

Scrutiny Report to Council

Report of Chair, Scrutiny Management Committee

Since the last report to Council, there have been two meetings of Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC).

In April 2008, the Committee received an update on the work of Health Scrutiny Committee and the then Chair of that Committee, Councillor Funnell, attended the meeting to give an overview. The Committee learnt that Health Scrutiny was now preparing a structured work plan and looking to focus on one or two particular areas of review in addition to its ongoing role in relation to the Annual Health Check. At the same meeting, Members also received a study on the feasibility of undertaking a review, registered by Councillor Hogg, in relation to the vision developed in 2007 for a Cultural Quarter for York, linking the city centre with development sites in York North West. Members agreed to proceed with a review of the topic, agreed a remit and set up an Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee to consider that review. The Sub-Committee first meets on 21 July 2008.

At its meeting in June 2008, the Committee considered a report on resources currently available to support the scrutiny function, as previously requested and noted that work was underway in relation to a review report on scrutiny and its effectiveness, in the wake of the recent CPA findings.

Education Scrutiny Committee

Since April Council, Education Scrutiny has completed its ongoing review in relation to school governors and is not about to present that final report to SMC and onwards to the Executive to consider implementation of appropriate recommendations. At its last meeting, the Committee focussed upon reviewing its work plan, monitoring progress in relation to previously agreed recommendations on extended schools provision and upon future areas for review. It has commissioned feasibilities on possible new topics in relation to extended schools (further to the review in 2006 and looking at community lettings) and on progress with regard to the introduction of 14-19 year old specialised diplomas.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Since April Council, the Health Scrutiny Committee has met once on 16th June 2008. At this meeting they received an information report on Local Involvement Networks (LINKs). Arrangements for a host organisation have now been completed and the contract was awarded to North Bank Forum (NBF). The feasibility of holding a facilitated workshop with the host (NBF) is currently being explored.

At the same meeting a remit for a review regarding dementia and secondary healthcare was proposed and agreed. A scoping report is being prepared and will

be presented to Members at the next formal meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee on 7th July 2008.

Prior to the next formal meeting an informal training session for Members will be held. This will allow Members to receive information from, amongst others, the Primary Care Trust, York Health Group, York Ambulance Service and the Acute Trust.

Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committees

Barbican

Since April 2008, this Sub-Committee has been gathering evidence in relation to circumstances surrounding the sale of the Barbican Centre in 2003. A final report needs to be put together summarising the findings and any appropriate recommendations for the future. Members anticipate they will be presenting their final report to SMC over the summer months.

Traffic Congestion

Since April 2008, this Sub-Committee has been amalgamating and analysing information and key findings in order to be able to present a report to SMC and subsequently the Executive on some identified key broad strategic options for dealing with the issues surrounding traffic congestion.

SMC and the Executive have now approved the Sub-Committees application for funding to undertake extensive resident consultation on traffic congestion in York and on the Sub-Committees suggestions for broad strategic options. That consultative exercise now needs to be carried over the summer and the responses will be used to inform Members' findings and the recommendations they present to SMC and the Executive in due course.

**To be presented by Councillor John Galvin
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee**

Council – 30 June 2008