

28th January, 2016

To the Chair and Members of the Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY UPDATE AND PROGRESS REPORT

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, 2015.

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, 2015.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. 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 developing policy. This is achieved through making robust recommendations, monitoring performance of Council and external partners and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the borough. 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 to account, performance review, policy review and development and external scrutiny. The work plans are reviewed at each meeting to ensure they take account of emerging issues that may arise during the course of the year e.g. key decisions and new policy decisions.
6. OSMC comprises of Chairs of Panels to ensure greater co-ordination of activity and covers all areas of Council/partnership/statutory activity (except Health). 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 identified by OSMC. Work Plans are reviewed at each meeting to ensure they remain relevant and take account of emerging issues. OSMC may also establish ad hoc cross cutting groups to undertake specific work.
8. The Overview and Scrutiny Panels consist of: -
 - **Children and Young People's Panel** – 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** – considers issues relating to regeneration, economic development, strategic transport and Housing;
 - **Community and Environment** – considers neighbourhood issues, street scene and highways, community safety as well as environmental issues, and
 - **Health and Adult Social Care** – 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 developments in portfolio areas and can effectively manage 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 2015.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

11. **Finance and Improvement** - The Committee has continued to consider the quarterly Finance and Improvement reports focusing on how key areas of overspend and underperformance are being addressed. Question planning sessions have been used prior to these meetings to ensure that there is a more systematic approach to identifying and focusing on key areas of concern. In particular some of the areas discussed in more detail have included Digital Council, PDR Management, overspends in residential care, educational attainment and recycling. For those key areas of underspend or underperformance the Committee has sought assurances on how improvements are being taken forward and are monitoring progress at future meetings.

13. **Pre Decision Scrutiny** – The Committee gave consideration to and forwarded recommendations to the Executive on a number of policy framework documents such as the Corporate Plan, Youth Justice Plan and Statement for Licensing Policy. The Committee also considered the Implementation of removal of subsidies from non-residential social care charges. Whilst recognising this was a specific challenge the Committee expressed the view that when implementing this the removal of subsidies should be equitable and that those people with a lower income should contribute less.
14. **Holding To Account** – To gain a greater understanding of the effectiveness of Council and multi-agency co-ordinated activities, consideration was given to the ongoing work of the Stronger Families Programme as a means of reducing anti-social behaviour and crime, improving school attendance and supporting adults in families into work. Reviewing the Programme’s progress provided an opportunity for the Committee to consider how effectively partnership working was taking place to deliver outcomes and early help strategies to turn around the lives of those families identified through the programme.
15. **Monitoring External Partners** – Members learnt about work being undertaken by Team Doncaster Anti-Poverty Strategy Group such as Anti-Poverty Summits, the Anti-Poverty Strategy Statement signed by Team Doncaster, Task and Finish Groups and also the governance arrangements that are in place. The Committee raised concerns around the range of information available and having the most current data included within the Anti-Poverty Needs Assessment, understanding the implications and effects of welfare reforms and tax credits, Doncaster’s latest position on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, measuring current levels of debts and finally, the impact of health issues on poverty. The Committee raised its concerns and forwarded recommendations to the Executive. Following the meeting, an all Members Seminar was held which provided an update on available data and outlined the actions being undertaken by Team Doncaster Anti-Poverty Strategy Group.

Future Issues

17. Moving forward into 2016, the Committee will review and respond to the following:-
 - The **Mayor’s Budget Proposals** - The Committee has commenced its discussion on the budget proposals, firstly considering the current position with the 3 year budget for 2015/16 to 16/17. The Committee will be considering the budget in more detail during January and February 2016. As in previous years the Committee will seek to put forward comments and suggestions that will help inform the proposals when they are presented to Council in March 2016. The Committee will consider the extent to which the

proposals are evidence based, support corporate and Borough wide priorities, and capacity and risks around deliverability and implementation.

- **Proposed Devolution Agreement** - The Committee is scheduled to hold an extraordinary meeting on 12th January to consider the proposed devolution agreement between the Sheffield City Region and Government and considered what this will mean for both the City Region and Doncaster.
- **Equality Action Plans** – to be considered at its meeting in April 2016.
- **Quarterly Performance and Improvement Reports** - to continue to monitor the Council’s effectiveness through the quarterly performance and Improvement reports.
- **Panel reviews** – to include “Place Marketing - Development of the Doncaster brand” review (Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel) and “Children with Disabilities” review (Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel).

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE PANEL

18. This Panel holds scheduled meetings to ensure it effectively discharges the Council’s Health Scrutiny role. The Panel has undertaken its scrutiny role by considering a number of varied issues including modernisation and peer review, personalisation and direct payment, and challenged the Chair of the Adult Safeguarding Board when considering its Annual Report. When considering promotion of the healthy high street the Panel debated the most and least health promoting businesses on the Borough’s high streets. It was particularly recognised that bookmakers, pubs and bars were highlighted as being least health promoting, but Members stressed that some people use these premises to get warm, have a coffee, have a chat to friends and socialise. In respect of transport Members expressed concern that re-routing buses could leave some communities isolated giving them no other option, or to use local takeaways more often and not keeping appointments with doctors. It was therefore recommended that consideration be given to health impact assessments being undertaken on future major changes to transport provision.
19. **Health and Well-being Board** – The Board continues to undertake its work programme and the Chair and Cabinet Member has extended an invite to the Scrutiny Panel to attend Board meetings and workshops to increase understanding of local and national issues for example In October 2015, there was an Obesity workshop and at the end of February 2016 there will be a workshop on Loneliness. The Chair and Vice Chairs of both the Board and Panel also regularly meet to discuss their relevant work plans.

