

# **Scrutiny Report To Council**

## **April 2011**

### **Report of the Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee**

1. This report is submitted by the Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC), in accordance with the constitutional requirements set out in Standing Order 4.3(I) to update Council on scrutiny work during the period of activity since the last Council meeting and to set out any recommendations such as may be made to Council in relation to that work.

### **Update on Scrutiny Work**

#### **SMC**

2. Since the last scrutiny report to Council the Chair of SMC has attended a meeting of all five-scrutiny committees to hear their views on the scrutiny functions, in particular examples of what is working and what isn't working.
3. In addition to this SMC have met twice. At one of their meetings they discussed a report on developing Scrutiny within the Council, further to the round of recent visits I have undertaken, as Chair of SMC, to the Standing Scrutiny Committees to talk about the provision of scrutiny in City of York Council. As a result, SMC endorsed a continuing ongoing approach to improve and embed effective scrutiny across the Council. My last report to Council identified improvements in processes to shorten the length of time scrutiny reviews were taking and to improve the first hand experience for those Members involved in scrutiny. This time, SMC has endorsed the following initiatives:

- A series of informal sessions to be arranged in June between each Scrutiny Committee, relevant 'lead officers' from Directorates, and the relevant Executive Member(s). Each session will look at the remit of each Committee to help us collectively engage in the work area and will look ahead too at what work the Committee can usefully do in the new Municipal Year to support the priorities of relevant Directorates and Executive Member(s);
- An informal session to be arranged in June between Scrutiny Chairs, the Executive and key 'lead officers' to look ahead corporately at the year ahead and share ideas about where scrutiny can add value and support corporate priorities in pro-active early policy formulation;
- A commitment for all Scrutiny Chairs to attend the Executive/appropriate Committee to present the findings of scrutiny reviews in their areas, including the Chair of SMC attending Executive Call-in meetings arising from called-in business;
- An undertaking to invite relevant Executive Members to attend SMC Calling-In meetings where business in their areas have been called in for consideration;
- A commitment to keep the number of formal meetings to a minimum and, as much as possible, to conduct informally fact finding, information gathering etc in order to keep scrutiny moving and flowing quickly;

- To review the effectiveness of scrutiny receiving regular performance and financial monitoring reports;
  - To review the role of Effective Organisation and SMC Committees, with a view to rationalizing the approach to scrutinizing our corporate development.
4. SMC also received verbal progress reports from the Chairs of all five scrutiny committees and considered reports on the Broadway Shops Councillor Call for Action and the final report arising from the Edible York Ad Hoc Scrutiny Review. In addition to this the Committee considered a report on the roles of Effective Organisation Committee and SMC at a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011.
5. At the time of writing this report, SMC have also considered the following call ins:
- 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010 – Water End/Clifton Green Review – Reinstatement of Left Turn Traffic Lane and Chicane Trial
  - 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 – The Reablement Service in York and City of York Local Transport Plan 3 – ‘Draft Framework’ LTP3 Consultation Responses
  - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 – 20mph Speed Limits: Your City results and an Update on Policy Development and City of York Local Transport Plan 3 – ‘Summarised Draft LTP3’
  - 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 - Local Sustainable Transport Fund, City Strategy Capital Programme – 2011/12 Budget report and Development of the Explore vision in libraries
  - 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011 – Update on Reablement Service and Draft Framework for York Low Emissions Strategy

### **Standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees**

6. Further meetings of the standing overview & scrutiny committees have taken place since the last Council meeting.
7. **Health Scrutiny Committee** have met four times since the last report to Council. In this time they have heard from the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Services in relation to the budget and priorities in his portfolio area.
8. They have worked closely with key partners and have received 6 monthly updates from both the York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and NHS North Yorkshire & York. They have also received further information on Transforming Community Services and information on a proposed community orthopaedics service for York/Selby
9. They have received a presentation in relation to an Executive referral on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The JSNA is a cross-cutting document and the Health OSC therefore decided to invite all Councillors to attend for the presentation and ask questions.
10. The Committee has also given consideration to several performance and monitoring reports, an update on the recommendations arising from the Dementia Review (access to Secondary Care) and have been kept informed of progress in relation to the Carer’s Review.

11. In addition to this the Committee has taken part in consultations in relation to the proposed changes to the NHS by commenting for the corporate responses to 'White Paper 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People consultation' and 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Out Strategy for Public Health in England'. They also commented on a more local consultation in relation to proposed changes to vascular services across Yorkshire & the Humber region.
12. Currently there is a live national consultation in relation to children's cardiac surgeries. A joint health scrutiny committee has been set up to consider the proposals set out in the consultation and is being administered by Leeds City Council. The Health OSC has one representative on the joint committee and has also nominated one substitute.

Carer's review

13. The Carer's Review is now complete, the Task Group having met on several occasions since December 2010. This included holding a public event in January 2011. The final report has been considered by the Health OSC and is due to be presented to the Executive in April 2011.
14. **Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met once since last Council to receive a briefing on Equalities, a monitoring report on the implementation of the Workforce Plan and a 2011/12 budget update report.
15. In addition the committee received the final report arising from the Review of Customer Services. Having endorsed all of the recommendations arising from the Task Group review, these were subsequently approved by the Executive when they received the final report on 29 March 2011.
16. **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met twice since the last report to Council. They have considered reports on the progress in establishing Local Enterprise Partnerships, considering information on the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, updates on two previous Councillor Call for Actions and previous scrutiny reviews and the quarter three monitoring report.
17. **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met twice since the last Council meeting. At a meeting in January 2011 the committee met with the new chair of York@Large to hear about the organisation's future plans, and with the Chair of York Theatre Royal to receive their bi-annual performance update report. They also received an update on 'Looked after Children'.
18. In March 2011 the committee received the third quarter monitoring report and a further presentation on the provision of Youth Services across the city. As a result, the committee agreed not to proceed with a review on Youth Services in the new municipal year, but instead agreed to receive future updates on any planned changes to that provision. The Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services also attended to provide an update on the year's work within her portfolio area.
19. **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has also met twice since the last Council meeting. In January they received a presentation from the Probation Service on how their work supports and contributes to the Safer York

Partnership (SYP), and re-considered a possible topic on CCTV in York. As a result, a Task Group has been formed to look at the two CCTV topic registration forms that had been submitted since 2009, to identify which issues a possible review should focus on. The Task Group are now due to meet with the some consultants who are working on behalf of the Local Government North Yorkshire & York Board (LGNYY) to carry out a review of a number of services (including CCTV) where there is potential scope to introduce a shared service in an effort to secure significant (and quantifiable) efficiency savings. The Task Group's intention is to identify which if any of the issues raised within the scrutiny topic registration forms are to be considered as part of the LGNYY review, thereby identifying whether a review by the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee is required.

20. In March 2011, the committee received the final report from the Taxi Licensing scrutiny review which has been carried out by a Task Group of its members. The recommendations are due to go to the Audit & Governance Committee in June 2011 and any relevant recommendations will then be presented to the relevant Executive Member
21. At both of its meetings, the committee also received performance reports from the SYP and North Yorkshire Police and a quarterly CYC finance and performance monitoring report.
22. **Edible York Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee** has met on several occasions and the review is now complete. The review focused on finding ways for the Council to support local food growing. The final report is due to be presented to the Executive on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

**Councillor John Galvin**  
**Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee**