evidence from health scrutiny is that external scrutiny can be a tool to build better partnership working. Councils will have a period of preparation for these roles, which will require legislation, to identify how best the council scrutiny role can benefit communities and improve services.

Some councillors have been unhappy with the proposals for the Community Call for Action, feeling that they ignore what good councillors do already, and that scrutiny may be swamped with small issues raised by vocal individuals. However, there is likely to be scope to make judgements about which issues to take forward, and the definition of a legal framework is likely to encourage councils to support the ward councillor's role in local problem-solving more effectively.

There is scope to use these new powers of scrutiny to build the council's community leadership role, both at a ward and neighbourhood level, and council wide."

Annex 2: IDeA Knowledge: White paper update
(<http://www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=5550379>)

“White paper update

What the white paper says

As expected, the white paper builds on the proposals made in the Police and Justice Bill (now the Police and Justice Act 2006) for a community call for action mechanism, which applies more generally to local government. The concept and procedure is largely the same:

- **Community Call for Action (CCfA):** Local residents have concerns about persistent or serious problems in their area or want to influence policies
- **First level of response:** Councillor takes up communities concerns
- **Second level of response:** Councillor asks Council Executive to take action
- **Third level of response:** Councillor asks Overview and Scrutiny to investigate
- **Fourth level of response:** Overview and Scrutiny committee considers, rejects or makes recommendations – which may be accepted or rejected by the council executive/local partners

However, there are some key differences to the Home Office proposals in the white paper:

- The white paper places more of an emphasis on the role of the councillor, rather than on the rights of the public in triggering the mechanism. It states that “councillors will, from their correspondence and knowledge of their area and its people, identify issues which are of significant concern to the communities they represent”. Additionally, councillors will be expected to ensure that those who are more vulnerable and least likely to speak out have their views and needs represented.
- The white paper goes further than the Police and Justice Act in giving powers for councillors to resolve problems themselves. It proposes that local authorities consider what powers and budgets could be devolved directly to councillors in order to help them deal with minor problems.
- While councillors will be expected to play a similar role in ‘filtering out’ frivolous or vexatious complaints, the White paper goes further in proposing the introduction of legislative safeguards to ensure that councils and scrutiny committees do not waste too much time on these types of complaints. They do not go into much detail at this stage however.
- The Home Office proposals do not give much scope for local flexibility procedurally. The White paper however allows for scrutiny committees to ‘set their own rules in light of local circumstances’, which could include for example limiting the number of CCfAs brought before the Scrutiny Committee.
- Unlike the Home Office proposals, there do not appear to be any limitations as to whether County councillors can initiate a CCfA or not (the Home Office proposals relate only to district councillors in two-tier areas). This is likely to make the mechanism more accessible to members of the public.

Generally speaking the proposals are a positive step forward in empowering both communities and councillors.

However, one disadvantage is that with two central government departments developing two slightly different mechanisms for the CCfA, there is some scope for confusion.

The white paper states that 'Other than for crime and disorder matters, the CCfA will work as follows', therefore creating an exception for community safety issues. There is no real clear logic in having this separation, and it is likely to create confusion amongst both members of the public and councillors. There are likely to be instances for example where a problem raised does not fit clearly into one category or the other. Together with the LGA, we will be working with the Home Office and DCLG to ensure that there is more clarity over these types of issues."

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Scrutiny Management Committee

18 December 2006

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

SCRUTINY REVIEW SUPPORT BUDGET**Summary**

1. This report summarises the position to date on expenditure against the budget available specifically for supporting scrutiny reviews in 2006/7. It also seeks Members views on the available budget for 2007/8, with a view to making a recommendation to the Executive as part of the budgeting setting process.

Background

2. This Committee has the constitutional right to consider and recommend to the Executive a suitable scrutiny budget, to be used for the effective support of any agreed reviews during a year.
3. For the 2006/7 financial year, scrutiny was allocated a budget of £6,000 to support its reviews. This budget was originally £9,500 in financial year 2004/5 and was reduced to the figure of £6,000 in financial year 2005/6.

Budget Monitoring

4. As at December 2006, expenditure against this budget is £559. In September 2006, Members may recall allocating a sum of £250 of expenditure per Scrutiny Committee or Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee to support administrative and consultative processes associated with their reviews from this budget, on the basis that requests for more funds could be made to Scrutiny Management Committee.
5. No formal application has yet been made to SMC for additional funds. However, a number of additional expenditure commitments are in the pipeline as follows:

Education - School Transport Review

Travel to Cheshire for 4 members - £90
Expenses for visitors - £90
Consultation with parents/governors - £50
Additional member visit - £90

Health Scrutiny Committee

Public conference on health changes - room, equipment,catering etc - £350
Speakers expenses - £50
Annual Health Check - training activities and travel - £100

Tang Hall Ad Hoc

Consultation meeting with community groups - £75
Public Meeting - £75
Publicity and survey - £500

Total extra expenditure amounting to £1,470

6. Expenditure so far this financial year has been minimal but over recent months due to new reviews have not progressed by SMC, pending the completion of outstanding backlog from 2005/6 and the implementation of new working procedures. A greater call on the budget is anticipated between now and the end of the financial year.

Consultation

7. The Head of Financial Services has been consulted on the preparation of the report to ensure it complies with the constitutional and statutory requirements for feeding into the budget process for 2007/8.

Options

8. The information on budget expenditure in 2006/7 to date is merely for noting. However, Members have the constitutional right to consider what recommendation they wish to make to the Executive in relation to the allocation of budget for supporting scrutiny reviews in 2007/8. The Executive will receive that recommendation at its meeting on 16 January 2007, consider it and set an appropriate figure for this budget accordingly.

Analysis

9. Members should consider what scrutiny support budget they wish to recommend to the Executive, taking into account the following issues:
 - a. Current level of expenditure;
 - b. What the budget is used for now and what it could be used for in 2007/8;
 - c. The current budget climate in general

What is or Could the Budget be Used for?

10. Currently, and over the past 2 financial years, this budget has been used to cover expenditure on the following range of consultative events and information gathering exercises:
 - a. Community meetings
 - b. Drop in centre events
 - c. Site visits to other local authorities or places of interest related to the scrutiny
 - d. Publicity associated with any of the above
 - e. Conferences and training events
11. In the next financial year, it is anticipated that the budget will be used in much the same way. However, it is hoped that the new procedures in place now will sharpen the focus of reviews and enable more short to medium reviews to be completed. As a part of the reviews commissioned in 2007, Members may wish to take up more opportunities to inform their reviews through a wider range of consultative events and learning exercises.
12. The Government's new White Paper on Strong and Prosperous Communities (report elsewhere on this agenda) envisages extending scrutiny powers to services external to the Council. As a result, a wider range of consultative events and processes may be required. Funding may be required for more partnership activities and events, should the White Paper become legislation.

Corporate Priorities

13. This report in terms of budget monitoring and making recommendations on a suitable level of budget for supporting scrutiny reviews, helps contribute to the Council's overall organisational effectiveness.

Other Related Issues

14. Members will be aware that the Chief Executive's restructure originally proposed an additional Scrutiny Officer at SO1/2 level, following abolition of the Scrutiny Manager post. Subsequently, in an effort to find further savings, the Executive agreed to both reduce the pay range of this post to Scale 4 / 5 as a Scrutiny Assistant and to defer appointment to it, pending more information on the impact of the White Paper referred to above and elsewhere on this agenda.

Implications

15.. Financial

At the end of the current financial year, a slight underspend on this budget might be reported due to the lull in reviews in the current year, for the reasons previously reported.

Constitutionally, SMC is delegated to recommend to the Executive an appropriate support budget for scrutiny reviews.

Human Resources

No implications.

Equalities

No implications.

Legal

No implications.

Crime and Disorder Information Technology (IT)

No implications.

Property

No implications.

Risk Management

16. There are no known risks associated with this report other than a possibility that scrutiny might be allocated a budget by the Executive and Council it feels is wholly inadequate for supporting its reviews, if SMC fails to make a recommendation to the Executive.

Recommendations

17. Members are asked to note the report, the current budget position and to recommend a budget to the Executive for supporting scrutiny reviews.

Reason: To enable a robust scrutiny review support budget to be set for the 2007/8 financial year.

