

26th January, 2017

**To the Chair and Members of the Council**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY UPDATE AND PROGRESS REPORT JUNE TO DECEMBER, 2016**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report updates Members on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) and the four standing Overview and Scrutiny Panels for the period June to December, 2016.

**EXEMPT REPORT**

2. Not exempt.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. That Council note and comment on the work of the OSMC and the four standing Scrutiny Panels for the period June to December, 2016.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

4. Reviewing the activities of Overview and Scrutiny provides an opportunity to demonstrate to the public how the function has contributed to decision making and the improvement of services.

**BACKGROUND**

5. This report includes a summary of some of the key work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during the current municipal year. The activities of OSMC and the standing Panels include holding decision makers to account, performance review, policy review and development and external scrutiny. Work plans are agreed early in the year and reviewed at each meeting to track progress and ensure they take account of emerging issues and future key decisions.
6. The membership of OSMC includes the Chairs of standing Panels to ensure greater co-ordination of activity. The Committee meets approximately once a month to consider performance, pre-decision scrutiny, review of decisions and outcome reviews submitted by the Panels.
7. OSMC agrees, manages and co-ordinates the work plans for the standing Panels who undertake a small number of in-depth reviews on important issues.

8. The Overview and Scrutiny Panels are: -
- **Children and Young People's Panel (CYP)** – considers issues relating to improved outcomes for Children and Young People including Learning and Opportunities Children and Young People Directorate, the Children's Trust and other areas undertaken by partners;
  - **Regeneration and Housing (R and H)** – considers issues relating to regeneration, economic development, strategic transport and Housing;
  - **Community and Environment (C and E)** – considers neighbourhood issues, street scene and highways, community safety as well as environmental issues, and
  - **Health and Adult Social Care (HASC)** – considers issues that fall within the remit of Public Health Directorate, Adult social Care and wider health issues.
9. The Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs continue to meet regularly with the Mayor and respective Cabinet Members to ensure they are kept up to date with relevant portfolio issues and support the effective management of Scrutiny work plans.

#### **Summary of Overview and Scrutiny Activities:**

10. The following identifies some of the key work undertaken by OSMC and the Panels between June and December 2016.

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

11. Finance and Performance - The Committee has continued to consider the quarterly Finance and Performance reports focusing on how key areas of overspend and underperformance are being addressed. Question planning sessions are used prior to these meetings to ensure there is a more systematic approach to identifying and focusing on key areas of concern. Directors are also invited to respond to questions relating to their service areas. Some of the areas considered by the Committee have included:-
- Adult Transformation Programme – 7 key major immediate business improvement projects to drive service improvement, for example, proportion of people using social care who receive direct payments;
  - Proportion of people who access direct payments;
  - Permanent admissions to residential and nursing care homes;
  - Percentage of children's case file audits.
  - Percentage of Care Leavers in Employment, Training and Education;

- Number of Apprenticeships completing a level 3 or above qualification as part of the Council's internal apprenticeship programme;
  - St Leger Homes of Doncaster - scheduled repairs % of premises kept was near its target (SLHD);
  - Days lost to sickness (within individual Directorates/SLHD);
  - Overspends and pressures on services; and
  - Progress on Digital Council – later received as an individual item.
12. This process demonstrates transparency and supports public accountability and understanding of how the Council seeks to improve service delivery and value for money.
  13. Pre-decision Scrutiny – This provides an opportunity for Scrutiny to feed its comments to the Executive to support future decision making. For example, the Committee considered the Adults Health and Well-being Transformation Commissioning Care and Support at Home scheme prior to it being considered by Cabinet. The Committee supported the recommendations and stressed that changes were required to the current system but questioned areas relating to consultation, and providers of future care and community support. The HASC Panel will review the progress and impact of this decision as the service changes are implemented.
  14. Policy Framework - Core Annual 'Define and Deliver Cycle' – Members supported the proposed annual report on the State of the Borough being presented to Full Council by the end of August each year, by considering how the Council could improve service planning and management of strategic risks and how they fit with key priorities and budget setting. The Committee also welcomed the opportunity to support this cycle by ensuring its work programme could be informed by the process and help focus on identifying and reducing gaps in the Council's knowledge.
  15. The Committee also gave consideration to and forwarded recommendations to the Executive on a number of policy framework documents such as the Youth Justice Plan and the Corporate Plan.
  16. When considering the Corporate Plan 16-17 refresh, the Committee supported the Outcomes and Objectives and put forward comments for the Cabinet to consider on this and wider issues. These included, the quality of commentary explaining the number of apprenticeships provided by the Council; the importance of education in reducing child poverty; and the quality of grass cutting across the Borough.

17. Budget - The Committee began its review of the Mayor's Budget Proposals in December with a view to making its final response on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2017. Directors and the Executive will be invited to future sessions to respond to questions asked as part of the Committee's evidence gathering. OSMC takes a holistic view of the proposals with a view to providing a commentary on extent to which the proposals are evidence based, support corporate and Borough wide priorities, and capacity and risks around deliverability and implementation.
18. Holding To Account – To gain a greater understanding of the effectiveness of Council and multi-agency co-ordinated activities, the Committee received its annual update on the Troubled Families Programme by way of a report and presentation. A specific area of consideration included actions that had been put in place to support Children attaining excellent attendance at school;
19. Digital Council - Members also considered the position statement addressing achievements and areas for completion, including transforming the remaining appropriate services on-line and further reducing the Council's operating budget by at least 1.9 million a year through further streamlining and automating business processes. The Committee supported the importance of operating as a modern digital authority and the need for Directorates' commitment to ensure full compliance.
20. Call-In - The following decision was called in at an extraordinary meeting of OSMC:
  - Disposal of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Land at Goodison Boulevard, Cantley, and the Acquisition of Gattison House and Plantation View.
21. OSMC gave consideration to the reasons for calling-in the decision and received evidence from officers and the Executive and on this occasion agreed to take no action in respect of the Called In decision but requested that:
  - All Ward Members receive updates regarding section 106 money for their ward area on an annual basis and are provided with clarification of the specification it was originally designed for; and
  - All relevant Ward Members be consulted on the developments relating to this specific decision.
22. The Decision made by Cabinet was implemented however, a response is due relating to the above points in early 2017 from the Executive. The Call-In process is one of the methods in which Scrutiny Members can publicly hold decision makers to account seeking responses and explanation on areas where they believe there has been a deficiency in the decision making process.

23. Future areas for consideration include:

- Children's Trust Recovery Plan
- Equalities Action Plan
- Devolution

### **Health and Adult Social Care Panel**

24. This Panel holds scheduled meetings to ensure it effectively discharges the Council's Health Scrutiny role. There are many changes being made to a number of areas in the Panel's remit. To ensure Members are aware of changes in provision across communities and to aid and assist residents understanding of these issues there has been a focus on the Council's Transformation Programme, health inequalities and changes to current service for Intermediate Care.

25. Representatives from NHS Clinical Commissioning Group have attended the Panel on a number of occasions to present on the following areas, respond to questions and receive feedback on the proposals outlined. Members held a detailed debate to gain a good understanding of issues that will have an effect on their communities to ensure the correct support can be provided to people most in need. The Panel has requested further reports as this will ensure progress can be monitored and those responsible for implementation be held to account.

26. Sustainability and Transformation Plan – The South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) is the local approach to delivering the national plan called the Five Year Forward View. Published in 2014, it sets out a vision of a better NHS, the steps to get there, and how everyone involved needs to work together. The Panel has fed into this process through its consideration of this issue.

27. Place Plan - The Doncaster Health and Social Care Community has a long history of working together in partnership to achieve positive change for local people. However, there is a strong view that in order to transform services to the degree needed to achieve excellent, sustainable services in Doncaster now require one shared vision and plan for the whole of Doncaster. Key leaders across health and social care in Doncaster have come together over the summer of 2016 to develop the Doncaster Place Plan. The Place Plan is also set in the context of the wider South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). The Place Plan, the STP and other local plans will in totality address the challenges that we face as a health and social care community.

28. Intermediate Care – Changes to current service – NHS Doncaster Clinical Commissioning (CCG) and the Council have been working together to improve care and support services in Doncaster. Local Intermediate Care services have evolved over time with funding from a number of sources. Although individual services and providers have reported good outcomes, no single organisation has had a comprehensive overview of how the care system works together as a whole. To better understand this, the Intermediate Care Review was initiated in June 2014, led by the Intermediate Care Team based within the CCG. Intermediate Care describes short-term services that support older people or those with long term-conditions to stay at home safely when they are unwell, or need help to regain their independence after a stay in hospital. Following extensive research work will be undertaken with providers to design a new Intermediate Care service model for Doncaster.

29. Following the Panel's second discussion around the proposals, the Panel recommended the following, a response is due early 2017;

**1. That the whole of Team Doncaster embraces Health Inequalities as a priority**

In regards to health inequalities, it was recognised that some gaps were widening. It was believed that there was a tendency for health inequalities to be seen as a health system responsibility when certain areas fall outside of it. Opinions were expressed that no one should get left behind or slip through services.

**2. That consideration be given to ensuring that engagement strands across health and Team Doncaster are effectively pulled together**

It was recognised that engagement work needed to link with Team Doncaster and also to look at new ways of engaging with the public and particularly those individuals with complex needs. Members were assured that experts would be engaged and more would be undertaken to ensure a consistent and joined up approach to delivery using a range of methods.

### **Regional Health Scrutiny Working**

30. The Chair has been part of the Commissioning Working Together (CCG) Joint Regional Scrutiny addressing substantial variation to hyper acute stroke services across South Yorkshire and Non-Specialised Children's Surgery and anaesthesia. To date there has been three

meetings and Doncaster hosted and chaired the meeting where the Committee recommended that consultation be extended to 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 to ensure people had opportunity to comment after the Christmas period. Concern was expressed that the consultation could be overlooked during December. This recommendation was accepted by the CCG.

31. Future areas for consideration include:

- CWT Joint Scrutiny final proposals
- Public Health Protection Responsibilities
- Mental Health (within Children's Services) – as a joint meeting with the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

### **Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel**

32. An update on the Housing review and the Place Marketing review undertaken by the Panel last year has been considered. It was reported that recommendations from the Place Marketing review were accepted. This included ensuring Estate Agents were taken on the Borough Tour. The Impact from this has been very positive and proved successful in helping businesses understanding of the wider opportunities and advantages that exist within the borough. Ultimately it is hoped this change in perception will help encourage future inward investment.

33. Economic Plan – Consideration was given to the item, particularly the potential impact pre and post Brexit. Due to the current national landscape which has an impact on the local region, the Panel will consider the Plan further once there is a clearer direction and understanding of the wider implications. It was acknowledged that work on improving the future of the local economy would not cease following Brexit.

34. Homelessness – and what is being done to address the position in Doncaster. It was found that one of the current challenges is collating information on the numbers of homeless people across the Borough and the percentage of take up on offers of accommodation. It was reported that Wharf House (which provides accommodation and support to homeless people) was full but other commissioned services were not. Support was given to partners who work with homeless people and it was noted that some individual's who sleep rough will only seek accommodation when temperatures go below freezing. This was a good time for partners to work with people that they may never have the opportunity to engage with or help. It was reported that Doncaster provides a range of services for those sleeping rough and homeless individual from other areas may seek to relocate to

Doncaster to access these, as they may not be available in their own area. The Panel was also given a full position statement in respect of the Council and its partners support and response to people who had located on the former Civic Theatre Site known as “Tent City”.

35. Councillors were of the opinion that their role was to address homelessness at a strategic level to ensure strategy is directed to the correct place.
36. Future areas for consideration include:
  - Further work on the Economic Plan Refresh
  - Homelessness Strategy

### **Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel**

37. The Panel did not undertake a review this year but has focused its work on a range of issues including the Inspections Framework for Special Educational Needs and School Results. Members considered the key threads running through the Education White Paper for an increasingly school-led system, enabling Members to develop their knowledge and understand when considering future education items.
38. Members were also provided with an overview of outcomes from recent external evaluation including an LGA Peer Review - Ofsted Monitoring Visit and the recent Review of Early Help - DfE Achieving for Children.
39. Doncaster Children’s Trust – The Trust’s Chief Executive and senior officers have attended on a quarterly basis where Members considered a split screen report. As the Trust is accountable to both the Council and the Secretary of State there needed to be a system where reporting of activities and key measures of progress were focused, avoided duplication and added value. It was agreed that a split screen approach report in two phases be provided to meetings. The first phase would hold the Council to account for its monitoring of the Trust against the service delivery contract and the second phase would provide an invite to the Trust to respond to the specific performance issues which the Council report had raised.
40. The Chair of the Children’s Safeguarding Board - presented the Board’s Annual report and responded to key assurance questions that sought to understand the progress, impact, robustness of governance arrangements. He also provided an update on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), ensuring that this is being effectively addressed in Doncaster. An update on the Performance Account Board (PAB) was also provided to the Panel.



41. Future areas for consideration include:

- Children's Trust,
- Education and Skills Commission;
- Effectiveness of Pupil Premium across Doncaster;
- A future meeting of the Panel has been rearranged to accommodate attendance from members of the Youth Council to provide an opportunity to introduce themselves to the Panel and outline the areas they are involved with;
- Children's Trust Annual Report (provisional)
- Exam Results (and update on actions from Education and Skills Commission);

### **Community and Environment Panel**

42. Domestic Abuse – As its main focus, the Panel undertook an in-depth review of Domestic Abuse. The purpose was to assess if there had been any impacts on the service following its previous review in 2014. The Panel has held a number of review meetings, including one which took place over a full day and presented the Panel with the opportunity to contribute to the Domestic Abuse Strategy. This was attended by Officers from the Council and partners. A further session involved a meeting with two victims of Domestic Abuse listening to their stories and finding out more about their experiences of the process and the impact this has had on them. In addition to this there was also a site visit to a refuge and attendance at a national Domestic Abuse seminar. Further meetings are scheduled to take place to receive additional evidence and finalise recommendations. Once the recommendations have been produced, they will be forwarded to the Executive as a separate source of evidence to support the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

43. Isle of Axholme Strategy - The Panel met with Members of the Executive and a number of key partners including representatives from Internal Drainage Boards to consider this issue. The Isle of Axholme Strategy provided details of future water level management and risks across specific areas of the Borough including residential and commercial properties, critical infrastructure and agricultural land.

44. Future areas for consideration include:

- Voluntary/Community Strategy – update and impacts of the new grant scheme; and
- Acting in its capacity as the **Crime and Disorder Committee**, the Panel is scheduled to meet in February 2017 to consider a Performance against key priorities, hate crime figures pre and post Brexit, anti-social behaviour figures and effectiveness of the Police none emergency 101 number as a means of gathering intelligence; and Community Safety Strategy and Fly tipping (enforcement).

## **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

45. There are no other specific options in relation to the issues covered by this report. The Constitution requires OSMC to report to Council at least twice per year to ensure there is accountability and transparency in the way in which Overview and Scrutiny undertakes its work.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION**

46. This report provides an opportunity for Council to consider the activities of OSMC and the standing Panels.

## **IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES**

47. The work of Overview and Scrutiny has the potential to have an impact on all the Council's key objectives.

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

48. There are no specific risks associated with this report. Providing an update report to Council provides an opportunity for Members to consider if there are any aspects of the Overview and Scrutiny function that need to be further considered or reviewed.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

49. There are no specific legal implications relating to this report. Legislation requires the Council to have a least one Committee responsible for the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function. The Council should also ensure it has provision to undertake Health Scrutiny and Scrutiny of the local Crime and Disorder Partnership.
50. The Constitution requires OSMC to report to Council at least twice per year to ensure there is accountability and transparency of its activities. Specific legal implications and advice will be given within any reports when Overview and Scrutiny have received them as items for consideration.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

51. There are no specific financial implications relating to the recommendations in this report. Any relevant financial implications are included when reports are presented to Overview and Scrutiny for consideration.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

52. There are no human resource implications relating to the recommendations in this report.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

53. There are no technological implications relating to the recommendations in this report.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

54. There are no specific equality issues associated with this report. Equality issues are considered by Overview and Scrutiny when it considers individual work plan issues.

## **CONSULTATION**

55. The Chairs of OSMC and Scrutiny Panels have been consulted in respect of feedback on the progress against work plans.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

56. Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan 2016/17 and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny meetings.

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