
Scrutiny Management Committee

25 September 2006

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Schedule of Registered Scrutiny Topics

Summary

1. This report asks Members to consider a report on the scrutiny topics which have been registered but not yet taken forward. They are asked to make recommendations as to which ones could be the subject of Ad Hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committees either immediately or in the rest of the municipal year.

Background

2. At present there are 10 outstanding scrutiny topics, i.e. for various reasons, they have not been progressed through the scrutiny process but have not been ruled out as a potential scrutiny topic for progression at a later date.
3. A list showing these topics plus those that have been decided upon or referred to other bodies is attached at Annex A. Copies of relevant registration forms and feasibility reports will be available at the meeting, if required, to refresh Members' memories of the comments made in relation to each topic on the list. Those Members who originally registered the topics on the list have been invited to review their registrations and make additional or new comments they feel necessary given the amount of time which has elapsed since original registration of some of these topics. Any further information received will be reported to Members at the meeting.
4. The outstanding topics may be progressed by an Ad Hoc Sub Committee, kept pending for progression at a later stage or closed.
5. Topic 135 on Annex A was discussed by this committee on 26 June and members requested further information from relevant officers. Paul Thackray, Head of Highway Infrastructure will attend to discuss with members the feasibility of this topic. Cllr Simpson-Laing who registered the topic has been invited to put

the case for progressing it further.

6. Further information has been received from the Head of Performance Improvement regarding Topic 138, this can be found at Annex B. This topic was originally discussed on 4 September.
7. Topic 139 was also discussed on 4 September and Cllr Simpson-Laing who proposed it has been invited to put the case for its progression at this meeting.

Consultation

8. Consultation with relevant officers and Executive Members was carried out when these topics were originally registered and is reflected in the feasibility reports for each topic.

Options

9. Having regard to the topic registration forms and feasibility reports members may decide to:
 - Not progress the topic further, giving reasons
 - Retain topics on the list of those available for progression to an Ad Hoc Sub Committee pending resources becoming available at a later date.
 - Form an Ad Hoc Sub Committee to consider any agreed suitable topics.

Analysis

Current Scrutiny Resources

10. As Members will appreciate from other business on the agenda, depending on decisions made, some Scrutiny Officer capacity will become available to support new reviews in the light of completion of 3 of the 4 outstanding reviews .
11. Some work still remains to be completed on improving the final report of the former Planning and Transport Scrutiny Board relating to guidance on sustainable development. This remains the last outstanding review on report to Members.
12. As a rough guide to Members, it is considered that certainly 2 and possibly 3 new reviews (depending on remit and timescales) could immediately be resourced by the scrutiny team.

Corporate Priorities

13. Having a full and effective scrutiny programme, can only help contribute to the Council's overall aims to improve its organizational effectiveness. In considering whether to proceed with any reviews from the list, Members may, at this stage, wish to consider whether any fit with the Council's Corporate Priorities.

Implications

14. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications associated with this report, other than any commitment of resources required to support any reviews agreed as indicated in paragraph 12 above.

Risk Management

15. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to consider the outstanding scrutiny topics in line with the options above.

Reason: In order to carry out their responsibilities in managing the Scrutiny function in York

Contact details:

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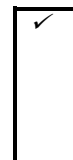
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Report Approved



Date 15.09.06

Specialist Implications Officer(s) *None applicable*

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – List of registered scrutiny topics

Annex B – Further information concerning Topic 138

Background Papers None