Contact Details

Author:

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Dawn Steel

Democratic Services Manager
01904-551030

Suzan Hemingway

Head of Civic Democratic & Legal Services

Report Approved

Date 7.12.06

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Patrick Looker
Principal Accountant

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None.

Annexes

None.

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Scrutiny Management Committee

December 2006

2nd Annual Progress Report: Implementation of Recommendations from the Executive following the Final Report of the Flood Scrutiny Panel report 2004

Purpose of report

1. To provide Members of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) with a progress update regarding implementation of the recommendations of the Flood Scrutiny Panel report from August 2004 and the further actions against that report agreed by the Executive in October 2005, when it last reviewed the situation.

Background

2. The Flood Scrutiny Board – formerly the ‘Scrutiny Committee (Floods)’ commenced the review on 25th July 2001 - referred its final report on the 2000 flood emergency response¹ to Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on 24 August 2004.
3. After SMC consideration, marginal amendment and approval, the report inclusive of 21 recommendations was referred to the Executive on 14th September 2004. At this meeting the Executive approved the report subject to minor amendment and the final list of scrutiny board recommendations, incorporating their amendments is provided in are set out in column 1 of the update table at Annex A of this report.
4. Column 2 of the update table shows the position in respect of implementing the recommendations at the time of the first annual update report to Executive in October 2005.
5. Column 3 of the update table shows any resolutions made by the Executive in respect of the October 2005 update and the last column contains information added to reflect the current position.

Consultation

7. The Emergency Planning Co-ordinator and Emergency Planning unit have been instrumental in the provision of information contained in this update.

¹ The topic considered by the panel had originally been registered with the title “Fundamental review of the adequacy of York’s flood defences and emergency response processes” following the severe flooding in 2000 and included a series of public meetings attended by relevant agencies.

Options

8. In receiving this report and noting its contents, Members have the option to refer this update report onto the Executive or Neighbourhood Services EMAP as indicated in paragraph 9 below.

Analysis

9. Members of SMC may wish to note in particular that this years annual update report to EMAP has not taken place, most likely as a result of the constitutional changes made this year to the decision making structure. Further to the monitoring requirement placed upon scrutiny by recommendation 21 (see attached), Members may wish to consider whether to refer any issues for consideration (see attached) to either the Executive or Neighbourhood Services EMAP.

Corporate Priorities

10. Given the emphasis of the original review regarding leadership and effective partnership working, and inclusive of recommendation's 20 and 21 regarding the updating of the final report in response to these aims, this update report as requested by SMC may be considered to support the following Corporate Priorities;
 - Improve leadership at all levels to provide clear, consistent direction to the organisation
 - Improve the way the Council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York

Implications

11. There are no known implications in relation to this update report associated directly with any of the following:
 - Human Resources
 - Financial
 - Crime & Disorder
 - Legal
 - Information Technology

Risk Management

12. There are no known risk management implications associated with this update report.

Recommendations

13. Members are asked to note the contents of the report and consider whether to refer it, or any specific issues, to either Neighbourhood Services EMAP or the Executive in the light of scrutiny recommendations 20 & 21.

Reason:

14. To ensure compliance with the terms endorsed by the Executive of Recommendation 20. of the Floods Scrutiny Review requiring an annual update on progress against the Flood Scrutiny Panels 21 Recommendations.

Contact details:

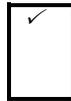
Author:

Scrutiny Officer: Ruth Sherratt
01904 552066
email: r.sherratt@york.gov.uk

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Suzan Hemingway
Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Report Approved



Date 13.12.06

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Barry Kelly Emergency Planning Co-Ordinator

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers and Further Reading

Title and Author(s)

Flood Scrutiny Panel Final Report

SMC Reading – Flood Scrutiny Panel Final Report

Executive Reading – Flood Scrutiny Panel Final Report

Progress Report: Implementation of Recommendations from the

Executive following Flood Scrutiny Panel report 2004 (Executive Report)

Planning Policy Guidance 25: Development and flood risk

Publisher and Date

City of York Council, 11th August 2004

City of York Council, 24th August 2004

City of York Council, 14th September 2004

City of York Council, 11th October 2005

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Annexes:

Annex A: Tabular format update on the 21 Floods Scrutiny Board Recommendations

Glossary:

