

Scrutiny Management Committee

18 June 2007

Report of the Head of Civic Democratic & Legal Services

Overview of Scrutiny Reviews Completed by Scrutiny Committees & Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committees since 2004

Summary

1. This report introduces Members of Scrutiny Management Committee to the scrutiny work previously completed by since 2004.

Background

2. Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) is responsible for co-ordinating and managing the overview and scrutiny programme. There are currently only two permanent Scrutiny Committees in existence within City of York Council – Education & Health. SMC can also appoint an ad-hoc scrutiny committee to undertake a review of a specific topic which on completion of the review will be disbanded. The Council's Constitution places a responsibility on each of the permanent Scrutiny Committees to report to SMC annually and in the case of an Ad-hoc to provide a final report on completion of their review. In turn, SMC produces an Annual Review report for Council which summarises the progress made in delivering the annual scrutiny plan, highlights key achievements and learning points, and the key issues to be addressed in the coming year.
3. A more detailed understanding of the role of SMC and how this Council operates the scrutiny function, will be given as part of the training event for Councillors which follows this meeting.

Consultation

3. Although not relevant for the production of this report, consultation was undertaken as part of all the reviews referred to in the attached annexes.

Options

4. To facilitate their knowledge and learning, Members may request further information on the previously completed reviews and/or copies of the relevant final reports.

Analysis

5. The annual review reports from 2004-05 and 2005-06 as submitted by SMC to Council are attached as annexes A & B respectively. These provide information on all scrutiny reviews completed within that timeframe. A list of all scrutiny reviews completed between May 2006 - April 2007 is attached at annex C.

Corporate Objectives

6. The work of the Education Scrutiny Committee is aimed at Corporate Priority 5 i.e. 'To increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects', and the work of the Health Scrutiny Committee is aimed at Corporate Priority 7 i.e. 'To improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest'. Each Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee set up by SMC states the corporate objective relevant to the topic of the review in any formal reports they produce. More generally, all scrutiny reviews could potentially improve our organisational effectiveness in line with Corporate Priority 10.

Implications

7. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications associated with the recommendation of this report.

Risk Management

8. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendation of this report.

Recommendations

9. Members are asked to note the contents of the attached annexes

Reason: In order to be fully informed on all scrutiny reviews completed during the last three years.

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Report Approved**Date**

6 June 2007

Wards Affected:All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes

Annex A - Annual Review Report from 2004-05

Annex B - Annual Review Report from 2005-06

Annex C – List of Reviews completed between May 2006 – April 2007