

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance & ICT

Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2015-16

Summary

1. This Draft Annual Scrutiny Report summarises the work of the five Policy & Scrutiny Committees for the municipal year June 2015 – May 2016, and asks Members to agree the report prior to its presentation to Council in July 2016.

Background

2. This committee is charged with monitoring overall performance in relation to scrutiny work and providing an Annual Report to Full Council. The last Annual Report for the period June 2014 – May 2015 was presented to this Committee on 13 July 2015 and to Council on 16 July 2015.

Consultation

3. Consultation was not required for the production of this Annual Report. However, consultation is an important element of scrutiny and is regularly carried out in support of all scrutiny reviews.
4. The final reports produced for each of the reviews completed during the period June 2015 – May 2016 detail all of the work undertaken, including any consultation carried out. Those final reports and all supporting information can be viewed in full at:

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13029&path=13028>

Scrutiny Reviews in 2015-16

5. In the last municipal year the **Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee (CSMC)** carried out a review on E-Democracy. In July 2015 CSMC agreed to undertake a review to identify

the potential for improving public engagement and take up of services through digital means, and the Council's ability to respond. To progress the review a CSMC Task Group needed to understand the Council's position in regard to online services, its current digital infrastructure and resources required to enable it to function; best practice adopted by other local authorities and York's potential for development. The Task Group also considered in detail the new Customer Relations Management (CRM) system the Council was in the process of procuring. A survey resulted in more than 570 people sharing information about how they interact with the Council by digital means. In January 2016 CSMC endorsed recommendations to feed in to the Executive's consideration of the implementation of the CRM and those recommendations were approved at an Executive meeting in February 2016. Furthermore, it is likely that CSMC will re-form its Task Group in the future to consider the ongoing implementation of the CRM system.

6. The Committee also considered reconvening an Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee to continue the previous year's Yearsley Pool_Scrutiny Review. However, having reflected on the allocation of funding to safeguard the future of the pool by the new administration, it was agreed the review was no longer necessary.
7. The following review work was undertaken by the **Economic Development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Committee** during 2015-16:

- Economic Strategy Scrutiny Review

At a meeting of the Economic Development & Transport Policy and Scrutiny Committee (EDAT) in July 2015 Members were provided with a report on the development of the new Economic Strategy for York along with proposals on how the Committee could contribute in a cross-party policy development role. The Committee agreed to select two priorities for review:

- Unlocking Brownfield Sites for Jobs and Housing, and;
- A Creative City Uniquely Utilising its Distinctive Heritage

Two Task Groups were formed with the aim of actively engaging and contributing to the Economic Strategy development process. Those Members took part in a series of workshops involving businesses, representatives in Higher and Further Education and skills providers, the Council, Make It York and other relevant parties. They also attended and contributed to other workshops outside their specific focus. However, at a joint meeting of the two Task Groups in late January 2016 it was agreed that whilst the workshops had been

valuable, the key actions in the Economic Strategy were interlinked and could not be considered in isolation, so they agreed it would be better if EDAT took a holistic approach and focused on the priorities and actions where the Council could play a role. Proposals developed through the review helped inform the basis for a draft Economic Strategy, which EDAT Members contributed to by identifying some key priorities. The recommendations arising from the review were endorsed by EDAT at a meeting in March 2016 and the draft Economic Strategy was approved by the Executive in May 2016.

- Protection of Grass Verges

In March 2016 EDAT agreed to look at how the Council can work in partnership with residents to improve and protect the condition of grass verges from damage caused by motor vehicles. A Task Group was formed and a number of meetings were held prior to the end of the municipal year. Its work to date has included consulting on the reasons why people park on grass verges and considering best practice elsewhere. The review is expected to be completed in late summer 2016.

