

# **Scrutiny Report to Council**

## **Report of Chair, Scrutiny Management Committee**

Since the last Council Meeting, the following developments have been taking place in Scrutiny:

### **Scrutiny Management Committee**

In its last 2 meetings, Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) has appointed an Ad-hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committee to review a topic registered by Councillor Watt regarding the situation from May 2003 relating to the sale of the Barbican. It has also received the final report from the Area Asset Management Plan (Tang Hall) Scrutiny Sub-Committee and agreed to refer the report to the Executive when the report itself on the draft Area Asset Management Plan for Tang Hall was submitted. In addition, the Committee has reviewed virtually all the remaining outstanding agreed recommendations in relation to completed reviews and determined which of those it still wishes to continue monitoring.

### **Education Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee has considered a number of potential review areas and after receiving a presentation from the Governance Service Manager and the advice of the Executive Member for Children's Services, it decided to next undertake a review on the Role of the Governance Service, focusing in particular on the following:

- ways of increasing the number of community Governors and community involvement with Governing Bodies
- the current composition of governing bodies with an effort to find ways of improving the ethnicity balance and chairing skills of panel members
- the role of Governors and current clerking arrangements in extended schools

### **Health Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee has been focusing its efforts on establishing a work planning programme for 2007/8 and with that in mind has discussed how health scrutiny could contribute to the work of the Healthy City Board and the Local Area Agreement. It has organised a facilitated work planning event for Councillors and health partners to develop some key priority areas for the work plan. A Community Engagement Day is also planned in October to hear the views of all voluntary and community groups in an effort to incorporate some of their concerns within the plan. More information on how this is progressing will be available in my next report.

Finally, SMC has also been looking at its present role within the scrutiny function and for the time being has decided not to change the way it operates in both managing the work areas and resources of scrutiny. It is, however,

dedicated to managing an effective scrutiny process in York and recognises some of the challenges which lie ahead in the White Paper 'Stronger, Prosperous, Communities.'

**Councillor John Galvin**  
**Chair**  
**Scrutiny Management Committee**  
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