

Scrutiny Report to Council

Report of Chair, Scrutiny Management Committee

Since the last report to Council, there has been two meetings of Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC).

In January we received interim update reports from Health Scrutiny Committee and the Traffic Congestion Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee. We also received a report which summarised the expenditure against the budget available specifically for supporting scrutiny reviews in 2007/8, and as a result we recommended to Council that a budget of £20k be set for supporting scrutiny reviews in 2008/09, in line with the 2002/03 funding levels.

In February we received an interim report from Education Scrutiny Committee detailing their work to date on their review of School Governors, the final report from the Highways Maintenance Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee and a further report from the Traffic Congestion Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee requesting additional funding for their review. As a result of this request, we are submitting a report to the Executive in order that we can finance the ongoing work of the Traffic Congestion review.

Education Scrutiny Committee

The review of School Governors is ongoing. The results from a survey of individual school governor are now known and have been fed into the Governor Development & Support Service database to ensure their records are up-to-date. An exit questionnaire has been agreed for Governors standing down and this has been issued to all those who have left the role in the last three years. The Governor Development and Support Service team will use the information gained from the individual governor survey and any returned exit questionnaires to highlight any issues within governing bodies, or with the training / level of support provided.

The Committee has also issued their latest interim report for consideration at the next full governors' meeting of each school, together with a further questionnaire requesting information on the level and type of support given to new community (and parent) governors and the methods used for increasing community involvement with Governing Bodies / schools. The Committee intend sharing the results and any ideas etc with all governing bodies at the end of the review.

Health Scrutiny Committee

In January the Health Scrutiny Committee and officers from the Council hosted an event for people and organisations in York who are interested in 'LINKs' - a network of organisations and individuals whose role will be to promote and support the involvement of local people in the commissioning and delivery of health and social care. The event was requested by local organisations and officers were able to respond positively to that request as well as using resources

efficiently and effectively by collaborating with North Yorkshire CC and building on the work they have already undertaken.

In February a workshop was held at which Dr Peter Brambleby, the Director of Public Health, gave a presentation on clinical guidelines for treatments and how they are managing the enlarged provision of services in the community. The workshop format enabled patients and community groups to engage in the dialogue and share their knowledge and expertise with Dr Brambleby.

Work is also underway on the Annual Healthcheck required by the Healthcare Commission and the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee is meeting with PPI Forums to hear their comments. It is recognised that although we do not have the resources or expertise to comment on all standards assessed in the Annual Healthcheck, we are hoping to ensure that Trusts are fulfilling their legal obligations to consult with patients and service users in a significant way as services are changed and developed.

Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committees

Barbican

The committee recently held an informal seminar with council officers and a decision was taken to meet the people from the 'Barbican Action Group' (who were concerned with saving the pool and leisure facilities) and the 'Save Our Barbican' Group (concerned with the number of houses on the site and traffic congestion) informally to hear their views. The Committee have agreed the format for the meeting and work is ongoing to contact the members of these groups and agree a convenient date for the meeting.

Highways

The final report for this review was present to SMC in February and is scheduled to go to the Executive on 22 April 2008.

Traffic Congestion

An interim report was presented to SMC at the end of January detailing the work completed to date. As a result, the timeframe for the review was extended and SMC agreed to put in a request to the Executive for additional funding in order that the review can carry out a survey of all York residents.

The survey will raise awareness of the broad strategic options available to the city to tackle congestion, seek residents views on these options and the results will inform the recommendations arising from the review.

**Approved by Councillor Paul Blanchard
Vice- Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee**

**To be presented by Councillor John Galvin
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee**

April 2008