

Scrutiny Report to Council

March 2012

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.

Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC)

Budget for Scrutiny

2. In accordance with its constitutional role to consider what budget might be appropriate for undertaking scrutiny reviews, SMC made a recommendation to Budget Cabinet in February 2012 for scrutiny to be provided with a small budget of £5k for 2012/13. This has now been approved. As a result of which, Scrutiny will have a small amount available in 2012/13 to support any review activities. SMC will be considering how this should be allocated.

3. **Work Planning**

SMC has agreed to bring together all Scrutiny Members, Cabinet and Chief or Lead Scrutiny Officer for an annual work planning event. Invitations have already been sent out for the event which will be held on 2nd May at 5pm. As ever, this will be crucial to engaging us all in committing our collective resources to effective priorities for scrutiny under the Council Plan 2011-15, for the coming new Municipal Year. Scrutiny Committees will, of course, additionally be able to continue with their own planned work priorities for 2012/13 and urgent issues requiring the attention of scrutiny may well arise during the course of the year. Can I urge all Members and relevant lead scrutiny officers of the Council to make themselves available for this key session.

4. **Merging Effective Organisation & SMC**

SMC considered a report in March, proposing the above merger as recommended by Audit & Governance Committee, amongst a range of other constitutional changes. SMC has made a specific recommendation to Council at this meeting supporting this merger with some proposed terms of reference. Additional to the financial and efficiency savings arising from running one committee instead of two, SMC felt that a

combined Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee would provide scrutiny with a more manageable and effective corporate and strategic overview role. It is suggested that the new merged committee be called the 'Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee.

5. **Call-ins**

Since last Full Council in December 2011, SMC has considered the following call-ins and decided in both cases not to refer the issues back to the Cabinet for further consideration, having had the opportunity to look the issues in more detail:

- (i) Revision to Council's Administrative Accommodation Strategy to incorporate the Guildhall and St Anthonys House;
- (ii) The Community Stadium and Council Leisure Facilities – Procurement of Operator Arrangements

At its meeting on 26 March 2012, SMC will be reviewing the decision by Cabinet (6 March) to adopt a new approach to the Council's neighbourhood working arrangements. The Cabinet Member has agreed to be present to answer questions.

Standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees

- 6. Each of the standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees has received a third quarter finance and performance monitoring report since the last scrutiny report to Council.
- 7. **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have met three times since the last scrutiny report to Council. In January 2012 they received a briefing on the formation of a Police & Crime Panel to be made up of Councillors from all the Local Authorities within the North Yorkshire Police region. They also received a report from their ASB Task Group which recommended that the remit originally set the review on ASB not be progressed and asking instead that the Committee identify an alternative remit. The Committee is now considering carrying out a review on Drug & Alcohol related ASB.
- 8. At a meeting in early March the committee received performance reports from Safer York Partnership (SYP) and North Yorkshire Police. And, more recently in March the Committee met with the relevant Cabinet Members and senior officers to discuss possible topics for scrutiny review in the coming municipal year.
- 9. **Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have met twice in 2012. In January they received a briefing paper on the budget,

and a monitoring report on the implementation of their recommendations arising from their previously completed scrutiny review of CYC's Workforce Plan. In February they received a presentation on the results from the recent staff wellbeing survey and a report on the Future Use & Options for the Guildhall. The Committee has asked to be consulted on any suggestions on the future of the Guildhall arising from the ongoing consultation.