None

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ANNEX A

Recommendations of the Flood Scrutiny Board	Position at the update to Executive October 2005	Executive Resolution – where made - at their meeting 11/10/05	Update and/or further information at 11/12/06:
<p>Recommendation 1. That the Emergency Planning Co-ordinator produce a Flood Procedures Awareness training session for Councillors, and Councillors (especially those in formerly directly affected Wards) commit to this training. Officer/Department Emergency Planning</p>	<p>Circulated to all members through the group secretaries. Two meetings were run on the 12th and 19th November 2004. 14 councillors attended. On-going</p>	<p>that Officers consider how Flood Procedures Awareness training can be included in future Member training, such as that received by new Members.</p>	<p>In response to the Executive resolution Member Support will be providing a general overview of Emergency Planning by means of short presentation (Barry Kelly) at the Members Induction session upon election. In addition a dedicated Member Training Session on Flood Awareness is being built into the member training programme for 2007 and is scheduled to take place in June/July in order to give newly elected members the opportunity to benefit from the session.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2. That the Chief Executive write to the Chief Superintendent of North Yorkshire Police (Head of Silver Command York) recommending that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role and responsibilities of Silver Command be better publicised to the citizens of York and its environs at the start of a flooding event. • Councillors receiving awareness training (see Recommendation 1), are briefed regarding the role of the police in relation to emergency operations, especially in respect of flooding; possibly including a visit to Silver 	<p>Letter sent on 5th November 2004. This action was superseded by the introduction of Civil Contingencies Act and duty to Warn & Inform the public during emergencies. This is a multi agency forum led by City of York Council Marketing & Communications Dept. The duty also includes a requirement to publish material relevant to emergencies and will cover the role of Silver Command. On-going</p>	<p>that Members be updated when changes to the role of Silver Command occur.</p>	<p>Changes to Silver Command will not occur as Silver Command is a defined structure. Section C2, 2.1 of the Emergency Handbook, describes Silver Command, and its place within the broader command and control context. Please note with regard to public awareness that information regarding the role of 'Silver Command' is now published and in the public domain through the Joint Emergency Response Major Incident Plan (JERMIP) which is available as a hard copy in libraries and is due to be available on the website www.nysp.org.uk soon. What the public will probably require at the time of any future "major incident" – i.e. one requiring Silver Command to convene – is a press release reminding them who Silver</p>

Recommendations of the Flood Scrutiny Board	Position at the update to Executive October 2005	Executive Resolution – where made - at their meeting 11/10/05	Update and/or further information at 11/12/06:
Command Head Quarters York Officer/Department Chief Executive			Command are and what their role in responding to an incident is.
<p>Recommendation 3. That the Emergency Planning Co-ordinator further develop communications links with the Parish Councils and other such minor Statutory bodies consulted and proven to be likely to assist in a response, to ensure that those needing to contact the Council at a certain level of management can do so, without affecting the efficiency of the York Flood Information Line. This measure should increase the efficiency of spotters in affected areas.</p> <p>Officer/Department Emergency Planning</p>	<p>Action 19 also refers. The CYC River Flood Plan provides the mechanism for direct telephone access for the exchange of information. Additionally Internal Drainage Boards (IDB) are updated via officers from York Consultancy on issues affecting their area when the multi agency trigger levels are reached. They are also represented on the review panel for the Multi Agency Plan. Completed by Oct 2005.</p>	<p>that it be noted that the Environment Agency is upgrading its telemetry stations, which will improve the accuracy and timeliness of information on river levels and that the Flood Warning Investment Strategy approved by DEFRA will also improve the passing of information, and that Officers be asked to brief Members on how this will impact on York.</p>	<p>Please note that the Environment Agency (EA) now offers an early warning system to those householders at risk of flood who register/sign up to the service. This can be done by phoning the EA Floodline on 0845 988 1188 to find out if you can register for Floodline Warnings Direct,. The free service provides flood warnings direct by telephone, mobile, fax or pager. It also provides practical advice on preparing for a flood, such as installing personal flood defences and making a flood plan and what to do if one happens. This is a National initiative available to anyone at risk of flooding to sign up to. More information regarding the service can be found via the EA website; www.environment-agency.gov.uk</p>
<p>Recommendation 4. That the Executive Member and Director for Commercial Services, undertake a review of all working practices, to ensure that they comply with the Health & Safety Regulations expected of such a working environment and that measures – including model scenario risk analysis and training of core long term staff – are undertaken to guarantee the same standard of</p>	<p>Reported on by Commercial Services via EMAP Completed by Oct 2005.</p>	<p>No further action required after Oct 2005 update</p>	

