
Scrutiny Management Committee

6th December 2010

Report of the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance & ITT

Proposed Scrutiny Topic – Edible York: Creating Food Growing Space Across the City

Summary

1. This report asks Members to consider whether they would like to undertake a review into the proposed Scrutiny Topic at Annex A to this report. Councillor D’Agorne, who has submitted the topic, will be in attendance at the meeting to speak about the proposals in the annex.

Background

2. At a recent training event Members were presented with a document entitled ‘an outline approach for proposed scrutiny reviews’ (now renamed Scrutiny Topic Assessment Form), which set out a new way of introducing possible scrutiny topics for review. At the last Council meeting the Chair of SMC reported that this system would be trialled throughout the Scrutiny Committees in an effort to speed up the way we undertake scrutiny.
3. This report is being brought to the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) as the potential topic cuts across the remits of several of the standing Scrutiny Committees.

Consultation

4. Councillor D’Agorne completed the Topic Assessment form at Annex A to this report in conjunction with the Scrutiny Officer and relevant officers from several different Directorates.

Options

5. Members have the following options:

Option A Progress the topic to review

Option B Do not progress this topic to review

Analysis

6. Members are asked to consider the information attached at Annex A to this report and consider whether they wish to undertake a review on this topic.
7. Should Members choose to progress this topic to review then they are advised to set up a Task Group that would report back to Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). It is recommended that the Task Group be made up of 5 Scrutiny Members on a roughly politically proportionate basis. Members could be drawn from any of the standing Scrutiny Committees or from SMC itself and it is suggested that Members may wish to volunteer on the basis of interest in the subject matter.
8. If the topic is progressed to review then the first meeting of any Task Group should be for the sole purpose of setting a remit for the review along with the scope and timetable. If possible this should then be taken back to a meeting of SMC for approval, prior to any further work on the review being undertaken.
9. Members are also advised that any review undertaken should be completed (including the final report being considered by Executive) by the end of the municipal year and this should be taken into consideration when scoping and timetabling any review.

Corporate Priorities

10. The proposed topic is linked to the 'Sustainable City' aspect of the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012:

'We aim to be clean and green, reducing our impact on the environment while maintaining York's special qualities and enabling the city and its communities to grow and thrive.'

Implications

11. **Financial** – There are no known financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report, however implications may arise if the topic is progressed to review. There is a small budget of £500 allocated to any scrutiny review that is undertaken.
12. **Human Resources** – There are no Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations within this report however, should this topic be progressed to review implications may arise.
13. **Legal** – There are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations within this report however, should this topic be progressed to review implications may arise.
14. There are no other known implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

15. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations within this report.

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to:
- i. Consider whether they wish to progress this topic to review and if so;
 - ii. Invite the Groups to nominate, to Democratic Services, any Members who wish to volunteer to be part of the Task Group.

Reason: To address the topic set out in Annex A to this report.

Contact Details

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Report Approved

Date 19.11.2010

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A Topic Assessment Form