10. In addition, the Task Group they set up to carry out a review of CYC's Sickness Absence Management has met a number of times and an interim report on their ongoing work is due to be presented at the next meeting of the full Committee in April 2012.
11. **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have met three times in 2012. They have completed their review on Primary School Demographics and the final report is due to go to Cabinet in early April. The Committee have also received two presentations on the outcomes for 'Looked After' Children, in support of a suggested review, and as a result agreed no review was required. They also received a presentation on Public Parks and agreed the topic was unsuitable for review at this time. Instead, the Committee has commenced work on a review of the York Museums Trust's collections management following a topic submission by Cllr Watson.
12. The Committee have also met with the Chairs of York@Large and Learning City and the relevant Cabinet Members. They have also received a further update on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations arising from their previously completed reviews on the Cultural Quarter & Casual Play.
13. **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met three times since the last SMC report to Council in December 2011. They have received regular finance and performance monitoring reports and their regular six monthly updates on major transport initiatives and issues and major developments within the city. They also invited the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services to one of their meetings to discuss the housing aspect of her portfolio.
14. They have also closely monitored the recommendations arising from two previous scrutiny reviews namely 'Newgate Market Review' and the Councillor Call for Action regarding Water End. The Committee will continue to monitor progress in relation to these at regular intervals until they are satisfied they can sign them off as having been fully implemented.

15. In addition to this a small Task Group formed from Members of the Committee has undertaken some further work on the Committee's chosen review – '*Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector*'. After consideration of various pieces of information it became apparent that the Task Group would need to wait until further information was available on the 'Green Deal' initiative. The review was therefore postponed, with SMC agreeing to carry this over into the 2012/13 municipal year. A further date for the Task Group to meet will be set once information on the 'Green Deal' is available. However, in order that the issue remains live, there are plans to promote this scrutiny review at a forthcoming housing summit for local landlords. This will be a very good opportunity to ask any landlord who might be interested in becoming involved with the scrutiny review to express their interest; this will mean that when the review recommences the Task Group will already have contacts of interested parties that they can consult with.
16. **Health Scrutiny Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have been very busy over the last quarter having met formally on four occasions. They have received numerous reports including:
- Regular finance and monitoring reports
 - Update from Yorkshire Ambulance Service on their complaints procedure
 - Update on the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee's response to the consultation on Children's Congenital heart Surgery
 - Consideration of proposals to create an Urgent Care Centre
 - The Local Account for Adult Social Care 2011
 - Briefing from the new provider of Mental Health Services in the city
 - Briefing on the closure of Ward 3 at Bootham Park Hospital
 - Briefing on the Major Trauma Network
 - Update on the Dementia Strategy and Action Plan
 - Update on the Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board
 - Yorkshire Ambulance Service – Priority Indicators for Quality Accounts
 - Regular monitoring reports on the transition from LINKs to Healthwatch
17. In February 2012 the Committee held a packed meeting attended by NHS North Yorkshire & York and many representatives from the voluntary sector; this was to discuss recent funding cuts that had been made by NHS North Yorkshire & York to various voluntary sector organisations. The outcome was, on the whole, positive, especially for one organisation which is to have a significant amount of its funding cut in June this year. They have now been given a further opportunity to submit a business case for funding to the new Vale of York GP Commissioning Consortium.

18. The Committee has also monitored the recommendations arising from two previous scrutiny reviews:

Carer's Review – the Committee received a comprehensive update report on this which contained information from key partners across the city. Whilst the bulk of the recommendations have now been signed off, there are still a few outstanding and these have been rescheduled into the Committee's work plan for a further update in the new municipal year.

Childhood Obesity Review – the Committee decided to sign off the recommendation arising from this review but were mindful that this was a very important issue that they did not want to lose sight of. They will be requesting that the interim Director of Public Health consider this to be an issue of high priority.

19. Much work has also been undertaken on the Committee's Review on 'End of Life Care – The Use & Effectiveness of DNACPR Forms'. Several informal meetings have been held which have been attended by various key partners. These have provided a wealth of information and debate. An interim report is currently being prepared for the Committee in order that they may review the information to date and consider their next steps. SMC have agreed that this review can be carried forward into the new municipal year.
20. **City Centre Access Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee** – progress has been fairly slow on this review topic. However, work is underway at the moment on a set of consultation questions which will be used by both this Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee for their review work and by the Cabinet Member for the ongoing Footstreets Review.

Councillor John Galvin
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee