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## **Scrutiny Management Committee**

**28 September 2009**

Report of the Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

### **Update Report – Referral from Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

#### **Summary**

1. This report details a referral made by the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee, requesting a change to their terms of reference. Scrutiny Management Committee are asked to comment on the referral so that their views can be fed into a report to Council.

#### **Background**

2. At the first meeting of the new Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Members considered a report detailing the individual terms of reference for all of the new committees.
3. Members and officers expressed concern that the Licensing and Regulatory function had been included as part of the remit of the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee, rather than the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
4. Officers also pointed out that the Building Maintenance function did not appear as part of the remit for any of the new committees – the current remits for the new overview & scrutiny committees are shown at Annex A.
5. The Committee therefore agreed to refer both these issues to Scrutiny Management Committee for comment, prior to requesting that Council allocate these service areas to the appropriate new overview and scrutiny committees and amend their terms of reference accordingly.

#### **Consultation**

6. The Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods & Community Safety was consulted on the allocation of the Licensing & Regulatory function and is of the opinion that it should be transferred to Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as the issuing of licenses is about protecting public safety and the regulation of premises and licensees, and has very little relevance to Economic & City Development.

7. The Assistant Director of Maintenance Services was consulted on the allocation of the Building Maintenance function and is of the opinion that this function should be added to the terms of reference for the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee, on the basis that a majority of their work is on the council's housing stock and 'Housing Landlord' and 'Housing General' are already part of that committee's remit.

## **Options**

8. Having considered the information contained within this report, SMC may choose to
  - Agree with officers' views re the suggested changes to the remits for both the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Economic Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee or;
  - Suggest an alternative allocation of these functions to the remit of one or more of the new Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

## **Analysis**

9. When providing their comments on where the two functions in question should be allocated, Members should be mindful that the new Overview & Scrutiny Committees were designed to be cross-cutting across Directorates and therefore the fact that a majority of the functions provided by the Neighbourhoods Services Directorate fall within the remit of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee is not sufficient reason to allocate these two functions to that particular overview and scrutiny committee.

## **Corporate Strategy**

10. The Council's Corporate Strategy was recently revised for 2009-12, to align it with the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The new Overview & Scrutiny Committees are designed to be cross-cutting across Directorates and each is based on an individual LAA theme i.e.

Effective Organisation – to be a modern Council with high standards and values and a great place to work

Thriving City – to support York's successful economy to make sure employment rates stay high and that local people benefit from new job opportunities

Safer City – for York to have low crime rates and be recognised for its safety record

City of Culture & Learning City – to inspire residents and visitors to free their creative talents and make York the most active city in the country, and that local people have access to world-class education, training facilities and provision

Healthy City – for residents to enjoy long, healthy and independent lives

11. In addition, each of the above named Overview & Scrutiny Committees is responsible for ensuring their work promotes inclusiveness and sustainability which are the final two themes of the Corporate Strategy

### **Implications**

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

### **Risk Management**

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

### **Recommendations**

6. Members are asked to note the contents of the report and provide comment on which Overview & Scrutiny Committee the Building Maintenance and Licensing and Regulatory functions should be allocated to, in accordance with the role of Scrutiny Management Committee

### **Contact Details**

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**Report Approved**



**Date** 17 September 2009

**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** – Current Terms of Reference/Remits for the New Overview & Scrutiny Committees