

Report of the Chair of Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee

19 December 2019

1. This report is submitted by the Chair of Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC), in accordance with the constitutional requirements set out in Standing order 8.3 (m) 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. In July 2019 the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the newly reconstituted Policy and Scrutiny Committees met to discuss a common approach to scrutiny as the Council moved into the new municipal year under a new administration. At the meeting the Chairs and Vice-Chairs agreed that Finance and Performance monitoring reports would be presented to scrutiny committees on a six-monthly basis with the exception of the Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee which will continue to receive these reports quarterly. Scrutiny Committees receive their Finance and Performance Monitoring Reports after they have first been considered by Executive, but the scheduled Executive meeting on 12 December was cancelled due to the General Election and the Executive until 21 January. So, since the last report to Council on 31 October, none of the standing scrutiny committees have received any Finance and Performance Monitoring Reports.

Attendance of Executive Members

3. No Executive Member has attended any scrutiny committee meetings since the last report to Council on 31 October.

Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs

4. The switch to monthly meetings for all scrutiny committees presents the opportunity for a more in-depth scrutiny of issues affecting the city. To ensure this opportunity is not lost Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs now meet on a six-monthly basis to coordinate the way scrutiny works and to increase collaboration and cooperation across committees. The latest of these meeting was held in early December. As it is part of CSMC's role to oversee the scrutiny function scrutiny Chairs now attend CSMC on a rolling six-monthly basis to report on their committee's activities. The Chair of the Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee presented his report November and the Chair of the Health

and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee presented in December.

5. Reflecting on the move away from Pre-Decision Call-ins, Scrutiny Chairs are now meeting with the Chair of CSMC and their relevant Corporate Directors on a quarterly basis to “horizon scan” and receive outline briefings on items which may not yet have reached the Forward Plan.

Post-Decision Call-Ins

6. There have been no Post-Decision Call-ins since the last report to Council.

Corporate Review

7. At the beginning of this municipal year CSMC agreed to undertake a scrutiny review into food poverty with the aim of understanding the issues around the apparent increasing levels of food poverty in York.
8. After that review began the Economy and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee started to investigate in-work poverty as part of an ongoing exercise to further develop the committee’s work programme for the year.
9. CSMC agreed at its November meeting that rather than individual scrutiny committees independently picking up individual aspects of poverty, it makes sense to look at poverty as a whole, with each scrutiny committee focusing on a separate element of poverty to feed into a final corporate report to be drafted by CSMC.
10. The Standing Scrutiny Committees have been invited to undertake a review into poverty elements which fall within the remit of the individual scrutiny committee, set their own remits for review, and feed into a corporate review of poverty in York.

Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee

Petitions

11. At each of its meetings, this 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. However, the way CSMC receives petitions is under review and discussions are ongoing, in particular with regard to petitions relating to Respark, about which the Committee has little need for comment, given that these are part of a specific process in their own right.

Scrutiny Work

12. The Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee has met twice since the last report to Council. In November, Members received an update report on the Council's Wellbeing Project and considered their Annual Complaints report from March 2018 to April 2019. They also considered the Annual Scrutiny review Support Budget.
13. In December Members received a report on Information Management within the Council and discussed a report and options for Managing Major Projects.

Health, Housing & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee

14. The Health, Housing & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee has held two meetings since the last report to Council. In November The Committee received a report setting out the reasons why a corporate Safeguarding Policy is deemed necessary for the Council and Members were asked to give their views on the proposed policy. Members considered a Health Protection Assurance Report which provided an overview of health protections systems nationally and the priorities in York and a report outlining the work that has been undertaken by the Oral Health Improvement Advisory Group in developing a strategy to improve oral health for children in York.
15. In December considered an Update report on Older Persons' Accommodation and welcomed representatives from the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group who reported on the closure of the Primary Care mental Health Service. They also received an Update Report from the Multiple Complex Needs Network.

Children, Education & Communities Policy & Scrutiny Committee

16. This Committee has met once since the last report to Council. In November Members received a report on the Cultural Entitlement for Young People to make sure that every child and young person in the city gets to take part in, enjoy and benefit from arts and culture opportunities. They considered an update report on Narrowing the Gap to improve the outcomes of disadvantaged pupils in York and discussed a feasibility report around Youth Mental Health.

Economy and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee

17. This Committee has met twice since the last report to Council. Since the beginning of the new municipal year the committee has been working to

develop a balanced and effective work programme and agree on a series of round-table discussions with representatives from city partners and organisations to inform work plan development and offer advice on topics likely to add value to the scrutiny function. A second in this series of discussions was held during the Committee's November meeting when Members were joined by representatives from the University of York, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Yorkshire and Humber TUC and the retail sector for discussions around in-work poverty, the gender pay gap and low-pay industries. Members also discussed a report on the Implementation of recommendations from the Economic Health of York City Centre Scrutiny Review.

18. In December the Committee received an Update Report on Highways Maintenance in the city explaining the annual condition assessment and the repair and renewal process. Members also received an update report on the Implementation of recommendations from the Residents' Priority parking Scheme Scrutiny review and a Scoping Report on Apprenticeships and Skills.

Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee

19. This Committee has met once since the last report to Council. In November Members received an information report advising what has happened during the first year of the extension of Houses in Multiple Occupation licensing of properties with five or more occupants forming more than one household irrespective of the number of storeys. They also received an information report on the work the Council is doing around empty properties in the private sector and an update report on the Older Persons' Accommodation Survey carried out to better understand the accommodation needs of the Council's older residents.

Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee

20. The Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee has also met once since the last report to Council. The November meeting of this committee saw a report from Mike Bonsall, the Chair of One Planet York, updating the committee on their plans for the future. The substantive item in November was a round table discussion on the challenges and opportunities of operating a zero-carbon fleet and guests from Nestle, Frist Group and City of York Council were in attendance to add to the discussion. The committee also voted to co-opt four young people from 'Youth Strike 4 Climate' and Terry Smithson from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

21. The Committee meeting in December will largely focus on Carbon Budgeting with guests from the Stockholm Environment Institute at York University, Anthesis (Sustainability consultants) and the City of York Council joining a round table discussion to look at how Carbon Budgeting has been used in other Local Authorities and the potential challenges involved. The committee will also be discussing an Executive request to refresh the Council's commitment to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. The committee meeting will take place on the 16th December and, if confirmed, a recommendation to approve the signing of the covenant will be submitted to Full Council on the 19th December.

Report Recommendation

22. Members are recommended to:

- i. Note this report;

Reason: To comply with the Council's constitutional requirements