

Scrutiny Report To Council

December 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

SMC

2. Since the last scrutiny report to Council in October the Scrutiny Management Committee will have met once to consider a referral from the Executive regarding the Joint Special Needs Assessment (JSNA) and a proposed new scrutiny topic about food growing within the city. They will also have received an update from the Chair of SMC on some regional scrutiny work that has recently been undertaken and a report from the Democratic Services Manager on some minor changes to the scrutiny process.
3. SMC have also considered the following call in:
 - 8 November 2010
 - Community Stadium Update Report

Standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees

4. Further meetings of the standing overview & scrutiny committees have taken place since the last Council meeting.
5. **Health Scrutiny Committee** have met twice since the last report to Council. In this time they have heard from the Chief Executive of NHS North Yorkshire & York about the short-term measures they have had to take to relieve financial pressures. The Committee also received further information from NHS North Yorkshire & York in relation to the transfer of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Substance Misuse Services.
6. They considered proposals for a scrutiny topic on carers and decided to go ahead with this focussing on identifying carers and the provision of information and access to information available to them. A small cross-party task group has been set up to undertake the review and so far they have set a remit, scoped and timetabled the work they wish to undertake. The next meeting of the task group is set for mid-December.
7. In addition to this the Committee has also heard from the Executive Member for Health 7 Adult Social services, received a six-monthly update from York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and considered the second quarter monitoring report.

8. The recommendations arising from the review into childhood obesity have now been considered by the Executive and the work of this task group is now complete. The Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee will monitor the implementation of the recommendations agreed by the Executive.
9. **Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met once since last Council to consider the second quarter monitoring report. In addition, their Task Group set up to carry out the review on Customer Complaints has also met a number of times. Work on the review is progressing and the Task Group have already identified a number of changes required to the Corporate Customer Feedback Policy together with a number of recommendations. The Task Group will meet for a final time in early January 2011 to agree its final report.
10. **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met twice since the last report to Council. They have received an update report from the Executive Member for City Strategy who attended the November meeting to address the Committee. In addition to this they have considered reports on the following:
 - An update report on the acceptance of Euros
 - Six monthly update on major developments within the city
 - A copy of the report to the Executive Member for City Strategy in relation to traffic issues at Water End
 - Draft final report in relation to the Newgate Market review
 - Six monthly update on major transport initiatives in the city
 - Second quarter monitoring report.
11. Work has continued to progress on the Newgate Market review and the Committee have met informally on several occasions to consider information. At their meeting in early December the Committee considered a draft final report and it is hoped that the review will be complete and a final report produced in time for the Committee's January meeting.
12. Work is ongoing on the Broadway Shops Councillor Call for Action and an update report to the Committee is due in the New Year. A further facilitated meeting has been held since the last update to Council and some works, predominantly white lining, have taken place at this parade of shops. A clear path has now been defined for pedestrians and safety has improved. The feedback we have had to date has been positive.
13. **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met once since the last Council meeting to consider its second quarter finance and performance monitoring report and to receive a further presentation on CYC Youth Services. They plan to commence a scrutiny review on the future of Youth Service provision across the city and the presentation was to help them identify an appropriate remit for that review.
14. **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met once since the last Council meeting to receive their second quarter finance and performance monitoring report, and a presentation from the Probation Service on their involvement in and contribution to the Safer York Partnership.

15. Their Task Group set up to carry out a scrutiny review of CYC Taxi Licensing Policy has also held its first meeting to scope their work on the review and to receive a presentation from the Licensing Unit on the issues to be addressed as part of the review. A number of future meetings are planned with the intention of completing the review by mid February 2011.
16. **School Travel Plans Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee** has met twice since the last council meeting and members of the Committee carried out a number of visits to participating schools. Work on the review has now been completed and the final report has been agreed. This will be presented to SMC for consultation at their next meeting, prior to being presented to the Executive for approval.
17. **Recommendation – Appointment of a Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

Under Section 31 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council is required to appoint a Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

Members are recommended to approve the appointment to this post of the Head of Democratic Services, whose job description encompasses the statutory functions of the post, subject to the confirmation of the Scrutiny Management Committee, which will consider the matter at its meeting on 6 December 2010.

Councillor John Galvin
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee