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## Scrutiny Management Committee

27 July 2009

Report of the Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

### Update Report – Referrals & Work Plans of New Scrutiny Committees

#### Summary

1. This report presents the work plans of all five Scrutiny Committees. It also details the referrals made by those Committees to Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC).

#### Background

2. At full Council in April 2009 Members agreed to the formation of the following five Overview & Scrutiny Committees, to come into effect as from Annual Council in May 2009:
  - Effective Organisation
  - Economic & City Development
  - Learning & Culture
  - Community Safety
  - Health
3. Acting as overseer to these Committees, SMC may allocate responsibility for issues which fall between more than one Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

#### Update on Individual Scrutiny Committees

##### Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee

4. The Committee considered several reports and their work plan.

#### Analysis

5. The Effective Organisation Committee considered the full version of Year End Performance & Financial Report for 2008/09, recognising that the relevant information contained within the report was to be separated out into individual reports for each of the cross cutting standing scrutiny committees and re-presented at each of their first meetings. The report highlighted a number of issues, and Members identified the following as specific areas of concern:

- Significant budget pressures in both Children's Services and HASS
  - The underachievement of income for Newgate Market
  - Concerns regarding graffiti and litter
6. The Effective Organisation Committee recognised that once the information was presented to the relevant overview & scrutiny committees, those issues may be picked up, and a decision may be made to request further information and/or carry out a review, negating the need for the Effective Organisation Committee to get involved.
  7. In considering the identified budget pressures, the Committee agreed that if the Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, chose not to pursue the issues, they may like to consider the issues themselves from a more corporate standpoint. They agreed to refer this to SMC for clarification on whether this would be suitable.
  8. In regard to the underachievement of income for Newgate Market, the Committee chose to refer the issue to SMC, as they were unsure whether this was an issue for themselves (in budget terms) or for Economic and City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee in wider terms.
  9. Subsequently at their first meeting, the Economic and City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee discussed their concerns regarding falling income from Newgate Market and their more general concerns about the market. As a result, they have invited the Assistant Director (Economic Development & Partnerships) to present them with further information on the Economic Development Programme and on the market, at their next meeting.
  10. Finally in regard to their concerns about graffiti and litter, the Effective Organisation Committee agreed that if the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee chose not to pursue the issue, they themselves may like to, in relation to the 'under performance' of the Council, and agreed to refer this to SMC as well for clarification on whether this would be suitable.
  11. At the first meeting of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee no decisions were made as to which issues they might pursue, including the issues around graffiti and litter. Instead they agreed to defer all decisions on possible topics for review and work planning until their next meeting in September.

### **Outcome**

12. The main outcomes from the meeting were:
  - A feasibility report on a possible topic for review on the use of the Executive Forward Plan, including why this was not currently showing information 4 months ahead, as is the legal requirement.
  - A further report on the Single Improvement Plan
  - A briefing on the 'More for York' programme
  - A report on the use of Reserves

- Corporate Health – staff sickness rates and corporate health and safety and the lack of corporate data for Equalities and Human Resources – Councillor Gunnell agreed to register a scrutiny topic
  - Project Management – some key projects appeared not to have been fully delivered within the agreed timeframe e.g. the University Pool - Councillor Merrett agreed to register a scrutiny topic.
  - ITT – meeting to be held by the Scrutiny Officer, Councillor Gunnell and the Assistant Director of Resources (Transformation and Efficiency) to discuss how best to consider project slippage and underspends.
  - Referral to SMC of three issues arising from the Year End Performance & Financial Report for 2008/09 (as detailed in paragraphs 5-9 above).
13. A copy of the work plan for the Effective Organisation Committee is attached at Annex A to this report.

### **Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

14. The Committee considered several reports and their work plan. The main outcomes were as follows:
- Councillor Wiseman to submit a new scrutiny topic on “Maternity Matters” and a feasibility report to be prepared
  - Receive a presentation and briefing on Mental Health Procurement in York
  - Receive a further update on implementation of the recommendations arising from the Dementia Review
  - To undertake work on the next Annual Health Check
  - To receive further information on NI 30 (Direct payments for social care clients)
  - Not to proceed with the proposed topic on the Council’s Adult Social Services Inspection Rating but to receive further reports prior to them being presented to the Executive Member for consideration
15. A copy of the work plan for the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee is attached at Annex B to this report; this also includes items carried over from the previous Health Scrutiny Committee.

### **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

16. The Committee considered several reports and their work plan. As the reports contained a wealth of information relating to the remit of the Committee, Members agreed to wait until their next meeting in September before agreeing any additions to their work plan in order to allow them sufficient time to consider all of the information provided.
17. The Committee also looked at the current entries on the Executive Forward Plan relevant to their remit as they recognised that this was the tool for identifying issues for pre-decision scrutiny. They expressed surprise at the limited number of relevant items it contained for the forthcoming 4 month period, and were therefore pleased to hear that this issue had already been picked up by the Effective Organisation Committee and that they had agreed

to receive a feasibility report on a possible review of the use of the Executive Forward Plan at their next meeting in September 2009.

18. A copy of the work plan for the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee is attached at Annex C to this report.

### **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

19. The Committee considered several reports and their work plan. The main outcomes were as follows:
20. Receive a briefing on Adoption of Highways, sewerage and public open spaces before deciding whether to proceed with the scrutiny topic on adoption of new estates submitted by Councillor Simpson-Laing
21. Invite the Assistant Director (Economic Development & Partnerships) to a future meeting to present further information on the Economic Development Programme and on Newgate Market
22. A copy of the work plan for the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee is attached at Annex D to this report.

### **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

23. The Committee considered several reports and their work plan, including performance update reports from York Theatre Royal & York Museums Trust Partnerships.
24. The Committee agreed to invite the Chairs of YorOk Board and [York@Large](#) to their next meeting in September 2009 and deferred the populating of their work plan until then, when they agreed to discuss in detail any outstanding topics deferred by the previous Education Scrutiny Committee, and new topics proposed and any issues arising from Year End Performance & Financial Report for 2008/09.
25. A copy of the current work plan for the Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee is attached at Annex E to this report.

### **Consultation**

26. Members of the five Scrutiny Committees have been consulted on their individual work plan and the referrals

### **Options**

27. Having considered the information contained within this report and the workplans provided at Annexes A-E, SMC may choose to provide guidance to the Effective Organisation Committee on whether the referred issues are suitable for them to review, or whether these would better fit the remit of one of the other Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

## Analysis

28. When deciding on which Committee to allocate the outlined referrals to Members should be mindful that some of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees have yet to populate their work plans and therefore it is not yet clear what their capacity for looking at the referred issues will be.

## Corporate Strategy

29. This relates to the Effective Organisation theme of the recently refreshed Corporate Strategy – ‘We shall be a modern council with high standards in all we do, living up to values and be a great place to work’.

## Implications

30. There are no financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime & disorder, information technology, property or other implications associated with this report.

## Risk Management

31. In compliance with the Council’s risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

## Recommendations

32. Members are asked to note the contents of the report and decide which Scrutiny Committee(s) to allocate the referrals to, in accordance with their role of monitoring workplans and allocating responsibility for issues identified as possibly falling across two or more Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

## Contact Details

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Report Approved



Date

Specialist Implications Officer(s) - N/A

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the authors of the report

Background Papers: None

## **Annexes**

**Annex A** Work plan for Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Annex B** Work plan for Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Annex C** Work plan for Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Annex D** Work plan for Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Annex E** Work plan for Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee