

Report to Council of the Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee, 16 July 2015

1. This report is submitted by the Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with the constitutional requirements set out in Standing Order 8.3(l) to update Council on scrutiny work since the last report to Council and to set out any recommendations such as may be made to Council in relation to that work.

Work to date

Finance & Performance

2. The four standing Policy & Scrutiny Committees have received no Finance & Performance monitoring Reports since the last report to Council in March 2015. They will be receiving their year end reports and Quarter 1 reports at the September round of scrutiny meetings.

Attendance of Executive Members

3. The majority of Executive Members are scheduled to attend the July round of Policy & Scrutiny Committee meetings to outline the priorities and challenges within their portfolio areas for this municipal year.

Communities and Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee

4. This committee has met once since the last report to Council. In June 2015 it considered a further report on the implementation of recommendations from the Community Resilience Scrutiny review and agreed to sign off this work as having been completed. It also received a verbal update on the cost associated with fly tipping in the city.

Economic Development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Committee

5. This committee has met twice since the last report to Council. The former Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee held an extra meeting in late March 2015 specifically to review and discuss the Commissioning Agreement for Make it York. The re-named committee met again in June 2015 when they received an update report on scrutiny arrangements around Make it York and were given a presentation from

the Managing Director of Make it York on the work and aspirations of the new organisation.

Health & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee

6. The committee has met once since the last report to Council. In June 2015 the committee was given an update on the progress of the Leeds & York Partnership Foundation Trust action plan following their recent Care Quality Commission inspection and an update report on the changes to direct payments in the city.

Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee

7. The Committee has met once since the last report to Council. In June 2015 the Committee received bi-annual update reports from both York Museums Trust's and Explore York Libraries & Archives Mutual Ltd. They also considered a feasibility report on a proposed scrutiny topic on Tour de France. The Committee agreed to proceed with the review and set up a Task Group to carry out the review on their behalf. The review will concentrate on the Grand Depart, merchandising, and the provision of the entertainment hubs and camping sites.

Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee

8. Since the full Council meeting in March 2015 the committee has met twice. In early June 2015 the Committee considered an update on the implementation of outstanding recommendations of the Community Engagement Scrutiny Review and signed off the review recommendations as having been completed, and expressed an interest in contributing to the Executive's emerging plans for ward committees. The Committee also considered membership of the Yearsley Pool Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee. A majority decided that work on the review was no longer required, and asked for an update report at their July meeting.
9. At the time of writing, the committee was due to meet again before full Council. The Committee will consider a scrutiny topic proposal on 'Expansion of Local Democracy using Digital Means', and received a Yearsley Pool Scrutiny Review update report. The Committee also agreed their Scrutiny Annual Report, shown elsewhere on this agenda.

10. At each of its meetings, the committee continues to receive its standing report on Council Petitions providing details of new petitions received by the Council and the appropriate course of action in each case.
11. There have been three decisions called-in since the last report to Council. At the time of writing, the committee was due to meet to consider the following:
 - New Council Housing and Approval for Development at Ordnance Lane
 - Procurement of Council Security Services
 - Applications for Community Right to Bid under the Localism Act 2011 - Clementhorpe Malt House
12. As this report was written prior to the call-in meeting, the decisions were unknown at the time. However, during the last civic year there were concerns that among some members there was a reluctance to refer decisions back to the decision maker; I hope this is not the case this civic year.

Future Arrangements for Scrutiny

13. At the first round of scrutiny meetings in June, each of the Policy & Scrutiny Committees received a terms of reference report highlighting the Council's current structure for the provision of the scrutiny function.
14. At the time of writing, the Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee was due to receive a report detailing the planned new governance arrangements for decision making which the Executive are consulting on (with any resulting changes to terms of reference or working processes to be formally approved at October Council). As such, comments are not available in this report.
15. However, the principle of greater pre-decision scrutiny involvement is a welcome one, subject to the details.
16. One detail will be resourcing: in the past there has been cross-party consensus on the need to resource scrutiny properly. If scrutiny is to be given more responsibility, it follows that it may need more resource. In particular, given a greater policy function, it may need support from policy staff.

17. Similarly, training will need to be considered. As Chair I have already had discussions with officers, given the high number of new members, about general scrutiny training. This needs to be formalised and, given the possible greater policy function, thought given to subject-specific scrutiny training for all members involved in scrutiny.