

**Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny  
Management Committee**

9 September 2019

Report of the Assistant Director – Legal & Governance

**Implementation of recommendations from previously completed  
scrutiny reviews**

**Summary**

1. This report provides Members with their first update on the implementation of the approved recommendations arising from three scrutiny reviews completed by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) during the previous administration.
2. Members are asked to sign off all recommendations considered to be fully implemented and are asked to agree whether they wish to receive further updates in six months' time on any outstanding recommendations.

**Background**

3. During the previous administration Members of the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee undertook a number of scrutiny reviews including:
  - Scrutiny Operations and Functions
  - Financial Inclusion
  - Single Use Plastics
4. All three Scrutiny Reviews were considered by Executive at their meeting in March 2019 and in each instance the recommendations from the reviews were approved. In addition, recommendations from the Scrutiny Operations and Functions Scrutiny Review which required changes to the Constitution were approved by Full Council in March 2019.

## **Scrutiny Operations and Functions Scrutiny Review**

5. In June 2018 CSMC considered an update report on the implementation of changes to the Council's scrutiny function resulting from the review of 'Future Ways of Working in Scrutiny' completed in March 2017.
6. Specifically the Committee considered the operation of a trial in relation to Economy and Place Scrutiny and the alignment of Scrutiny Committees to Directorates. Concern was also raised regarding the increased workload faced by the former Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee after the housing and community safety elements of the Directorate had been included in the remit of the former Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee.
7. CSMC noted at the time that the previous year had not been a particularly productive one for any of the Scrutiny Committees, in terms of review work, and it was felt that Member engagement was an issue, as was support from Officers and that there might be some merit in reviewing the organisation's cultural approach towards scrutiny in an effort to help it become more effective.
8. Over a series of meetings a Task Group established to carry out this work on the Committee's behalf sought to identify and resolve a number of challenges to allow the next administration to begin their tenure with a solid foundation for Scrutiny work in York, and these formed the basis of the review recommendations (Annex 1).

## **Financial Inclusion Scrutiny Review**

9. In June 2018 a Member of the previous administration proposed a scrutiny review into Financial Inclusion following a decision session by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health which considered Welfare Benefits Update and Financial Inclusion Outturn Report 2017/18.
10. In early September 2018 CSMC considered a scoping report and agreed this was a topic worthy of review. Then in November 2018 the Committee considered an update report and agreed to a request that a 19 July Motion to Council on Food Poverty be added to the remit.
11. Over a series of meetings Members gathered information which led to the review recommendations (Annex 2). However, it was agreed that issues around increasing food poverty in the city were complex and

should be the subject of a separate piece of work by the new administration. This was taken up by this Committee in June 2019 and in July Members agreed to form an Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee including Members of CSMC, the Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Single-Use Plastics Scrutiny Review**

12. In December 2017 Full Council considered a Motion around single-use plastics and requested that the appropriate Scrutiny Committee considered undertaking a scrutiny review to investigate the council's use of single-use plastics in its buildings etc and through its procurement arrangements.
13. The resolution was originally considered by the former Economy and Place Policy Development Committee, but before the membership of a Task Group was finalised it became clear that this item should be considered by CSMC as part of the Council Motion was around developing the Council's procurement policy on plastic goods.
14. It was first discussed by CSMC in June 2018 when it was agreed to convene a Joint Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee together with Members of the E&P Policy Development Committee.
15. In gathering the information which resulted in the review recommendations (Annex 3) the Ad-Hoc Committee consulted with CYC Waste Management and Yorwaste, CYC Facilities Management and Procurement, One Planet York and York Business Improvement District. It also took into account best practices adopted by other local authorities and considered Government measures to reduce the use of single-use plastics.

### **Consultation**

16. There was no consultation involved in the production of this report. The consultations involved in the three scrutiny review are detailed in the final reports included in background papers.

### **Options**

17. Members may choose to sign off any individual recommendation where implementation has now been completed and can:

- a. Request further updates and the attendance of the relevant officer at a further meeting to clarify any outstanding recommendations
- b. Agree no further updates are required.

### **Analysis**

18. There is no analysis in this report.

### **Council Plan**

19. The three Scrutiny Review outlined in this report are linked to Focus on Frontline Services and A Council That Listens to Residents and A Prosperous City for All - elements of the then Council Plan for 2015-19.

### **Implications**

20. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, ICT or other implications associated with the recommendations in this report. Implications arising from the three scrutiny reviews are detailed in the Final Reports.

### **Risk Management**

21. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with this report. Risks associated with the review recommendations are included in the Final Reports.

### **Conclusions**

22. There are no conclusions in this report.

### **Recommendations**

23. Members are asked to note the content of this report and:
  - 1) Sign off recommendations from the three reviews that have been fully implemented
  - 2) Agree whether further updates are required in 6 months' time

Reason: To raise awareness of those recommendations which are still to be fully implemented.

## Contact Details

### Author:

Steve Entwistle  
Scrutiny Officer  
Tel: 01904 554279

[steven.entwistle@york.gov.uk](mailto:steven.entwistle@york.gov.uk)

### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Dawn Steel,  
Head of Democratic Services.  
Tel: 01904 551030

[dawn.steel@york.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.steel@york.gov.uk)

Report Approved  Date 6/08/2019

Wards Affected:

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### Background Papers:

Scrutiny Operations and Functions Final Report

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=Scrutiny%20Arrangements%20Final%20Report&ID=2457&RPID=21879481>

Financial Inclusion Final Report

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13564>

Single Use Plastics Final Report

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=Plastics%20Final%20Report&ID=2455&RPID=21879502>

### Annexes

Annex 1 – Update of recommendations from Scrutiny Operations and Functions Scrutiny Review

Annex 2 – Update of recommendations from Financial Inclusion Scrutiny Review

Annex 3 – Update of recommendations from Single-Use Plastics Scrutiny review