

Scrutiny Report to Full Council – 28 June 2007

This is my first report as chairman of Scrutiny Management Committee, however I am reporting on the work of the Committee since the Council meeting of 12 April which includes the meetings of 23 April and 18 June. The first of these meetings was chaired by my predecessor, Cllr Madeleine Kirk, who I would like to thank for all her hard work on behalf of this committee.

One of the first duties of the new committee was to appoint a chair and vice-chair of the Traffic Congestion and Highways Maintenance and PFI Ad-hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committees.

These appointments are:

Traffic Congestion – Chair Cllr Merrett, Vice-Chair Cllr Hudson

Highways Maintenance & PFI – Chair Cllr Moore, Vice-Chair Cllr Simpson-Laing

The Traffic Congestion sub-Committee gave an interim report to SMC on 23 April and the committee agreed to extend the sub-committee's timeframe by six months.

At the same meeting members heard from the Chairmen of the Education and Health Scrutiny Committees, former Cllrs Hall and Cuthbertson respectively, and thanked them for their work throughout the year.

Members considered an update report regarding the implementation of recommendations previously made as a result of a completed Scrutiny review on "Cycling and the Provision of Facilities". At the June meeting members questioned the relevant officers about the increases that have been made to the provision of cycle lanes in the city. There are concerns that some of the recommendations have not yet been implemented and a full report has been requested for the next meeting of SMC.

Members also considered the report of the Ad-hoc Sub-Committee that had been set up to review the formation of an Area Asset Management Plan for Tang Hall. This report had considered the consultation processes used and made recommendations which could inform the production of future Area Asset Management Plans.

Officers from Property Services have been asked to attend the next meeting of SMC to inform members of progress with the area Asset Management Plan.

Members considered feasibility reports on two proposed new Scrutiny topics concerning i) the transparent formulation of Council policy and ii) confidentiality in tendering and high risk procurement. They decided not to proceed with either of these at the present time.

A group of about 15 non-Executive members participated in a training event entitled "Making the Most of Scrutiny". This helped raise their awareness of the possible outcomes of scrutiny, planning and prioritising their work and carrying out an effective review. Members are now encouraged to submit proposals for new scrutiny

reviews – there is an online form which they can use to do this which helps them to identify if their proposed topic meets the criteria required by SMC.

Cllr John Galvin