

Scrutiny Report To Council October 2009

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 twice since the last Council meeting. They commented on the recommendations from the Planning Enforcement Ad Hoc Scrutiny Review prior to their consideration by the Executive, and dealt with a referral from the Effective Organisation regarding a number of possible topics and which standing scrutiny committee's remit they best fit. They also considered a referral from the Community Safety O&S Committee in which they were asked to comment on some suggested changes to the remit of some of the Committees - a part B minutes/referral is included in the Council papers regarding this.
3. SMC have also met to consider 4 call-ins as follows:
 - 13th July 2009 – Effective Organisation Programme – Efficiency Review & The Annual Risk Management Report 2009
 - 27th July 2009 – School Meals
 - 14th September 2009 – Westminster Road Petitions
 - 12th October 2009 – Barbican Auditorium

Standing Scrutiny Committees

4. Each of the new standing scrutiny committees has met twice this municipal year. In monitoring the Council's financial performance and progress with the Council's priorities, each has received a Year End Outturn Report for 2008/09 and the First Quarter Monitoring report for 2009/10.
5. In addition each has been identifying issues, which are relevant to their individual terms of reference suitable for scrutiny review.
6. In September 2009 all members of scrutiny committees were invited to attend training sessions on the four principles of scrutiny, followed by a short course on chairing scrutiny committees.
7. **Health Scrutiny Committee** have received 2 feasibility studies for proposed new scrutiny topics; one on the 'Inspector's report for Adult Social Services' and one regarding 'Childhood Obesity'. The Committee decided to progress the topic on 'Childhood Obesity' and will shortly be starting work on this project.

8. They have also received an update on how the recommendations arising from a previous review entitled 'Dementia Review: Accessing Secondary Care.' Whilst progress was being made Committee requested that a further progress report be scheduled for their meeting in January 2010.
9. The Committee are continuing to build their relationship with the local LINK (Local Involvement Network) and the Chair & Vice-Chair of the Committee have met with the LINK Partnership Co-ordinator to discuss working relationships. The Committee have also received the first two reports from the LINK Public Awareness & Consultation Events (PACE) on neurological services and mental health.
10. The Committee recently had a presentation from NHS North Yorkshire & York regarding the transfer of mental health services in the area and will be monitoring this via further updates in the New Year.
11. **Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has agreed to carry out a scrutiny review of the 'Use of the Executive Forward Plan' It is also interested in looking at the Council's corporate approach to Risk Management and has requested a presentation on this at their next meeting.
12. **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met 3 times and agreed to undertake a significant amount of work. They are currently dealing with a Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) in relation to traffic issues in the Water Lane area of the City and are receiving regular financial monitoring reports as well as giving consideration to the current Economic Development Programme.
13. In addition to this during the next six months they will be looking at the possibility of progressing work on the following:
 - a. Newgate Market
 - b. A potential CCfA relating to Broadway Shops
 - c. Highways Adoption
14. **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has agreed to focus initially on the cultural side of their remit whilst keeping an eye on the progress being made in education with the introduction of the 14-19 Diplomas.
15. The Committee have agreed to proceed with a review of 'Casual Play Opportunities for children aged 3-11' comparing provision within the city centre to a suburban setting and a village. They will also be pursuing a request from the Executive to look in more detail at the current budget overspend relating to 'looked after' children, by receiving a presentation and detailed analysis at their next meeting.
16. **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee** is embracing their responsibility under the Police & Justice Act 2006 for scrutinising community

safety issues, the Police and the work of the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. A training event was held in September to help them with this and the committee are currently considering looking at how the city may be affected by the forthcoming restructure of North Yorkshire Police.

17. **Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee** have now agreed the format and content of their city-wide residents survey. This may be issued in December to enable the findings to potentially feed into the LTP3 consultation process. The final report from the review has also been drafted and will be signed off for presentation to SMC and the Executive once the results from the survey have been fed in.
18. **Planning Enforcement Scrutiny Ad-hoc Sub-Committee** have now completed their review and the recommendations arising have been endorsed by the Executive and their implementation will be monitored.

Councillor Paul Healey
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee