

## **Update on Corporate Scrutiny Review ‘Supporting Older People’**

### **Summary**

1. This report provides an update on the progress with the agreed corporate scrutiny review on Supporting Older People, and asks Members to note the planned way forward.

### **Background**

2. At a meeting in June 2014, this Committee agreed a theme for this year’s corporate scrutiny review, following the discussion at the Annual scrutiny work planning event held in May 2014.
3. The Committee tasked the individual scrutiny committees with identifying a suitable review remit (in line with their particular terms of reference) that would support the agreed theme of ‘Supporting Older People’. They also asked that the reviews all be concluded by the end of February 2015, ready for presentation to this Committee at its meeting in March 2015, to allow sufficient time for this Committee to consider the findings for each and agree an overall set of recommendations.

### **Progress to Date**

4. In late July 2014 the **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee** agreed the following aim and objectives for the contribution to the corporate review and appointed a Task Group to carry out the work on their behalf:

#### Aim

To ensure the city is adopting the most appropriate strategies to enable those older people who want or need to be in employment or otherwise actively engaged in the life of the city, to do so, thereby increasing opportunities for employers in the city and the city as a whole to benefit from the experience and expertise of older people.

## Objectives

- (i) To consider national best practice for identifying the support requirements of older people who are actively seeking work.
  - (ii) Identify national best practice and examples of good practice in York for attracting and retaining older people in employment.
  - (iii) Identify the challenges/barriers for businesses and support providers in the city.
  - (iv) Establish any unmet demand needs in York.
5. The Task Group met for the first time in September 2014, to appoint a Chair and to receive some initial information in support of their review. A further meeting was planned with the intention of inviting a number of representatives from outside organisations, but this was delayed due to the changes in the parent committee which affected the make-up of the Task Group.
  6. The changes to the committee membership have recently been formalised and at its next meeting they will be deciding the make-up of the Task Group. Whilst officers are continuing to gather information in support of the review, the Task Group have yet to progress their work, although they have been invited to a future Experience Works 50+ event. These delays mean the review is unlikely to be concluded by the end of this municipal year.
  7. In July 2014 the **Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee** agreed a Task Group to carry out their review contribution to the corporate review. Task Group met in late October 2014 for the first time to discuss a number of topic proposals but agreed that they needed to consider the services currently available across the city before agreeing their topic, and therefore agreed to meet with a number of outside organisations to help inform their review proposals.
  8. The Task Group will present their suggested review remit to a future meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee before formally commencing work on the review. This approach means it will not be possible to complete the review by the end of February 2015 as required by this Committee.

9. In June 2014 the **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** considered two proposals for their contribution to the corporate review, around 'Supporting and Encouraging Physical Activity including exercise, social activity and/or volunteering, and 'Improving Intergenerational Interaction', but were unconvinced that either suggestion was suitable for the committee to undertake
10. Instead they debated whether it would be possible to carry out their already agreed review on 'Disabled Access to York's Cultural Sector' in such a way that it would address the needs of older people, but expressed concerns about stigmatising people who were getting older and associating them with having a disability. Recognising that this approach would not do justice to either topic, they agreed not to contribute directly to this year's corporate review and instead to concentrate on their "Disabled Access to York's Cultural Sector" review before determining whether the recommendations from that review could benefit older people.
11. The **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee** was unable to identify a suitable topic contribution to the corporate review.

### **Analysis**

12. Bearing in mind the delays in commencing the two agreed reviews relating to older people, it will not be possible to conclude the required work before the start of the purdah period, and both Committees will therefore need to complete their work on those reviews in the new municipal year.
13. As a result, it would not be possible for this Committee to bring the findings from both reviews together and create a corporate review final report, before the commencement of the purdah period and the end of this municipal year.
14. Whilst it is recognised that the findings from those two reviews will complement each other, it is also true they will work equally well as two stand alone reviews.
15. Without a contribution from all the Overview & Scrutiny Committees, the 'Supporting Older People Scrutiny Review would be limited in any corporate recommendations it could make.

## Recommendations

16. Members are recommended to:

- i) Note the continuation of the two scrutiny reviews set out in paragraphs 4-8 above, related to the originally agreed corporate theme for this municipal year
- ii) Abandon the corporate scrutiny review identified for this municipal year.

Reason: To ensure there is no scrutiny review work undertaken during the purdah period.

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Wards Affected:

All



**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes:** None