8. The **Health & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee** has been involved in two reviews during 2015-16:

- Public Health Grant Spending

In July 2015 the Health & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee appointed a Task Group to undertake a scrutiny review on public health grant spending. The review aimed to identify a comprehensive understanding of York's public health outcomes and spend, and establish a knowledge base for joint use with the Health & Wellbeing Board. The review stalled slightly while revised figures from the Department of Health were confirmed so it was not possible to conclude the review during the 2015-16 municipal year. Work on the review continues as further budget cuts are anticipated but not yet confirmed.

- Bootham Park Hospital Closure

Bootham Hospital was closed following an unannounced inspection of the psychiatric inpatients services by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 9 & 10 September 2015 when the CQC reaffirmed it was not fit for purpose and all clinical services had to be relocated from 30 September 2015. In October 2015 the Committee met to consider the circumstances leading to the closure and agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Health supporting a call for an inquiry / urgent investigation into the closure. In November 2015 the Committee

agreed to carry out its own review *“To understand the circumstances leading to the closure of Bootham Park Hospital, to establish what could have been done to avoid the gap in services in York, particularly for in-patients and their families, and identify any appropriate actions for relevant partners”*. The review utilised the support of an Independent Expert Adviser, who provided his services pro bono, and NHS England who were carrying out their own lessons learned review. Scrutiny worked closely with NHS England throughout the process and NHS England published its own report via scrutiny in April 2016 . It was publicly discussed for the first time at a Health & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee on 25 April 2016. The Committee is currently waiting for health partners to produce their action plans before final recommendations can be considered.

9. During 2015-16 the **Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee** carried out a review on the Management of Geese. A Task Group undertook the work on behalf of the committee and was supported in that work by representatives from York University and Friends of Rowntree Park. The review concluded that the city required an integrated goose management strategy and the recommendations arising from the review were presented to the Executive in April 2016.
10. The Committee also spent some time considering whether to carry out a review of the effects of stag and hen parties on the city centre, having noted the perception of some residents and visitors that York city centre was not the place to be on a Saturday afternoon or weekend evening. A Task Group was formed which learnt of a considerable amount of ongoing partnership work to tackle alcohol related issues in the city on a Saturday which highlighted that stag and hen parties were only one element of a much wider issue. They also, attended a meeting of the Operation Erase Working Group set up by the Alcohol, Violence & Night Time Economy Group (AVANTE) to tackle York’s alcohol related Saturday daytime city centre anti-social behaviour. With this ongoing work in mind, and having been informed that work was also ongoing to produce an Alcohol Strategy for the city, it was agreed not to proceed further as the review would only duplicate the work being undertaken by others.
11. The **Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee** undertook two reviews during 2015-16:
 - York Museums Trust Partnership Arrangements Review
A Task Group was formed to consider the future legal relationship between the Council and York Museums Trust (YMT) in light of the

reduction in funding provided by the Council. The review identified proposals for the development of a future funding agreement based on four core elements (agreed objectives, a reporting mechanism, a 5-year rolling financial plan and a capital development plan).

Consideration was also given to the multiple legal agreements in place and recognising that improved protection was needed for the buildings and collections, the Task Group recommended the introduction of a new charitable scheme, which had the Council as custodian trustee and YMT as managing trustee. The review recommendations were approved by the Executive in April 2016.

- Tour de France

In January 2015 a Task Group was formed to consider the appropriate planning, promotion, and delivery of future major events to ensure all associated risks are managed effectively, including Health & Safety and reputational risk. The review focussed on the Tour de France Grand Depart, and the provision of the entertainment Hubs and camping sites, and included consideration of feedback on individual elements of the delivery programme, including management of the event, its financial implications, and the lessons learned for the future. The review was not quite completed by the end of the municipal year and so the Task Group was reformed in June 2017 to conclude its investigation and identify appropriate recommendations. The review final report is scheduled to be considered by the Executive in September 2016.

Supporting the Council Plan 2015-19

12. All of the reviews carried out during 2015-16 (identified above) took account of the Council's need to be inclusive and ensure equality in accessing the services being reviewed. Each review also supported a number of the council's other improvement priorities and direction statements:
13. The following reviews were directly linked to the 'Prosperous City for All' element of the Council Plan:
 - Economic Strategy;
 - E-Democracy;
 - York Museums Trust
14. The following reviews were directly linked to the 'Focus on Frontline Services' element of the Council Plan:

- Yearsley Pool;
- Public Health Grant Spending;
- Bootham Park Hospital;
- E-Democracy;

15. The following reviews were directly linked to the 'Council That Listens to Residents' element of the Council Plan:

- Bootham Park Hospital;
- Economic Strategy;
- Grass Verges;
- E-Democracy;
- Goose Management

Finance & Performance Monitoring

16. Throughout 2015-16 the Policy & Scrutiny Committees received regular quarterly monitoring reports relating to the council's performance and finance management, in service areas specific to their individual remits.

17. In addition, they also received other monitoring reports specific to their individual terms of reference, as detailed below:

18. Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee considered a Schedule of Petitions at each meeting and other updates / reports on:

- Proposed new Governance Arrangements;
- Future ways of Working in Scrutiny;
- The Procurement Strategy;
- Future development of the Guildhall Project;
- Council Tax Support Scheme
- Scrutiny Support Budget
- Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership – referred to CSMC by Council
- The Annual Scrutiny Report for 2014-15;

19. The Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee received updates on:

- The costs associated with fly-tipping;
- The work of the Horse Bailiff;
- Proposals for a new Community Engagement Model;
- A Review of Neighbourhood Working Arrangements;

- York's Tenancy Strategy
- CYC's Housing Allocations & Choice Based Lettings Policy;
- The Public Enquiry into York's December 2015 Floods

20. Throughout 2015-16, the Committee also received a number of updates in support of its responsibility for the discharge of the functions conferred on the Council by sections 19 & 20 of the Police & Justice Act 2006, in relation to the scrutiny of community safety issues, the Police and the work of the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). These included:

- Bi-annual performance reports from Safer York Partnership (SYP);
- An update on the work of AVANTE (Alcohol, Violence & Night-Time Economy);
- Two Briefings on Domestic Violence;
- An update on the Community Safety Unit;
- An update on the Hate Crime Action Plan;
- An overview report on the work of the Substance Misuse Team;
- An update on the Anti-Social Behaviour Hub;

21. The Economic Development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Committee welcomed the attendance of the Managing Director of Make it York on two occasions and received briefings/updates on:

- Major developments within the city;
- Major transport initiatives and issues arising from them;
- York Economic Dashboard;
- Low Emissions Strategy including an update of the Air Quality Action Plan;
- iTravel;
- Business Improvement District for York City Centre;
- Scrutiny arrangements around make it York;
- Transport Briefing.

22. The Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee has a statutory role to review and scrutinise the impact of services and policies of key partners on the health of the city's population. As such it received updates on:

- York Health and Wellbeing Board;
- Safeguarding Arrangements;
- Carers' Strategy;
- Residential, Nursing and Home Care Services;
- Re-procurement of Musculoskeletal Services;
- Health Systems Resilience (Winter Pressures Money);

- Elderly People's Homes programme;
- CQC Inspection Report – York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- CQC Inspection Report – Yorkshire Ambulance Service;
- Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust – managing Transition of Mental Health & Learning Difficulties Services from LYPFT;
- Re-procurement of Community Equipment & Wheelchair Services;
- Healthy Child Service;
- Changes to Direct Payments
- Co-commissioning of Primary care Services;
- York Wheelchair Services;
- Relocation of Hull Road Surgery by Unity Health;
- Better Care Fund;
- GP Health Checks for People with Learning Disabilities;

23. The Committee were also consulted on a number of issues:

- Interim Solution for Bootham Park Hospital;
- CQC Inspection Quality Summit report on York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;
- York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Action Plan;
- Leeds and York Partnership FT progress against Action Plan following Care Quality Commission inspection;
- The merger of a number of medical practices in York – Clifton Medical Practice, Petergate and York Medical Group;
- CCG Turnaround Plans.

24. Finally, they received a number of reports and presentations i.e.:

- Be Independent monitoring reports;
- Healthwatch Performance Updates
- Healthwatch report on Wheelchair Services;
- Annual report of the Chief Executive of Yorkshire Ambulance Service;
- Annual report of the Chief Executive of York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;
- CCG Sustainability & Transformation Plans;

25. The Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee also received a range of reports and updates on the following, which included:

- Bi-annual Partnership Delivery Plan updates from York Museums Trust;

- Bi-annual Service Level Agreement Performance updates from York Theatre Royal;
- Bi-annual Service Level Agreement Performance updates from Explore York Libraries & Archives;
- Bi-annual updates on the work of York Safeguarding Board
- Bi-annual progress reports on Safeguarding and Looked After Children;
- An update on the implementation of the Children & Families Bill
- A York Museums Trust funding report
- A report on the work of Make-it York
- An update on Parks Development;
- School improvement updates and an Ofsted update on Schools Performance;
- School Results outturn.
- A Learning Services Self-Assessment Overview Report
- SACRE's Annual Report & Review of York Schools' agreed syllabus

26. In addition the Committee received presentations from the Chair of York @ Large and the Chair of Learning City York on their ongoing partnership work with the Council. They also met with the Chair of York Safeguarding Board and the Managing Director of Make it York.

Acting as Critical Friend

27. During the municipal year 2015-16 each of the Policy & Scrutiny Committees met with the relevant Executive Members to hear about their challenges and priorities for the year. They also met with some of the council's appropriate statutory partners to hear about their priorities and challenges.

Monitoring Previous Recommendations

28. Finally, each of the committees received bi-annual updates on the implementation of the approved recommendations arising from their previously completed scrutiny reviews. Those deemed to be fully completed were signed off.

Calling – In (post decision)

29. Throughout the municipal year 2015-16 there were four Executive/ Executive Member decisions called-in for consideration by CSMC. The decision of the Executive was upheld in each instance. They were:

- Applications for Community Right to Bid under the Localism Act 2011 – Clementhorpe Malt House
- Procurement of Council Security Services
- New Council Housing and Approval for Development at Ordnance Lane
- Park and Ride Bus Contract Options

Pre-decision call-in

30. At its meeting in August 2015, the Executive agreed some operational guidelines for enabling and supporting a pre-decision call-in process. This supplements the pre-existing arrangements for post-decision call in and is intended to provide all backbench and scrutiny Members with opportunities to comment upon relevant upcoming Executive or Executive Member decisions.
31. During the 2015-16 municipal year there were four pre-decision call-ins:
- CSMC: Private Sector Housing Strategy
 - EDAT:
 - i. Air Quality Action Plan 3
 - ii. Delivery of Reductions in the Subsidised Bus Services Budget
 - Learning & Culture: Review of Play Policy, Playground Investment and Maintenance

Options

32. Having considered the draft Annual Report, Members may choose to:
- Agree any amendments required to the report
 - Approve the report for presentation to the meeting of Full Council in July 2016.

Implications

33. There are no known legal, HR and financial implications associated with the recommendation within this report.

Risk Management

34. There are no known risks associated with the recommendation in this report.

Recommendations

35. Having considered the information within this report, Members are asked to approve this Annual Scrutiny Report which covers the period between June 2015 and May 2016.

Reason: To enable its presentation to Full Council in July 2016, in line with Constitutional requirements.

Contact Details

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Report Approved



Date: 20 May 2016

Specialist Implications Officer(s) - None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the authors of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes: None

Abbreviations:

AVANTE – Alcohol, Violence And Night Time Economy

CDRP – Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership

CQC – Care Quality Commission

CRM – Customer Relations Management

CSMC – Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee

CYC – City of York Council

EDAT – Economic Development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Committee

HR – Human Resources

NHS – National Health Service

NYBEP – North Yorkshire Business Education Partnership

SYP – Safer York Partnership

YMT – York Museums Trust