Recommendations of the Flood Scrutiny Board	Position at the update to Executive October 2005	Executive Resolution – where made - at their meeting 11/10/05	Update and/or further information at 11/12/06:
<p>practice in Flood Emergency situations. Officer/Department Commercial Services</p>			
<p>Recommendation 5. That the Emergency Planning Co-ordinator report back to the Executive regarding the review of potential locations for emergency rest centres. This information should be maintained on a database, and reviewed annually so as to support the provision of facilities that are more localised when need be. Officer/Department Emergency Planning</p>	<p>Community Services now maintain a list of premises utilising parish and church halls in all ward areas. 24hr contact and activation is inbuilt into the lists. Lists are reviewed every two years by Community Services. The lists are incorporated into the CYC Rest Centre Plan. This work is ongoing and a report back is required Completed by Oct 2005.</p>	<p>that it be recommended that the list of parish and church halls be updated annually rather than every two years - this might be co-ordinated with Electoral Services, who maintain a list of possible polling stations in similar venues.</p>	<p>The Emergency Planning Co-Ordinator advises that the review of the parish facilities has been completed for this year as part of the bi-annual rolling programme. The review is the responsibility of Adult Services. The Emergency Planning Co-Ordinator would like it to be noted that the Parish facilities are only ever used within the context of a major flood incident such as that of 2000 and have not been called upon since this date. Such facilities are therefore categorised as ‘respite’ facilities rather than ‘rest centres’ and given their status bi-annual review rather than annual review is a better use of resources.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6. That the Chief Executive be directed to write to the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, expressing disappointment at the timescale of the strategy produced and seeking more detailed information regarding measures proposed to protect York, especially those currently undefended areas, both within the strategy, and while the strategy is being developed. Officer/Department Chief Executive</p>	<p>Letter sent to Dame Barbara Young on 4th January 2005. There is no record of a direct response to this action but it links into actions 12 & 18 that have received a response. Completed by Oct 2005.</p>	<p>No further action required after Oct 2005 update</p>	
<p>Recommendation 7.</p>	<p>Yorkshire Water confirmed on the</p>	<p>No further action required</p>	

Recommendations of the Flood Scrutiny Board	Position at the update to Executive October 2005	Executive Resolution – where made - at their meeting 11/10/05 after Oct 2005 update	Update and/or further information at 11/12/06:
<p>That the Head of Engineering Consultancy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive the feedback reports generated after investigative works in Rawcliffe and Copmanthorpe, as per Yorkshire Water Service's (YWS) commitment to report back on completion of the investigative work currently in progress (Floods Scrutiny Panel 26th May, 2004). • Present the feedback reports from YWS to the Executive Member for Environment & Sustainability. <p>Officer/Department Engineering Consultancy</p>	<p>20th January 2005 in a written response to the Head of Engineering Consultancy that the investigation was complete and the conclusions reached was to adjust the flow control from the incoming sewers. This will improve the transfer flow and prevent surcharges of foul water.</p> <p>Report back to the Executive Member is completed. Completed by Oct 2005.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 8. That the Emergency Planning Co-ordinator contact the Director, Waste Water Division, YWS, and the Clerk of the IDBs advising of the Panel's concerns at the apparent lack of communication between YWS and the IDBs.</p> <p>Officer/Department Emergency Planning</p>	<p>Contact with YWS has been through their emergency planning officer and the local area management. The unit acts as a conduit for resolving issues as they arise. Both the Internal Drainage Boards and Yorkshire Water Services are represented on the multi agency review panel that meets annual, this is used as a forum not only for building relationships and confirming planning arrangements but also problem solving across the multi agency membership. The arrangement appears to be</p>	<p>That it be noted that Yorkshire Water's plans will be integrated with the Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan.</p>	<p>Since the last update Members are requested to note that in March 2005 the Environment Agency took the decision to exercise their powers to Enmain all the critical ordinary water courses – i.e. Blue Beck, Germany Beck, Burdike, Tanghall etc – which featured in the 2000 flood event. This has subsequently reduced the role of the IDB's in this matter. The IDB's will however still maintain their seat on the annually convened Operational Flood Emergency Response Group (OFERG).</p>

Recommendations of the Flood Scrutiny Board	Position at the update to Executive October 2005	Executive Resolution – where made - at their meeting 11/10/05	Update and/or further information at 11/12/06:
	producing the desired result. Procedures in place		
<p>Recommendation 9. That the Emergency Planning Co-ordinator be requested to liaise with York Citizens Advice Bureau to confirm the existence and remit of the plan, with a view to incorporating the relevant sections into City of York Council's flood response plan, where applicable. Officer/Department Emergency Planning</p>	<p>Management within Citizens Advice Bureau has changed and the new manager Rosemary Suttill is now taking this forward as of 1st September 2005. As yet there is no definitive action plan or specific material in place. CYC EPU will work with CAB to progress where possible. There is also scope to link this with the Recovery Group as outlined in the CYC River Flood Emergency Plan but until such time as something firm is presented this will remain an open item. Meeting arranged for 8th September 2005. On Going</p>	<p>that the Council's representative on the CAB Board be asked to complete Recommendation 9.</p>	<p>Citizens Advice Board have been in consultation with the Flood Recovery Group and have been integrated in respect of planning arrangements.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10. That the Chief Executive seek information as to the final accounts as regards this disaster fund, and enquire as to the disbursement of the balance. Officer/Department Chief Executive</p>	<p>The fund remains active but has only made one payment of £500 to-date in 2005. The fund started the 2005/2006 financial year with a balance of £39,220.+ interest payable.</p>	<p>No further action required after Oct 2005 update</p>	
<p>Recommendation 11. That the Chief Executive write to the Director-General of the Association of British Insurers (ABI), expressing the Council's concerns at the inequality of treatment of residents, and the ABI's seeming reluctance to address the problem with its members.</p>	<p>Letter sent on 6th January 2005. Reply received on the 25th January advising that the ABI cannot influence the decisions of its members. Completed by Oct 2005.</p>	<p>No further action required after Oct 2005 update</p>	

Recommendations of the Flood Scrutiny Board	Position at the update to Executive October 2005	Executive Resolution – where made - at their meeting 11/10/05	Update and/or further information at 11/12/06:
Officer/Department Chief Executive			
<p>Recommendation 12. That the Executive instruct the Chief Executive to write to the local MPs, seeking assistance in lobbying the Government to ensure an adequate funding stream for future improvements.</p> <p>Officer/Department Chief Executive</p>	<p>Letter sent on 6th January 2005. Responses received from John Greenaway, Anne McIntosh & Hugh Bayley supporting the initiative. Completed by Oct 2005.</p>	<p>that Officers be asked to re-issue the letter to MPs (recommendation 12) to John Grogan, so that his responses can be included.</p>	<p>The letter to John Grogan MP was re-issued, John Grogan's office responded and Members of the Executive were circulated with a copy of the response.</p>
<p>Recommendation 13. That the Executive Member lead the campaign for a full position for York on the Regional Flood Defence Committee.</p> <p>Officer/Department Executive</p>	<p>The Regional Flood Defence Committee was enlarged in July 2005. There was an additional place for a local authority representative. This meant that due to relative sizes of population North Yorkshire went up to a full place, plus a shared place with York. They have elected to give that place to York for the next four years. Subsequent representation is subject to future discussion. Completed by Oct 2005.</p>	<p>that it be noted that York has a full place on the Regional Flood Defence Committee for the next four years (Recommendation 13), as North Yorkshire County Council have 'shared' their joint place in this way.</p>	<p>No further action/update required until 2009.</p>
<p>Recommendation 14. That the Executive appoint an officer as a liaison with the National Flood Forum, and that the officer report initiatives back to the Executive Member for Environment & Sustainability.</p> <p>Officer/Department Executive</p>	<p>The Head of Engineering Consultancy, Ray Chaplin has liased with the National flood Forum Completed by Oct 2005.</p>	<p>No further action required after Oct 2005 update</p>	
<p>Recommendation 15. That the Chief Executive contact the Regional Media Emergency Forum, to discuss</p>	<p>Letter sent to Wendy Miller, govt News Network on 5th January 2005. Completed by Oct 2005.</p>	<p>that Officers be recommended to follow up Recommendation 15 in</p>	<p>The Head of Marketing & Communications advises that this was raised with the North Yorkshire Local Regional Forum Media (Nylrf)</p>

Recommendations of the Flood Scrutiny Board	Position at the update to Executive October 2005	Executive Resolution – where made - at their meeting 11/10/05	Update and/or further information at 11/12/06:
<p>the needs of the media, and ways in which these could be more effectively managed in emergency situations. Officer/Department Chief Executive</p>		<p>conjunction with the Flood Warning Investment Strategy.</p>	<p>Sub-Group and discussion on the issue fed into the Nylrf media plan and the Warning and Informing Sub-Group. The Warning and Informing sub-group reported back to the strategic Nylrf group in May 2006 and have been merged with the media group, on which the Head of Marketing and Communications sits.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16. That the Head of Marketing and Communications liaise with the local radio stations, to establish a protocol for dissemination of information during an emergency, from both City of York Council and external agencies. Officer/Department Marketing & Communications</p>	<p>Arrangements are in place with all news outlets for reporting major flooding events within York. This action links into national & regional multi agency work – Connecting in a crisis and the North Yorkshire County Media Plan. It also links with the Civil Contingencies Act – Warning & Informing (see action #2) Completed by Oct 2005.</p>	<p>No further action required after Oct 2005 update</p>	
<p>Recommendation 17. That the Emergency Planning Co-ordinator review the role of the Internal Drainage Boards within both the Operational Flood Emergency Response Group (OFERG) and Silver Command structures, with a view to making more seamless integration of the capabilities of the Boards. Officer/Department Emergency Planning</p>	<p>A review has been undertaken. Existing arrangements are considered adequate at this time. <i>(see also remarks - action 3)</i> Completed by Oct 2005.</p>	<p>No further action required after Oct 2005 update.</p>	<p>For information see also update to situation regarding recommendation 8.</p>

Recommendations of the Flood Scrutiny Board	Position at the update to Executive October 2005	Executive Resolution – where made - at their meeting 11/10/05	Update and/or further information at 11/12/06:
<p>Recommendation 18. That the Chief Executive write to the Environment Minister Elliot Morley expressing concern about the impact of the current cost benefit criteria on progressing flood protection schemes, and the adverse effect that the fragmentation of responsibilities is having on the delivery of a comprehensive flood defence strategy.</p> <p>Officer/Department Chief Executive</p>	<p>Letter sent on 6th January 2005. No record of a reply but a response to Action12 was directed to Elliot Morley which has been copied to the CEX. Response linked to Action 12</p>	<p>No further action required after Oct 2005 update</p>	
<p>Recommendation 19. That the Emergency Planning Co-ordinator contact all Parish Councils, with a view to assisting them in creating Community Emergency Plans, to assist in any future incident</p> <p>Officer/Department Emergency Planning</p>	<p>Letters were sent in November 2004 to all parish councils. A number of parish councils expressed an interest and the Emergency Planning Co-ordinator attended parish meetings. Take up of the offer to assist has been accepted by 3 parish councils resulting in a second generation version of the plan being developed to make it more relevant under the Civil Contingencies Act requirements. The Naburn Parish plan is complete and ready for launch and work is progressing on the build for New Earswick Parish. The Rawcliffe Parish plan is currently under revision to convert to the new version and the Skelton Parish plan will also require review. Elvington Parish Council has expressed an interest in</p>		<p>The Emergency Planning Officer advises that, a template was created by the Emergency Planning Unit (EPU) CYC to support the Parishes in the creation/development of their own Emergency Plan(s). New Earswick, Naburn and Rawcliffe have worked with the EPU and have submitted plans using the supporting template, Skelton had previously created a plan and this has been submitted to the EPU, Elvington have notified the EPU that they have a plan but have not submitted a copy. The Parish Plan template created was designed to be a generic model for use in any Emergency Scenario. It should be noted however, that the Parishes who have produced such plans due to their geographic characteristics and the effects of the 2000 event have concentrated largely on the plans been supportive in the event of any future major flooding event.</p>

