

Scrutiny Report to Council December 2012

Report of the Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee

1. This report is submitted by the Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC), in accordance with the constitutional requirements set out in Standing Order 4.3(l) to update Council on scrutiny work and to set out any recommendations such as may be made to Council in relation to that work.

Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC)

2. Call-ins

Since the last report of this kind in October 2012, CSMC has considered the following call-ins and decided in each case that having had the opportunity to look the issues in more detail, not to refer the issues back to the Cabinet for further consideration:

- Winter maintenance arrangements for 2012/13
- Future Credit Union arrangements in York - supporting the North Yorkshire and York Credit Union
- Community Stadium update

3. CSMC Scrutiny Reviews

Having received detailed officer presentations on a number of new corporate strategies (Financial Inclusion, Community Engagement, and Customers), CSMC have agreed to carry out a scrutiny review on 'Improving Customer Engagement'. A Task Group has been formed to scope the work on the review and will be reporting back on this to the next meeting of CSMC in November.

CSMC were particularly concerned to learn that the Ad Hoc review on City Centre Access had appeared to have come to an abrupt end due to ongoing delays during the course of the review. CSMC did agree that this review should finish as there was a danger that it would duplicate work being undertaken now as part of the Footstreets Review. However, it was agreed that they should meet one last time in order to collate the views of the Ad Hoc Committee and these would ultimately be passed to the Cabinet Member to be fed into the Footstreets Review. CSMC felt strongly enough, on the issues which emerged during discussion, to put

their concerns in writing to the Chief Executive about collective senior support for scrutiny in the organisation.

Standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees

4. **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met three times this municipal year. They have been consulted on a draft Hate Crime Strategy for the city, and some long term proposals on animal health, safety and enforcement. They have also considered again, issues around CCTV provision and have agreed to look at this in more detail once the new system at West Offices is up and running, and embedded. In addition, a Task Group has been formed and work is underway to carry out a scrutiny review on Domestic Waste Recycling, and the Committee has agreed to scope out another potential review around adapting to climate change with a focus on how the city plans for an increase in localised surface water flooding (not river).
5. In regard to ongoing crime and disorder issues, the committee has met with Safer York Partnership (SYP) and North Yorkshire Police and received their bi-annual performance report.
6. **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met three times so far, this municipal year, and has received bi-annual SLA performance updates from both York Museums Trust and York Theatre Royal.
7. In consideration of a number of possible topics for review, the Committee has received information on CYC Parks and carried out a tour of Hull Rd Park and Rowntree Park. They have also received presentations on York's libraries, Safeguarding Children, and Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEIG). As a result, the Committee has agreed to carry out a review on the potential use of libraries as community hubs for the provision of other services. They plan to follow this with a review of CYC's provision of CEIG etc later this municipal year.
8. Meanwhile, work on their YMT Collections review has been ongoing and the Task Group carrying out the work will be providing its draft final report to the next full Committee meeting in November.
9. **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ECDOSC)** has held one formal meeting since the last CSMC report to Council when the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services attended to present on the housing aspect of her portfolio. In addition to this the Committee also considered the draft final report arising from their E-Planning Facilities Review, the Second Quarter

Finance and Monitoring Report 2012/13, an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Newgate Market Scrutiny Review, a progress report on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS) and an update report on work undertaken on the Youth Unemployment Review.

ECDOSC Review Work

10. ECDOSC have recently completed the first of several ongoing reviews; namely their review around E-Planning Facilities. The Task Group for this review have met on many occasions and gathered an enormous amount of evidence and consulted Parish Councils and Planning Panels about their concerns in relation to the introduction of E-Planning. A final report has now been produced and agreed by the Committee and this contains recommendations including those around provision of training on E-Planning, developing a good practice guide, making rooms at West Offices and libraries available for Parish Councils and Planning Panels, improvements to the IDOX system (the suppliers of the software used to support the Public Access Website) and improvements around internal processes. The final report is due to be presented to Cabinet on 4th December.
11. In addition to the above ECDOSC have four other ongoing reviews that are currently at different stages. The Youth Unemployment review, being carried out by a three Member Task Group, is well underway and has been receiving an enormous amount of information from officers. Task Group Members have also visited the Job Centre and two providers of the Work Programme. They are currently at the stage of identifying the gaps in the information they have received to date and looking at the likely themes for the recommendations arising from this review. They had also posted a question on the GeniUS website and are shortly hoping to invite the respondents to a meeting to discuss this further.
12. A very short scrutiny review was undertaken around Out of Hours Childcare Provision and how this can effect those working outside of 'normal' working hours. A short action plan has been drawn up by officers and this will be presented as part of a report due to be presented to ECDOSC in January 2013.
13. Another Task Group formed of three Committee Members from ECDOSC have met once to set a remit for a new review around attracting external funding for economic development. This remit is due to be formally presented to the Committee at their January 2013 meeting and it is hoped that the review can commence shortly after that.

14. Finally, the Committee's 'Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector' is still ongoing although little work has taken place recently whilst the Task Group are waiting for further details on the Green Deal. It is expected that the Task Group will try and convene again in early January to see what further information is available.
15. **Health Scrutiny Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met once since the last CSMC report to Council where they heard from NHS North Yorkshire, York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust & Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (VOYCCG) in relation to the current financial status at the Primary Care Trust and the handover process to the VOYCCG. They also heard from the hospital with an update on some changes that had been made to the Urgent Care Unit several months ago. This was the second report of its kind and the Committee were happy that everything appeared to be running successfully.
16. They also received a report from the Director of Public Health that provided them with an update on the transfer of Public Health functions in the city, the establishment of the City of York Health and Wellbeing Board and the commissioning of Healthwatch for the city.

The Committee are due to meet again on 11th December and 19th December, both with packed agendas.

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review Work

17. The Review into End of Life Care is more or less complete, with the finishing touches being put to the final report. As the recommendations affect key external health partners their views on the recommendations are being gathered and incorporated into the report. There is a small amount of final clarification still to be done and this is due to take place shortly after the New Year.
18. Two Task Groups of the Committee have also recently met to set remits for two new reviews the first around the Personalisation Agenda and the second around community mental health services and the care of young people. The remits for each of these are due to be presented to the Committee at their December meetings and work will commence on each of these early in the New Year.

Councillor Siân Wiseman
Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee