



Doncaster Council

23rd January 2020

To the Mayor and Members of the Council

Overview and Scrutiny Update – May to December 2019

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate Services	All	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report updates Council on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) and the four standing Overview and Scrutiny Panels for the period May to December 2019.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the Council note and comment on the work of the OSMC and the four standing Scrutiny Panels for the period May to December 2019.

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 municipal year and reviewed at each ordinary OSMC 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 and this seeks to ensure greater co-ordination of Overview and Scrutiny activity. The Committee meets approximately once a month to consider performance, pre-decision scrutiny, in-depth/spotlight reviews undertaken by the Scrutiny Panels and areas of strategic importance. The Committee considers issues that cut across all Panels and Doncaster Growing Together themes.
7. 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, services provided by Doncaster Children's Services 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 the NHS. The Chair represents the Authority on Regional Health Scrutiny bodies.
8. The Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs meet regularly with the Mayor and respective Cabinet Members to ensure regular communication on portfolio issues and Overview and Scrutiny work plans.

Summary of Overview and Scrutiny activities

9. This report provides a snapshot of some of the key work undertaken by OSMC and the Panels between May and December 2019 reflecting their alignment with the Doncaster Growing Together (DGT) Themes. The work of some of the Panels cuts across more than one DGT theme. A full account of the work undertaken by OSMC and the Panels is included on the Overview and Scrutiny work plan, which can be accessed through the following link <https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13289> and are detailed in the minutes of meetings, which are available on the Council's website.

Doncaster Living

10. **Delivery of the Management of Doncaster Markets** – Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Members received an update on the progress with the Delivery of the Management of Doncaster Markets. It was recognised

that the new management arrangements would need time to effectively “bed in” although noted that all aspects of the contract were currently running well and a number of development, growth and investment ideas had been put forward to drive further improvement. Key areas considered included the Street Cleaning Contract, maintenance issues, the increasing footfall, wool market occupancy, events undertaken, the proposed temperature and heating system and stall holders Terms and Conditions. Members requested that further consideration be given to reviewing how effectively the market is operating after the busy Christmas period when normal business resumes.

11. **South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service – Integrated Risk Management Plan** – Members of the Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny received an overview of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). The Panel was not supportive of the proposals contained within the Draft IRMP and expressed concerns that the proposed arrangements would be detrimental to communities as well as the safety and the well-being of firefighters. These views echoed concerns raised at the Council meeting on 25th July 2019. OSMC’s response was sent to the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority who provided assurances that all responses to the consultation, including through scrutiny processes would be considered in the final decision.
12. **Housing Needs Study**– Members received an overview of the Housing Need Study for Doncaster, which provided evidence to help shape Doncaster’s future planning and housing policies. The discussion focused on areas such as empty properties and older people’s housing. Members commented that the data supported their own knowledge around the housing needs of the wards they represented. Concern was raised about the how the issues raised within the study would be addressed and what would be the Council’s role in driving this forward. It was acknowledged that the information was a starting point to help inform decisions and the market about future provision and informing the Local Plan. The Panel will keep a watching brief over this issue and consider further as the implications and actions arising from the Housing Needs survey are developed.

Doncaster Caring

13. There is a strong focus on the Caring theme through the work undertaken by OSMC, the Health and Adult Social Care and Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panels, some of the key areas considered included:
14. **Youth Justice Plan** – there is a statutory requirement to approve and submit the report to the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales annually. The discussion covered a wide range of areas and recommendations were made around further work being undertaken to understand the current position in relation to early identification of speech and language issues across the Borough and that the Youth Offending Team continue to identify and reviews best practice across other Local Authorities. The Committee supported the report and the excellent progress made in a number of areas including reducing the number of First Time Entrants (FTE’s) in the Youth Justice System. The report submitted to Council

seeking approval of the Plan, detailed the key outcomes from the Committee's consideration.

15. **Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report (DSCP) 2018-2019** – Dr John Woodhouse, Independent Convenor of the DSCP presented the Annual Report 2018-2019 to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in Doncaster. Specific issues considered as part of this scrutiny included:

- Obesity levels in Doncaster
- Child criminal exploitation
- Use of digital technology in safeguarding children
- Waiting times for completion of an assessment

In respect of workforce development, concern was raised about the lack of take-up at training events and a recommendation was made to the Independent Convenor to review the partnerships approach to training and seek reassurances around training opportunities offered outside of the partnership.

16. **Care Quality Commission (CQC)** – The Panel considered CQC ratings of Doncaster's care providers' performance as well as the local authority's area data profile for older people. The report also highlighted areas that included inadequate service provision, domiciliary care and salaries and caring as a career choice. The Panel asked for a review to be undertaken as to whether providers could further promote health and social care careers (with the opportunity to undertake voluntary and paid sessional work through 6th Form education establishments) and to report back at a future meeting of the Panel. It was recognised that there was a need to expose care work to younger people through schools as early as is practicable.

17. **Your Life Doncaster Transformation** - The Health and Adults Social Care Panel considered an update relating to the Your Life Doncaster Transformation Programme, which has been running since late 2016. The Panel received information on the following areas that ensured the people of Doncaster were safe within their environment and receiving the support they need:

- The revised programme scope;
- Impact of the programme review;
- Achievements to date; and
- Benefits to the people of Doncaster.

The Panel recommended there be an investigation as to whether a more generic advertising culture across South Yorkshire could be undertaken to ensure a greater opportunity for partnership collaboration. It was reported that a range of opportunities would be explored to identify avenues to progress this.

18. **Suicide Prevention** – The Panel was provided with an update on the latest local data release for suicides, and an overview of how non-recurrent funds from South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System (SYB ICS) are being

spent. Members were provided with information on;

- 2016 – 2018 Data Release (Males/Persons/Females)
- Patterns and Trends
- Wave 1 Funding, local Doncaster Delivery/South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw

There was a discussion held and the following issues were raised; community facilities, Samaritans, budget and the Public Health Grant. This area has formed part of the Panel's monitoring role in recent years.

19. **Autism and Learning Disability Strategy** – The Panel considered Doncaster's first All Age Joint Strategy for people with learning disabilities and people with autism. Members met with users of the service and officers as part of the evidence gathering work. There were a number of challenges and experiences shared with Members during discussions. As a result, a number of observations and recommendations were made to the Executive, which were all accepted and these included;

- The emphasis upon social and economic opportunities for autistic people, and people with learning disabilities.
- That services and support are as clear and accessible as possible.
- That the strategy is monitored.

20. **Local Solutions Model** – Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Members received a report outlining the prototype for a Local Solutions Model for accessing Early Help in the Community. The Panel was interested to hear about the prototype and discussed areas that included staff resources and skills, timescale for rolling out the prototype and what was already in place and identifying what was needed to drive it forward;

The Panel informed the Executive that it supported the following aspirations to drive this approach forward:

- Those Councillors, officers and partners, champion the new approach in their organisation and across the system.
- That decisions are delegated about where and what next, to the strategic group of multi-agency partners who are key drivers for the project.
- That efforts are taken to ensure that the approach links into other transformation agendas which are working to achieve the same outcomes
- That each leader support the release of staff to enable this to happen and evaluate who can help to drive it forward.

21. **Social Isolation and Loneliness Alliance Update** – The Panel received updates on the Third Sector Social Isolation and Loneliness Partnership Alliance. Concerns were raised around ensuring that resources were appropriately targeted, that the impact of social inclusion be measured and strategies are in place to support the sustainability of the Alliance when funding ceases in 3 years' time. Consideration was also given to identifying those who would benefit most from the Alliance and ensuring that they can easily access it. It was also

recommended that consideration be given to reviewing the Terms of Reference of the Alliance to make sure that it is delivery based and includes a clear focus on the demographics and areas to be targeted. At a later update, following the establishment of the Social Isolation and Loneliness Agreement, the Panel received an outline of how social isolation would be addressed through the Partnership Alliance. It was acknowledged that the contract was in its very early stages, therefore delivery proposals were addressed with the Panel requesting an update on contract performance being presented to a future scrutiny meeting.

22. **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024** - It was explained that this strategy sets out the strategic ambition for how services and the wider system can prevent homelessness and rough sleeping in the Borough. The Panel expressed its support for the strategy and as part of the debate raised issues around support to prisoners following release, the impact of universal credit, dispersed provision, prevention and engaging with wider groups (such as those organisations that aimed to support ex-employees within particular service industries akin to Doncaster's industrial heritage). The Panel will next consider the draft annual action plan, detailing the specific resources allocated to achieve the strategic ambition within the strategy early 2020.
23. **Hidden Harm** – The Health and Adult Social Care Panel was provided with an outline of the experience of children and young people living with, and impacted by, parental problem alcohol and other drug use (which has come to be known as 'Hidden Harm'). A number of recommendations were proposed, including raising awareness of support projects such as Aspire and Project 3 and assistance with signposting. It was also requested that Early Years Education establishments be provided with information on Doncaster's current position and the potential impact of hidden harm, to ensure all teaching providers in this field were aware of Doncaster's position, providing a local perspective to academic training and to raise the Hidden Harm profile through the Well North project.
24. **Childhood Obesity and Oral Health in 0-5 Year Olds** – The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered a range of information about childhood obesity and tooth decay in children, which both pose significant public health challenges. It was recognised that prevention was key to combatting poor oral health and therefore a number of recommendations were made, these included;
 - To write to NHS England asking them to review the cost of tooth extraction in young children compared to the cost of providing better preventative initiatives in dental practices; and
 - To encourage schools in collaboration with Public Health, to provide oral hygiene public information on the large TV Screens in schools and through an annual school texting service.

NHS England have since provided a response explaining the current position on tooth extractions (for children aged 0-19 who live in the Doncaster area) and what was being undertaken in terms of prevention.

Regarding encouraging schools to collaborate more with Public Health, it was responded that the Panel's recommendation supported one made by the Children and Families Executive Board. It was explained that steps were being undertaken with Public Health and the Junior Civic Mayor to develop an oral health promotion campaign.

25. **Winter Strategy** - The Panel was provided with a presentation from the Chief Executive of Doncaster NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and the Chief Operating Officer of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The information focused on the Winter Planning Context and Approach to Winter Planning/Managing Winter. It was reported that there was a well-established system in Doncaster through joint planning undertaken across health and social care involving partners from both the public and private sector. The following issues were raised during consideration; water born viruses arising from the recent floods within Doncaster, chaperoning people who were elderly or with dementia (needing support) and the use of technology. The Panel agreed to consider the use of technology in health and social care as part of its future workplan.
26. **Update from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals** - The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel was provided with a presentation from the Chief Executive of Doncaster Royal Infirmary on a range of strategic issues that included future aspirations, challenges and impacts. Members raised a number of issues that included Care Quality Commission inspections, estate, workforce, performance, never events, prevention, and prisoners attending accident and emergency, smoking cessation. It was recommended that as part of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel Workplan 2020/21 that there be a future update on Doncaster Royal Infirmary with a focus on Accident and Emergency, Nurses and education.
27. **Future Placement Strategy** - The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel supported the proposals outlined in the Future Placement Strategy. There was a discussion held around the strategy, its proposals, location of children's homes, fostering placements, 'staying put' and children with disabilities.

Doncaster Learning

28. **Consultation on the Education and Skills Strategy 2030** - The document detailed the vision for the future Education and Skills System, the characteristics that such a system would exhibit and the priority areas for action in order to realise that vision. A discussion took place around the following areas; celebrating achievements, job opportunities, career pathways, work experience, environmental issues, social value, transport and future steps. Members of the Children and Young People Panel requested an update in March 2020 following consultation of the strategy.
29. **Inclusion Programme Overview (including Elective Home Education), Inclusion and Attendance and Special Education Needs (SEN)** - A discussion took place around; Increasing Movement in Elective Home Education, Monitoring

Standards of Elective Home Education, Reasons for Elective Home Education, and links to other Strategies. The Chair commented that there had been some excellent work undertaken and requested that the Panel continue to monitor the issues as part of its work plan.

30. **Education Attainment and Skills in Doncaster** - Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel received its annual provisional data following SATS, GCSE's and 'A' Levels with further information due for consideration later in the year. This provided an early opportunity to analyse and consider the improvements made by schools in the Borough. The report focussed specifically on achievements for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and included those children in receipt of Pupil Premiums.

Connected Council

31. **Corporate Health** - OSMC continues to review quarterly performance and financial management of the Council, St Leger Homes of Doncaster and Doncaster Children's Services Trust to identify the extent to which the Council and its key partners are operating within resources and delivering value for money. This is a key role for the Committee, supports the Council's performance monitoring arrangements and helps identify future work plan issues. In particular the Committee has focused on areas of overspend and underperformance seeking clarity on why this has occurred, the actions in place to address the issues and when improvements will be made. The Committee had also been able to consider how key partners such as Doncaster Children's Services Trust and St Leger Homes Doncaster work together to address cross cutting issues such as how the home environment contributes to encouraging attendance at school. The Committee has also sought assurances that changes to service delivery ensure that the most vulnerable residents in the Borough are being supported.
32. **Annual Complaints and Compliments Report** - this is an important document for raising awareness of the types and volumes of complaints, identifying trends, communicating lessons learned and service improvements and has provided Members with an understanding of customer perceptions of Council services.
33. **Policy Framework** - A number of Statutory Plans are considered by Scrutiny prior to their adoption. This provides an opportunity for Scrutiny Members to feed in any views and comments prior to the decision being taken. These plans cut across the Doncaster Growing Together themes and during the reporting period the following plans and strategies have been considered; the All Age Autism and Learning Disability Strategy, Future Placement Strategy, Education and Skills Strategy 2030, Send and Inclusion/Attendance Strategy and Youth Justice Plan.
34. **Brexit** – This Scrutiny led session was held to keep all Members informed of the possible impact of leaving the EU, particularly leaving the EU without a deal. This issue crosscuts all themes and a detailed presentation instigated a focused discussion on, the economy, business confidence, the Council as well as other more general issues. The Committee will receive a further update on this issue in 2020.

35. **2019 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JNSA)** – The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel was presented with an assessment of the health, wellbeing and social care needs of Doncaster and its communities. The report highlighted areas of work delivered and those that were to be addressed over the forthcoming year, with the findings being reported within the Annual State of the Health report. The Panel made a number of recommendations which included the following;

- a) That consideration be given to data being sought from the immediate areas around schools, relating to the physical environment, with a view to it being shared with partners and ultimately the Department of Health.
- b) That the Executive investigate the possibilities of developing an Information Sharing Agreement similar to that established in other authorities within the region.
- c) That the Executive consider if the data and supporting information gathered through the JNSA be shared with schools, particularly in relation to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning (LGBTQ) bullying and childhood obesity.

The Panel recommendations were accepted and assurances were provided that work was already underway to implement these.

36. **Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2020/21 to 2022/23** - Members noted that a number of budget proposals had been provided at an early stage to ensure necessary consultation and consideration could take place. The Committee recognised that there was a level of uncertainty going forward with the proposals in terms of grants and funding streams, the Spending Round announcement, and the outcomes of the Doncaster Talks consultation (undertaken as part of the Doncaster Growing Together refresh). During its consideration, some of the issues raised as part of the discussion included effectively addressing increased demand for Adult Social Care through the effective commissioning of services. It was recommended that the outcomes of extensive consultation exercises around these issues be brought back to OSMC at a future date.

37. **Supporting Empowered, Engaged Communities, with Devolved Locality Budgets for Councillors** - The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is currently undertaking a review to consider how a model of local decision making at ward level could work in Doncaster. This would give local Members an additional resource to help encourage grass roots engagement from the community to address local issues. OSMC has held a number of workshops with Elected Members to seek their views on how this arrangement could effectively work and how they saw their role in taking this forward. In addition, the Committee has considered best practice arrangements for devolved local decision-making and received evidence, information and feedback from officers, Members and other local authorities. The Committee is still shaping its recommendations in light of the evidence and information it has received and will shortly be forwarding these to the Executive.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

38. There are no specific options to consider within this report as it provides Council an opportunity to review the activities undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny over the period May to December 2019.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

39. Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 23 b) requires the Chair of OSMC to take a half yearly update report to Full Council to provide an overview of the work being undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

40. The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the Council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and policy development through robust recommendations, monitoring performance of the Council and external partners, services and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the Borough.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

41. To maximise the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function it is important that the work plan is manageable. Failure to achieve this can reduce the overall impact of the function. National research has identified that over ambitious work plans that include too many items are a common cause of frustration for Scrutiny Members as they fail to achieve any outcomes. The Overview and Scrutiny work plan will continue to be reviewed at each ordinary meeting of OSMC and officers will advise on the capacity available to undertake any additional work.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [NC Date: 9.1.20]

42. There are no specific legal implications relating to this report.
43. In accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 23 b the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will take a half yearly update report to Full Council, to provide an overview of the work being undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny and progress against any priorities set out in the Annual Report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (VJB Date: 10.12.19)

44. There are no specific financial implications attached to this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES (KG Date: 11.12.2019)

45. There are no specific HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS (PW Date: 10.12.19)

46. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this update report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS (RS Date: 10.12.19)

47. All areas of the committee's work plan can impact on health and it is important that the health implications of each item are considered separately given that 20% of what contributes to health is from clinical care, 30% from healthy behaviours, 40% from socio-economic factors and 10% from the built environment. Within its programme of work, Overview and Scrutiny will need to ensure it is also able to review how the Council and partners addresses health inequalities within its policies and programmes and ensure that these do not widen inequalities.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS (CR Date: 20.12.19)

48. This report provides an overview on the work programme undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny and there are no significant equality implications associated with the report. Within its programme of work Overview and Scrutiny gives due consideration to the extent to which the Council has complied with its Public Equality Duty and given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities.

CONSULTATION

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

50. Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan 2018/19 and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny meetings.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CQC – Care Quality Commission

DSCP – Doncaster Safeguarding Children's Partnership

JNSA – Joint Needs Strategic Assessment

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