
Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

27th March 2012

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Proposed Scrutiny Topics

Summary

1. This report presents information on three proposed scrutiny topics. Members are asked to decide which, if any, of these they would like to progress to review.

Background

2. At a meeting of the Committee held on 24th January 2012 it was agreed that briefing notes be provided on two potential scrutiny topics namely;
 - Youth unemployment (how the Council works with partners to maximise employment opportunities for young people in the city)
 - Role of Science City York in Economic Development (more encouragement work to be done to attract people to York in order to maintain its status as a Science City)
3. In addition to this the Vice-Chair of the Committee had raised concerns with the Scrutiny Officer about processes used to bring Section 106 Agreements to a timely completion. The Chair of this Committee agreed to this topic also being added to the list above.
4. Briefing notes have been provided on all three of the proposed topics and are at **Annexes A, B and C** to this report.
5. Officers will be in attendance at the meeting to present their briefing notes and assist Members to choose an appropriate topic or topics for review.

Consultation

6. No consultation has taken place to date. Once a topic has been chosen and a review has commenced consultation will take place with appropriate parties as part of the review process.

Options

7. Members are asked to choose which, if any, of the topics being discussed at today's meeting they would like to progress to review.

Analysis

8. Members should consider what merit there would be in progressing any of the above topics to review. After discussions with officers Members will hopefully be able to identify any gaps in service or any places where improvements can be potentially made in relation to the topics put forward. Discussions should also enable Members to identify a specific focus for any review(s) to be progressed.
9. There are several questions that it might be useful for Members to bear in mind when considering the information presented at today's meeting and when selecting a topic or topics to review namely;
 - Identifying a specific focus and ambition for any review
 - Would progressing this topic to review have an impact on one or more sections of the population?
 - Is it a corporate priority or of concern to the Council's partners?
 - Will the review add value? Will it lead to effective outcomes?
 - Will the review duplicate other work?
 - Is it timely to undertake a review?
10. Members will also be aware that in addition to today's work planning meeting there is a corporate scrutiny work planning event scheduled to take place on 2nd May 2012. This has been arranged to assist in identifying some corporate and collective priorities for scrutiny committees for 2012/13. Some Scrutiny Committees are already planning some work for the coming Municipal Year and this collective work planning event does not prohibit any work being taken forward by individual committees. It does though provide an opportunity for backbench scrutiny Members, Cabinet Members and lead scrutiny officers, including Directors where appropriate, to get together to identify any work for scrutiny which is seen as a priority under the key areas in the Council Plan.

11. Members can, therefore, take with them to the corporate work planning event detailed above, the outcomes of today's meeting.

Council Plan 2011-2015

12. Choosing appropriate and timely topics for scrutiny reviews helps us to fulfil our role as a confident and collaborative organisation. The three potential scrutiny topics put forward at today's meeting fit with the following priorities set out in the Council Plan 2011-2015;
 - Youth unemployment (how the Council works with partners to maximise employment opportunities for young people in the city) – *create jobs and grow the economy*
 - Role of Science City York in Economic Development - *create jobs and grow the economy*
 - Improvements to processes around Section 106 Agreements should contribute to achieving various elements of the Council's Priorities set out in the Council Plan.

Implications

13. There are no known implications associated with the recommendations in this report. Implications may arise if any of the topics are progressed to review and will be addressed as part of the review process.

Risk Management

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

Recommendations

15. Members are asked to consider which, if any, of the three topics they wish to progress to review.

Reason: In order to begin to identify a topic for review to begin in the new municipal year 2012/13.

Contact Details

Author:

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
Tel: 01904 551714

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Assistant Director Governance & ICT
Tel: 01904 551004

**Report
Approved**

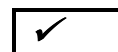


Date 15.03.2012

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A Briefing Youth Employment

Annex B Briefing Science City York

Annex C Briefing Section 106 Agreements