Recommendations of the Flood Scrutiny Board	Position at the update to Executive October 2005	Executive Resolution – where made - at their meeting 11/10/05	Update and/or further information at 11/12/06:
	developing a local plan and we are awaiting further contact. The majority of parish councils did not respond to the letters sent. On-going		
<p>Recommendation 20. That the Environment EMAP conduct a review of the implementation of the Panel's recommendations within six months, with an annual review thereafter of the works ongoing to respond to flooding in the City.</p> <p>Officer/Department Environment EMAP</p>	<p>Report back to the Executive on the 11th October 2005 Part 1. Completed by Oct 2005. Annual Review ongoing</p>		<p>Annual Review date elapsed for 2006 without an update to the Executive/EMAP. Please note the recommendations to SMC of this report.</p>
<p>Recommendation 21. That this report, together with such subsequent documentation as is considered relevant, be retained and maintained by Scrutiny Services. In the event of future flood events of such magnitude as requires Silver Command to be convened, a one-off Scrutiny Panel be convened to review the event and the multi-agency response. The purpose of the panel being the updating of the Floods Report to ensure it retains its relevance.</p> <p>Officer/Department Scrutiny Services</p>	<p>Full simulation exercise held on 19th September 2005 with all Silver Command agencies involved. Outcomes used to inform/update Flood Emergency Plan procedures. Ongoing</p>		<p>Ongoing, including this report for information as requested by the Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee. Please note the recommendations to SMC of this report.</p>

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Agenda Item

Scrutiny Management Committee

18 December 2006

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Work Programme for Education Scrutiny Committee

Summary

1. This report is to present a programme of work for the Education Scrutiny Committee, further to the request made at the last meeting of Scrutiny Management Committee.

Background

2. At the meeting of 20 November Members heard from the Chair of the Education Scrutiny Committee who outlined the work the Committee. Members asked for their programme of work for the current review. This is enclosed at Annex A. Members of Scrutiny Management Committee will note that the work programme for the remainder of 2006/7 deals entirely with the review of home to school transport. It is envisaged that the review may take up the remaining available time of the Education Scrutiny Committee.

Consultation

3. The Education Scrutiny Committee is currently involved in extensive consultation with contractors and customers of the school transport service, its current review.

Options

4. Members can receive and note this workplan and will, of course, receive the final report on the scrutiny when the Committee has concluded this review and finalized its own report.

Analysis

5. The completion of this review will hopefully lead to a greater understanding throughout the council of all the issues regarding safety of home-to-school transport for schools and may lead to

recommendations for an improved service, especially for primary schools.

Corporate Priorities

6. In line with Corporate Priority 12 – Improve the way the Council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York

Implications

7. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications associated with this report specifically.

Risk Management

8. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with this report specifically.

Recommendations

9. Members are asked to note the work programme of the Education Scrutiny Committee.

Reason: in order to progress the Scrutiny work being carried out by Members of City of York Council

Contact details:

Author:

Barbara Boyce
Scrutiny Officer
01904 551714
barbara.boyce@york.gov.uk

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Suzan Hemingway
Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Report Approved



Date 8.12.06

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Not applicable

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Programme of Work for Education Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers

None

Workplan for Education Scrutiny Committee Upto May 2007

Date	Activities
Review of Home to School Transport	
12 September 2006	Informal meeting for members to discuss work programme
31 October	Formal meeting to agree review. Presentation by CYC officers regarding school transport service
27 November	Members visit to transport contractor in York
6 December 2007	Formal meeting to agree workplan. Discussions with representatives of transport contractors and East Riding of Yorkshire Council
15 January 2007	Members visit Cheshire County Council who have dedicated "yellow" school buses
23 January	Consultation meeting with reps of governors, parents and staff at primary schools which use transport services
27 February	Consider draft recommendations to Executive
March	Additional research/visits arising from consideration of draft recommendations and investigation of implications
17 April	Agree final recommendations to Executive

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