

## **Scrutiny Report to Council**

### **Report of Chair, Scrutiny Management Committee**

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

In July 2008 we considered a feasibility report on a possible review on 'Planning Enforcement'. A decision was taken to proceed with the review and an ad-hoc scrutiny committee was formed. The aim of the review is to identify ways of bringing enforcement cases to earlier completion through reviewing City of York Council's approach to planning enforcement and court action.

In September we considered a feasibility report on a possible review of the new Council Headquarters at Hungate. Having agreed to proceed with the review, an ad-hoc committee is currently being formed and due to meet in October 2008.

We also received two final reports in September. One from the Education Scrutiny Committee on their review of School Governors and one from the Barbican Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee. Our comments were fed into the final reports prior to them being presented to the Executive.

Finally, SMC continues to receive updates on the implementation status of recommendations arising from previously completed scrutiny reviews. We are currently looking at the recommendations from reviews completed in 2006 and 2007. Where full implementation has been evidenced, the recommendations will be signed off and we will continue to monitor those that are outstanding.

### **Education Scrutiny Committee**

The Education Scrutiny Committee has met twice since the last council meeting. In July they agreed the final report for their review of School Governors and in September they considered a feasibility report on a possible review of the Delivery of the Extended Schools Agenda which they agreed to carry out. This review is scheduled to take six months and will look specifically at the affordability, quality and take up of childcare and activities for children aged 5-11.

In addition, they have set themselves a workplan for the remainder of the municipal year which includes receiving updates on all their previously completed reviews. To date they have signed off the recommendations from two reviews - the Provision of Facilities for Young People in the City and the Extended Schools Service.

### **Health Scrutiny Committee**

Health Scrutiny Committee continues to receive updates on issues they've investigated previously, i.e. dental services in York. They have also recently agreed a programme of work for the remainder of the year, which includes contributing to the 'Annual Health Check' assessment process for NHS Trusts

and working with Council Officers who are responsible for procuring the host organisation for the new Local Involvement Network (LINK).

In addition, the Health Scrutiny Committee are undertaking a review of dementia. The aim of the review is to look at the experiences of older people with mental health problems (and their families/carers) who access general health services for secondary care in order to identify where improvements may be required. Members have considered a scoping report for this review and agreed a timetable. As part of the review an informal evidence gathering session was held on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. Members, Officers and external organisations attended this event.

### **Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committees**

#### Traffic Congestion

The ad-hoc scrutiny committee are currently working on a residents survey which will be due to be sent to all York households. The survey will gather residents views on the draft recommendations arising from this scrutiny review in order that they can inform the final report.

#### Cultural Quarter

This ad-hoc committee have recently held their first meeting to consider a scoping report for this review and agree a timetable and the level of officer involvement required. SMC have agreed to Sir Ron Cooke being co-opted to the Committee for the duration of the review.

#### Planning Enforcement

Arrangements are underway to begin this review.

**Councillor John Galvin**

**Chair**

**Scrutiny Management Committee**

September 2008