

## **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**19 January 2010**

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

### **Report of Possible Topics For Scrutiny Review**

#### **Summary**

1. This report presents two topic registration forms which have recently been submitted, together with a list of other suggested topics. Members are asked to consider and agree which if any of these they would like to proceed with to scrutiny review.

#### **Background**

2. At the last meeting of this Committee in December 2009, it was agreed that Members would submit suggestions for possible topics for scrutiny review in order to facilitate a discussion on the future workplan for this Committee. Subsequently, a copy of this Committee's remit and terms of reference was circulated to assist Members in their identification of suitable topics.

#### **Consultation**

3. The Chair of the Committee and the Director of Neighbourhood Services have both been consulted on the topics suggested within this report.

#### **Options**

4. Having considered the information within this report and its associated annexes, Members may choose to agree which of the proposed topics:
  - to carry out a scrutiny review of, at this time
  - to seek further information on, in order to decide whether a review is necessary/suitable
  - to add to the workplan as a potential scrutiny review in the future
  - are not suitable for review

#### **Analysis**

5. Two topic registration forms have been submitted to Scrutiny Services, on the following topics:

6. The Effectiveness of CCTV in relation to the costs involved – see Annex A  
In recent times, use of closed circuit TV (CCTV) has become a key concern of neighbourhoods and communities, and has prompted many local authorities to focus on its associated benefits and problems. Since the introduction of the new local government arrangements, independent scrutiny reviews and investigations have been a popular way to address such concerns. Suggestions for what a review of this topic could cover, are:
  - i. the history of CCTV in York
  - ii. the management and funding arrangements for York's CCTV Service e.g. running/staffing costs, do partners and/or external organisations contribute to the running costs etc
  - iii. present coverage in regard to area covered, staffing hours, number of cameras / operators etc
  - iv. staff training
  - v. the public's view on whether CCTV
    - reduces crime and anti-social behaviour
    - reduces their fear of crime and makes them feel safer
    - is an invasion of their privacy
  - vi. the retail sector's view on CCTV i.e. is its presence of value to them
  - vii. How effective has it been in York e.g.:
    - how many convictions have been achieved as a result of CCTV evidence
    - Can its effect as a deterrent be quantified
7. Information on the use of CCTV in York has been provided by the Safer York Partnership – see Annex B (to follow).
8. 'CYC Winter Gritting Policy' – see Annex C  
This subject has proved to be very important to York residents in recent weeks since the onset of the severe weather conditions the city is currently experiencing. Many ward councillors have received complaints particularly about footpaths throughout York, but also about some roads and cycle paths which the public perceive have not been gritted despite the long period of time since the original snowfalls. Concern has also been expressed about the positioning of salt bins in the city.
9. The Assistant Director of Construction & Leisure has already been instructed to review the Council's current policy on gritting and would welcome this Committee's participation in that process. A copy of CYC's current gritting policy is attached at Annex D for your information .
10. In addition, a number of other possible topics have been suggested - see list at Annex E. At this stage, no work has been done to investigate the suitability of these proposed topics due to the time constraints between the topics being suggested and this meeting.
11. Finally, the Director of Neighbourhood Services has provided a summary of issues which fall within the remit of this Committee, that the Directorate will need to

address in the forthcoming year – see Annex F. Some of the suggested topics relate to these forthcoming issues.

### **Corporate Strategy**

12. All of the proposed topics for scrutiny review outlined in the annexes attached to this report, relate to the Council's corporate priority of making York a 'Safer City'.

### **Implications**

13. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime & Disorder, Property or Other implications associated with the recommendation in this report. However there may be some implications associated with the individual topics suggested in this report, which will need to be addressed in future scrutiny reports, should the Committee decide to proceed with a scrutiny review of any of them.

### **Risk Management**

14. There are no known risks associated with the recommendation made within this report.

### **Recommendations**

15. Members are asked to consider all the topics referenced in this report and agree:
- i. which if any of them they wish to carry out a scrutiny review of, at this time
  - ii. what they want to do with the remaining suggested topics

Reason: To populate the workplan and progress the work of this Committee in line with Scrutiny Procedures and Protocols

### **Contact Details**

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**Report Approved**



**Date**

8 January 2010

### **Specialist Implications Officer(s)**

**Wards Affected:**

All



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** N/A

## **Annexes**

Annex A – Topic Registration Form for ‘The Effectiveness of CCTV in relation to the costs involved’

Annex B – Information on Use of CCTV in York

Annex C – Topic Registration Form for ‘CYC Winter Gritting Policy’

Annex D – CYCs Current Gritting Policy

Annex E – List of Suggested Topics

Annex F – Summary of Forthcoming Issues Within the Remit of this Committee