Regional Health Scrutiny

20. **Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Cardiac)** - The Chair has continued to serve as a Member of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Yorkshire and Humber. In autumn, NHS England approved the proposed model of care, service specification and standards in relation to services for congenital heart disease – as recommended by the CHD Review Team. The review has been formally completed and is now entering the implementation/commissioning phase of the process.

Future Issues

21. **Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Support Health Service Change in South and Mid Yorkshire)** – In January, Full Council will be considering whether to join the Mid and South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Bassetlaw and Hardwick Health Scrutiny Committee to consider substantive variations to Health provision in those areas. The Commissioners Working Together (CWT) is a collaborative of eight clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and the NHS England across South and Mid Yorkshire, Bassetlaw and North Derbyshire.

REGENERATION AND HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL

22. The Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel has focused its work on a "Place Marketing - Development of the Doncaster brand" review. The Review has been split into four elements:-
- Work (Business/Inward Investment/Economy);
 - Play (Tourism, Leisure and Culture, Shopping);
 - Learn (skills – highlight opportunities in Doncaster's students and schools); and
 - Rest (Looking at where we live, general perceptions about living in Doncaster, communities, accessibility and housing).
23. Meetings have involved attendance by representatives including key partners and external organisations relevant to each themed meeting. The meetings have been centred on the same set of questions to ensure continuity and focus. The review is almost complete following which recommendations will be developed for consideration and forwarded to the Executive for consideration.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

24. The Panel's review has focused on what deal children with disabilities are receiving. To undertake the work six meetings and site visits were held. In addition to meeting with Council officers, Members of the Panel met with young people, parents and visited the Councils respite care facility. Recommendations from the review are currently being developed for consideration by the Executive and will include areas relating to actively promoting the service provided by the Children with Disabilities Social Work team, to ensure families receive the most appropriate and cost effective support package.
25. The Panel also holds scheduled meetings and has considered a number of varied issues including School Improvement Inspection Report, Ofsted Action Plan/Main Improvements and Exam Results. An informal meeting was also held to learn more about Early Years and collaborative strategy.
26. The Panel also considered the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-15 which was presented by the Independent Chair of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board. The Panel discussed a number of areas identified within the annual report, in particular, the Strategic Plan Progress, encouraging engagement with head teachers and engaging with partners and those in minority groups. A letter was sent to the Independent Chair outlining these issues and an update on the Business Plan will be provided at the February meeting.
27. Following the establishment of the **Children's Services Trust**, the Panel has continued to meet on a quarterly basis to consider the Trusts performance and general update under the Local Authority's and Children's Services Trust Agreement. As part of these meetings the Panel looked at the Annual Complaints results and has requested an update to be provided on the improvements identified within the report. This and a further performance and general update will be considered at the Panels meeting in February 2016.

Future Issues

28. **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** – Early 2015, the Panel considered the Assurance Report responding to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Doncaster and in February 2016, the Panel will be updated on this. Members previously expressed a wish to address how the short term Action Plan will be developed to address longer term issues and how children and young people have been involved in discussions to contribute to the CSE Strategy.
29. Other issues on the workplan include:-

- **Children’s Trust performance and general update** under the Local Authority’s and Children’s Services Trust Agreement.
- **Safeguarding Board Annual Report** – update on Business Plan Report.
- **Children’s Trust Annual Complaints** – update on improvements

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT PANEL

30. As a continuation of its work from last year, the Panel has considered the **Waste Collection contract**, looking at preferred receptacles and the proposed community consultation. There will be a further meeting of the Panel in January 2016 to consider the outcome of the consultation and consider the wider Barnsley Doncaster and Rotherham (BDR) Waste Strategy.
31. **Pre-decision scrutiny** – the Panel considered the proposed installation of solar panels onto Council housing roofs and was supportive of the business case. The Panel wished the Executive to consider a couple of issues including the provision of education to tenants on exactly how they will benefit from the energy generated and when it can be used during the day to ensure value for money was being achieved.

Future Issues

32. Acting in its capacity as the **Crime and Disorder Committee**, the Panel is scheduled to meet in February 2016 to consider a Performance, update on the partnerships priorities, impact of the new local policing plan 6 months on and arrangements and update on addressing issues relating to Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) otherwise known as ‘legal highs’.

JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING

33. The Children and Young People and Health and Adult Social Care Panel formed a joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Members gave detailed consideration to what was in place through the Council and its partners, to deliver services around Sexual Health. The meeting focused on the effectiveness of signposting these services to young people as well as the value of partnership working. It also provided an opportunity for Members to undertake their role as a corporate parent to look at the services being provided for looked after children. The Panel was pleased to hear about the positive work that was being undertaken, particularly the work of Sexual Health Partnership Group, diagnosis of chlamydia and work around Early Help. Concerns were raised around; quality of signposting and accessibility to services, links and support to voluntary led organisations that work with young people

and finally what resources and capacity were in place to deliver and outcomes for looked after children.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

34. 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.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

35. There are no specific recommended options; this report provides an opportunity for Council to consider the activities of OSMC and the standing Panels and the effectiveness of the new arrangements.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY PRIORITIES

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>The work of Overview a Scrutiny has the potential to have an impact on all the Council's key objectives.</p>
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	<p>All families thrive.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
	Council services are modern and value for money.	
	Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

36. 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

37. 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 (The Safer Doncaster Partnership).
38. 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

39. 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

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

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

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

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

42. 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

43. The Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Panel have been consulted in respect of feedback on the progress against work plans.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

44. Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan 2015/16 and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny meetings.

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