

# Scrutiny Report To Council February 2010

## Report of the Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee

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

## Update on Scrutiny Work

2. **SMC** have met to consider 2 call-ins as follows:
  - 7 December 2009
    - Introduction of a Quality Contract for Bus Service Provision in York
  - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010
    - Westminster Road Area Consultation & Survey Results

## Standing Scrutiny Committees

3. Further meetings of the standing scrutiny committees have taken place since the last Council meeting.
4. **Health Scrutiny Committee** have met 3 times since the last Council meeting in December 2009. Over these 3 meetings Members of the Committee have given consideration to a referral from the Executive regarding overspends in Adult Social Services and have reported back to the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services with their findings. They are scheduled to report back to the Executive on this in February 2010.
5. In addition to the Committee have received and considered a feasibility report regarding 'Maternity Matters' and an associated presentation on 'A Child's First 6 months: Their Expected Health Input both now and in the Future', an update report regarding outreach workers, an update on recommendations arising from the previously undertaken review on 'Dementia (Access to Secondary Care)', the results of the Annual Performance Assessment of Adult Social Services 2008/09.
6. They are currently undertaking a review into Childhood Obesity and the associated Task Group have met to continue work on this.
7. **Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee** are continuing their work on the review of the Effectiveness of the Executive Forward Plan. A task group has been formed to consider the optimum format and layout for the plan, and they are also looking at the definition of a key decision in order to

recommend changes that will assist officers to correctly identify forthcoming issues requiring a decision.

8. In addition, the Committee has recently received training on their role as monitors of strategic finance and performance issues.
9. **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met twice since the last Council meeting to consider a scoping/timetabling report regarding their review on Newgate Market, two feasibility studies on newly put forward topics and interim reports regarding the Water End Councillor Call for Action (CCfA). They have also agreed to facilitate a round table discussion regarding problems being experienced at Broadway Shops.
10. The Task Group for the Water Lane CCfA has met informally since last Council where they considered further evidence in relation to their review.
11. **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have met twice since the last Council meeting, and held an informal information gathering session in support of their ongoing review on 'Casual Play Opportunities'. The Committee have also received half year performance update reports from York Museums Trust and York Theatre Royal, and met with the Chairs of the relevant partnership bodies.
12. **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee** met recently to receive a presentation from North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service, and to consider a report detailing a number of possible topics suitable for scrutiny review. The Committee agreed to proceed with a review of the Council's Gritting Policy and also requested information on 'Drug Usage in the city and its knock-on effects in terms of associated crime and health issues', and 'Domestic Violence' with a mind to perhaps carry out a review of one or both of these in the next Municipal year.
13. **Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee** As a result of the request from City Strategy, to defer the distribution of the traffic congestion survey until February 2010 to avoid problems with any overlap with the LTP3 introductory leaflet & questionnaire, the Committee have agreed to submit their final report, ahead of the results from their survey in order to ensure it can be made available for the Executive's consideration before the end of this municipal year. Their intention is to provide a further report to the Executive with any additional relevant recommendations arising from the survey results, once they have been collated and analysed.

**Councillor Paul Healey**  
**Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee**