

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

July 2016

1. This report is submitted by the Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee (CSMC), in accordance with the constitutional requirements set out in Standing Order 4.2.1 (i) to update Council on scrutiny work and to set out any recommendations such as may be made to Council in relation to that work.
2. The next meeting of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee will consider how the Scrutiny function of the Council is carried out. This piece of work has been ongoing for some time, partly due to the uncertainty around the planned senior management restructure. Recent developments on this issue should give Scrutiny members greater clarity over the options and I hope members will be able to agree a way forward as details emerge for the new council management structure.
3. However, regardless of how Scrutiny committees are structured, and indeed, the specific individuals involved, we need to give greater consideration as to how Scrutiny can be better involved in making and delivering council decisions.
4. I would like to welcome Mary Weastell to her new role as Chief Executive, and invite her to meet with myself as Chair of CSMC, the Vice Chair, and Scrutiny Officers, to discuss how we can improve the relationship between Scrutiny members, Executive members, and Senior Officers.
5. While there has been some recent progress, there are still improvements that can be made. In particular, how Scrutiny members are updated about policies and services are being developed, and are able to contribute to their development. While the structure of Scrutiny is a factor in this, the culture and attitudes in which it operates is perhaps of greater importance and needs to be addressed. I hope this is something all members and officers can commit to working towards.

Finance and performance

6. Since the last report to Council on 24 March 2016 the four standing scrutiny committees have all received the year end Finance and Performance monitoring reports. CSMC will consider their end of year report at their meeting on 25 July.

Attendance of Executive Members

7. Since the last report to Council the majority of the Executive Members have attended the June and July rounds of Policy & Scrutiny Committee meetings to outline the priorities and challenges within their portfolio areas for this municipal year. The Executive Member for Finance and Performance is scheduled to attend the 25 July meeting of CSMC and the Executive Member for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods the September meeting of the Economic Development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Committee.

Call-ins

8. In May 2016 the Economic Development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Committee considered a pre-decision call-in of the delivery of reductions in the subsidised bus service budget in the city, CSMC considered the pre-decision call-in of the private Sector Housing Strategy and the Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee considered a pre-decision call-in of the Play Policy Review.

Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee

Petitions

9. At each of its meetings, CSMC continues to receive its standing report on Council petitions providing details of new petitions received by the Council and the appropriate course of action.

Scrutiny Work

10. CSMC has met twice since the last report to Council. In May 2016 members considered an update report on plans and progress of implementation of the Council's My Account system and digital inclusion and a Briefing paper on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) following a motion to Council.
11. In June 2016 Members considered a pre-decision report on the Guildhall project and the annual scrutiny report. They also considered topics for review during the municipal year including elements of the TTIP motion to support the work of One Planet York.

Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee

12. The Committee has met twice since the last report to Council. In June Members received a report on riverside improvements and a scoping report on a new review to look at ward funding and commissioning. A

decision was taken to proceed with the review and a task group was formed.

13. Earlier this month, the Committee met again to receive a bi-annual performance update from Safer York Partnership (SYP). The North Yorkshire Police Deputy Commander for York was in attendance to discuss the Police's contribution to the work of the SYP. The Committee also received updates on CYC's draft Alcohol Strategy and the Housing Planning Act. Finally the Committee considered the draft final report arising from their Housing Allocations scrutiny review which will feed into the ongoing Allocations Service Development officer review.

Economic Development and Transport Policy & Scrutiny Review

14. This committee has met three times since the last report to Council. In May 2016 the committee received a report from the managing director of Make It York on the first anniversary of the launch of the organisation. Members also received six-monthly update reports on Major Development within the city and Major Transport Initiatives.
15. In June 2016 they welcomed the Executive Members for Economic Development & Community Engagement and Transport and Planning to explain their priorities and challenges for the coming year.
16. In July 2016 they received the Executive Member for Environment and considered an interim report on the Grass Verges Scrutiny Review and a scoping paper on a potential scrutiny review into the impact of the arts and culture sectors on economic development in the city.

Health & Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

17. This Committee has met five times since the last report of this nature. In April 2016 the Committee considered a major item around the closure of Bootham Park Hospital including the NHS England Reflections, Learning and Assurance Report on the transfer of services between Leeds & York Partnership FT and Tees, Esk & Wear FT; the initial conclusions of the committee's independent expert adviser and Healthwatch York's report: Bootham Park Hospital: What next for mental health in York? A Scrutiny Review into the Bootham Park Hospital closure is ongoing.
18. Also in April 2016 the Committee received update reports on Wheelchair Services in York; Elderly Persons' Homes and the Better Care Fund. They also considered an assurance report on the relocation of Hull Road Surgery, the six-monthly monitoring report on Residential, Nursing and Homecare Services and considered the Vale of York Clinical

Commissioning Group's Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

19. In May 2016 the Committee considered an update report on Musculoskeletal Services in the city, the six-monthly Healthwatch performance report and a report on the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group's turnaround plans.
20. In June 2016, in addition to welcoming the Executive Member for Health & Adult Social Care, the Committee received a report detailing Be Independent's end of year position and a verbal update on the Bootham Park Hospital scrutiny review.
21. Finally, in July 2016 the Committee considered the Annual Assurance Report on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, a report from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHF Foundation trust on consultation for a proposed new mental health hospital in York, a position report on the Health Child Service and a pre-decision report on the re-procurement of substance abuse services.

Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee

22. This Committee has met twice since the last report to Council. In June they received a bi-annual partnership delivery plan update from York Museums Trust. They also considered a number of topic proposals and agreed to proceed with a review of Play opportunities across the city.
23. The Committee met again earlier this month to receive an introductory report on the York pilot for 30 hours free childcare for working families. The Committee will receive further updates on this as the pilot progresses. They also considered a scoping report for their proposed scrutiny review on play opportunities.
24. Work continues on the committee's ongoing scrutiny review of the Tour de France.

Cllr Levene