

## **Scrutiny Report to Council**

**October 2015**

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

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 and to set out any recommendations such as may be made to Council in relation to that work.

#### **Finance and Performance**

2. Since the last report to Council on 16 July 2015 the Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee and the four standing Policy & Scrutiny Committees have all received the Year End Finance & Performance Monitoring Report and the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Finance and Performance Monitoring Report.

#### **Attendance of Executive Members**

3. The majority of Executive Members attended the July or September rounds of Policy & Scrutiny Committee meetings to outline their priorities and challenges within their portfolio areas for the municipal year. The Deputy Leader – Executive Member for Economic Development & Community Engagement is scheduled to attend the next meeting of Economic Development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Committee in November 2015.

#### **New Working Arrangements for Scrutiny**

4. Following agreement of the new pre-decision scrutiny arrangements by the Executive in August the Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy and Scrutiny Committee (CSMC) considered the working arrangements for Scrutiny at its meeting in September 2015.
5. The new arrangements relate mainly to engaging and involving scrutiny Members prior to decisions being formally taken by the Executive or Executive Member, and will be operational as from early October 2015. To support this new process the Forward Plan will be published on a weekly basis, items requiring a decision will be added to the Forward

Plan at least 12 weeks in advance of the decision date, and Scrutiny Members may call in a Forward Plan item for pre-decision scrutiny.

6. To coincide with the new arrangements, CSMC have agreed to carry out a piece of work to redraft the scrutiny committee remits, with the intention of having these in place for the start of the new municipal year.

## **Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee**

### Call-ins

7. At the time of writing the last report to Council, CSM&PSC (Calling-In) were due to meet to consider a number of called-in decisions:

- 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

8. In each case the CSMC (Calling –In) decided there were no grounds on which to refer back any of the decisions for further consideration. The decisions were therefore upheld.

### 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 in each case.

### Overview & Scrutiny Review Work

10. Since the full Council meeting in July 2015 CSMC has met twice. In July 2015 the Committee considered an update on the Yearsley Pool Scrutiny Review, carried out by an Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee it had previously set up. Having considered the findings to date, the Committee concluded there was no further work to be done and agreed to conclude the review. The Committee also agreed to proceed with a scrutiny review on 'Expansion of Local Democracy using Digital Means' and set up a Task Group to carry out the review on its behalf. The Task Group has subsequently met twice to progress the review.
11. In September 2015 the Committee met again to consider a report on Future Ways of Scrutiny Working, in light of the Executive's decision to implement a system for pre-decision scrutiny of forthcoming Executive/Executive Member decisions. CSMC considered how best to

involve the other scrutiny committees in the process and agreed it would be timely to review the remits of the standing scrutiny committees. Finally they received an introductory report on the development proposals for the Guildhall.

12. This was followed up with a further informal consultation meeting held in September, for CSMC to consider and comment on the detailed options for the future of the Guildhall.

### **Communities and Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee**

13. This committee has met twice since the last report to Council. In July 2015 it received a bi-annual report from Safer York Partnership together with a briefing paper on Domestic Violence in the city. Officers also sought their views on the proposals for a new community engagement model, ahead of a report to the Executive.
14. In September 2015 the Committee received an update on the work of AVANTE (Alcohol, Violence & Night Time Economy) – a sub group of Safer York Partnership. They also considered feasibility reports on two possible scrutiny reviews – ‘Geese’ and ‘Stag and Hen Parties’. The Committee formed two Task Groups; one to meet with the Friends of Rowntree Park to consider their recent study on Geese, and one to undertake the review on Stag and Hen Parties.

### **Economic development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Committee**

15. This Committee has met twice since the last report to Council. In July Members considered an Executive report on plans for a Business Improvement District in York city centre and a briefing report on economic strategy. As a result of the latter report the Committee agreed to appoint two Task Groups to review two topics within the draft priorities: ‘Unlocking brown field sites for jobs and housing’, and ‘A creative city uniquely utilising its distinct heritage’.
16. In September Members received an update report on iTravel, and an update report on the implementation of recommendations arising from their previously completed scrutiny review on ‘Higher Value Jobs’.

## **Health & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee**

17. This Committee has met three times since the last report to Council. In July the Committee received the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Annual Assurance report, and a Healthwatch report on wheelchair services in the city. They also received a progress report on changes to direct payments and a scoping report for a possible scrutiny review on public health grant spending. The Committee agreed to proceed with the scrutiny review and appointed a Task Group to carry out the review on its behalf.
18. Due to the amount of business, the Committee needed to hold two meetings in September. At the first of those meetings the Committee considered Be Independent's year end position and the group's 1<sup>st</sup> quarter monitoring report, together with an update report on changes to direct payments and a Clinical Commissioning Group report on health systems resilience.
19. At its second meeting in September, Members received the annual report from the Chief Executive of York Teaching Hospital and the annual report from the Chief Executive of Yorkshire Ambulance Service. They also discussed and questioned the Quality Summit report following a Care Quality Commission inspection of Yorkshire Ambulance Service. Finally, they received a presentation from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trust on the transition of mental health and learning disabilities services from the Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust.

## **Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee**

20. This Committee has also met twice since the last report to Council. In July 2015 Officers sought the Committee's views on an Executive Member report proposing changes to charging for York residents at the city's museums and gallery. They also received a bi-annual report on Safeguarding & Looked After Children and an update on the implementation of the Children & Families Bill.
21. In September 2015 the Committee received a bi-annual Service Level Agreement Performance Update report from York Theatre Royal, and met with the Managing Director from Make it York (MiY) to receive a report detailing its role in scrutinising the new organisation.