

# Scrutiny Report to Council

## March 2013

### Report of the Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee

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

### Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC)

#### 2. Call-ins

Since the last report of this kind in December 2012, CSMC has considered the following call-ins and decided in each case that having had the opportunity to look at the issues in more detail, not to refer them back to the Cabinet for further consideration:

- City Footstreets Review – Part 2
- Tethered Horses – Proposed Policy Framework

3. In January 2013, CSMC received a bi-annual monitoring report on the implementation of the Workforce Strategy 2012-15, together with a briefing on 'Operation Reach' aimed at improving staff engagement & communication.

#### 4. CSMC Scrutiny Reviews

The Community Engagement Scrutiny Review Task Group has met a number of times. Following their initial investigations, the Task Group agreed to focus on identifying ways of empowering people and improving community engagement. Work is progressing on the review and the Task Group has recently met with Resident Associations and Parish Council representatives to discuss ways of improving communications between CYC and their organisations.

5. In January 2013, CSMC agreed to proceed with a scrutiny topic submitted by Cllr Healey and Cllr Runciman on how loans/grants from CYC to outside organisations are monitored. A Task Group was set up and it met for the first time in early March to consider which of the loans and grants made during the financial year 2012/13 they wished to look at in more detail. The Task Group identified 6 chosen at random and is due to receive detailed information on those when they next meet.

6. Earlier this month CSMC met to consider the draft final report arising from the Staff Sickness Absence Review. The Committee learnt that many of the findings from the review had been used by HR to inform their work on updating the Council's Attendance at Work Policy. The recommendations arising from the review are due to be presented to Cabinet before the end of the municipal year.
7. Ad-hoc Scrutiny Reviews  
CSMC had previously received a report from the City Centre Access Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee. On considering this they agreed that the review should be abandoned so as not to duplicate ongoing work elsewhere. However it was agreed that they should meet one last time in order to collate their views to be passed to the Cabinet Member so that he might take them into consideration when making decisions on the ongoing Footstreets Review and city centre access matters more generally. The Ad Hoc Committee has now met and collated their views and they are due to be presented to the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability in April 2013.

## **Standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees**

8. Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met three times since the last report to Council. To inform their consideration of a possible scrutiny topic on Community Resilience, the committee considered a report on surface water management at their January meeting, and received a presentation on Surface Water Flooding at a meeting in February
9. Earlier this month the Committee met to consider a briefing on the use of A-boards, in support of a proposed topic. In light of the detailed information provided, the Committee felt a full scrutiny review was unnecessary and agreed to recommend to Cabinet a city-wide ban on their use.
10. The Committee also received an interim report on their Domestic Waste Recycling scrutiny review. They were informed that due to a lack of staffing resources, work on the review had stalled. The Committee have therefore agreed to carry forward the review in to the next municipal year.
11. In regard to ongoing crime and disorder issues, in January the committee received a bi-annual performance report from Safer York Partnership, and earlier this month received a presentation on North Yorkshire's Police and Crime Panel and their work programme for 2013/14.

12. **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met twice since the last report to Council. It has received bi-annual performance reports from the Theatre Royal, York Museums Trust (YMT) and York Safeguarding Children Board.
13. In January, the Committee agreed to proceed with a scrutiny review on the provision of Careers Education Information Advice & Guidance in York schools and a Task Group was formed to carry out the review on the Committee's behalf. That Task Group met for the first time earlier this month to consider a scoping report for the review.
14. In March, in light of the recommendations arising from their previously completed scrutiny review of YMT, the Committee received a presentation on the principles behind YMT's forthcoming update of their Collections Development Policy. They also received a presentation on the recent developments and future plans for the city's parks.
15. Finally, work is ongoing on the Libraries Review. The Task Group have visited a number of York's libraries to view the facilities and meet with staff and customers. They have also met with officers in Asset Management to discuss other CYC facilities and service provision in the areas surrounding the visited libraries, in order to understand community needs in those areas.
16. **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ECDOSC)** has held one formal meeting since the last CSMC report to Council when the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability attended to present on his challenges and priorities for the year. The Committee also received a report on 'economic inclusion and supported employment for people with disabilities in the City of York Council (Yorkcraft)'.  
  
17. In January 2013 the Committee signed off their review around out of hour's childcare, and the eight recommendations arising were subsequently approved by Cabinet at their meeting in early March 2013.
18. The Committee also agreed a remit for a new review around External Funding with the overall aim *'to be more effective and systematic in securing external funding and investment for York'*. Work has begun on this review and an interim report is due at the next Committee meeting scheduled for 26 March 2013.
19. Finally, the Committee again considered their scrutiny review on 'Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector' which had been put on hold whilst the Task Group were awaiting further details on the Green Deal. On reconsideration of this it was agreed that no

further work should take place on this review as extensive work was already been undertaken in this area.

20. **Health Scrutiny Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has had an extremely busy time recently, having met 4 times since the last report to Council. They have received and considered various reports and updates around issues such as the outcomes of a consultation on the proposed closure of Mill Lodge; a verbal report from Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust on mental health services; a final progress update on Healthwatch (the contract having now been awarded for this service); the second and third quarter finance and performance monitoring reports; an update report on the provision of the travellers and homeless medical service in the city; the local account for adult social care; safeguarding vulnerable adults assurance report; a quality monitoring report around residential, nursing and homecare services; an update report on the carer's strategy and the implementation of the recommendations arising from a previous scrutiny review on carers and an update report on access to talking therapies.
21. The Committee have also had in depth updates and conversations with key health partners around the North Yorkshire and York Clinical Services Review and the Francis Report.
22. The Chair has also kept the Committee up to date around the ongoing joint health scrutiny review around children's cardiac services.
23. In addition, work on the End of Life Care Review has been completed and the recommendations arising from the review have been considered and supported by the Cabinet.
24. Finally, work is ongoing around both the 'Personalisation Review' and the 'Community Health in the Care of Young People Review'. The Task Groups for these have met on several occasions. A public event is scheduled for April for the Personalisation Review and a further meeting of the 'Community Health in the Care of Young People Review' is scheduled for March to speak to representatives from the Youth Council.

**Councillor Siân Wiseman**  
**Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee**