

LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: APRIL 2013

JOINT REPORT OF THE LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBERS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of each of the six Lead Scrutiny Members and supporting Panels.

2. SCRUTINY LEAD MEMBER UPDATE

Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair (Cllrs David Tate and Norma Wright)

- 2.1 On 19 March 2013 Cllr Tate chaired a meeting of the Responsive Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel, attended by Vera Baird, Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner. The discussion at the meeting was very informative and productive, with Members asking some challenging questions of the Commissioner.
- 2.2 On 26 March 2013, in his capacity as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Tate considered the content of an urgent report going forward to Cabinet. After a full briefing from relevant council officers, Cllr Tate was satisfied that the decision was urgent and could not be delayed and that the call-in procedure should not apply as the delay would cause significant issues. He therefore gave his consent for the decision to be considered by Cabinet.
- 2.3 Preparations continue for the Annual Scrutiny Debate to be held on 23 May 2013. Over the last month the Chair, Vice Chair, Lead Members and several Panel Members have been filmed explaining scrutiny's achievements in 2012/13. These discussions will form the Scrutiny DVD which will be shown at the Debate by way of an introduction to the evening.

Children's Services (Cllr Bob Francis)

- 2.4 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel has now concluded its review into the importance of children and young people in service design and delivery. The Panel has made a number of recommendations based on the evidence gathered throughout the review. The Panel has found this review extremely informative and it is hoped that the recommendations will help to enhance the already excellent participation and engagement that takes place within the local authority.
- 2.5 The Panel continues to monitor the CAMHS service and due to last minute unforeseen circumstances the meeting scheduled to take place on 26

March 2013, with representatives from NTW, will need to be reconvened. It is anticipated that a new meeting will be arranged following the Easter holidays and Members will be kept up-to-date around these arrangements.

City Services (Cllr Stephen Bonallie)

- 2.6 The Panel met on 7 March 2013 to take evidence in relation to its review into refuse collection and waste management and the development of communications and public engagement. A further meeting of the Panel was held on 15 April at which the final draft report was approved prior to its submission to the Scrutiny Committee.

Health, Housing and Adult Services (Cllr Christine Shattock)

- 2.7 The HHAS Scrutiny Panel has concluded its review into Empty Properties and will present this to the meeting to be held in May. The review has been extremely informative for Members and has helped the Panel to gain a greater understanding of the empty homes team and their work.
- 2.8 The Panel still need to meet and finalise the report and its recommendations and this will be concluded towards the end of April. It is hoped that the recommendations help to compliment the excellent work already being undertaken across the city in relation to empty homes management.

Public Health, Wellness and Culture (Cllr George Howe)

- 2.9 The Panel has been continuing to review partnership working within the new health structures with the intention of developing a partnership protocol.
- 2.10 Panel Members participated in a regional health development session alongside scrutiny members from other local authorities. The event hosted by Sunderland Council on 22 March allowed scrutiny members to debate the varying roles and responsibilities within the new health arrangements.
- 2.11 The Panel has taken evidence on the governance, interactions and relationships between Overview and Scrutiny, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Health and Wellbeing Board and local Healthwatch. The Panel is currently consulting partners on a draft protocol and will also take evidence on how patients are represented in the new structure.

Skills, Economy and Regeneration (Cllr Tom Martin)

- 2.12 As part of its review into the delivery of apprenticeship in Sunderland, the Panel met on 20 March to meet with representatives from Sunderland College, Sunderland University, Connexions. This followed a meeting with a number apprenticeship training providers held at Springboard in Pallion on 13 March 2013.

- 2.13 The Lead Member of the Panel, Cllr Tom Martin also attended an event organised by Gentoo on the promotion of apprenticeship in the city which was held at the Stadium of Light on 12 March 2013. A further meeting of the Panel took place on 15 April in order to approve the draft final report prior to its submission to this Committee.

Responsive Services and Customer Care (Cllr David Errington)

- 2.14 A successful meeting with the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner concluded the Scrutiny Panel’s evidence gathering for its Domestic Violence Policy Review. At a further meeting on 9 April 2013, the Panel finalised the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report and agreed to submit to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

3. CHANGES TO PANEL MEMBERSHIPS

- 3.1 Non-executive Members have now been allocated to a scrutiny panel, with each panel having between a minimum of two and a maximum of eight Members. Membership of the panels has been decided in accordance with current political arrangements.
- 3.2 Scrutiny Panels are informal; therefore there is flexibility within the new arrangements to revise Panel memberships at any point in the municipal year to reflect changes to Member capacity and other commitments.
- 3.3 A complete membership of the Scrutiny Panels is attached for information and consideration as **Appendix 1** of this report.

4. DEDICATED SCRUTINY BUDGET

- 4.1 A small budgetary provision of £15,000 per annum is available to the Scrutiny Committee and the supporting Panels to deliver the agreed Annual Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.
- 4.2 As of 16 April 2013 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

Description	£
Scrutiny Development	1077.75
Travel/Accommodation	1705.97
Policy Review Development	2091.45
Total Expenditure to Date	4875.17
Budget	15,000
Remaining Budget	10,124.83

4.3 It should be noted that the budget has committed spends of approximately £2000, relating to Scrutiny Development and Travel/Accommodation and Hospitality.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee notes and considers the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members and receives a further verbal update at the meeting.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Papers – 12 July 2012, 8 November 2012.

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APPENDIX 1

SCRUTINY PANELS MEMBERSHIP

<p style="text-align: center;">City Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Steven Bonallie</p> <p>Cllr Neville Padgett Cllr Michael Essl Cllr Stuart Porthouse Cllr Lynda Scanlan Cllr Steven Foster Cllr Peter Wood</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Health, Housing & Adult Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Christine Shattock</p> <p>Cllr Jill Fletcher Cllr Ronny Davison Cllr Alan Emerson Cllr Rosalind Copeland Cllr Darryl Dixon Cllr Lisa Smiles Cllr Barbara McLennan Cllr Ellen Ball Cllr Dorothy Trueman</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Children's Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Bob Francis</p> <p>Cllr Amy Wilson Cllr Mary Turton Cllr Linda Williams Cllr Doris MacKnight Cllr Anthony Farr Cllr Philip Tye Cllr Robert Oliver</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Skills, Economy & Regeneration</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Tom Martin</p> <p>Cllr Bob Price Cllr Christine Marshall Cllr David Snowdon Cllr Denny Wilson Cllr Len Lauchlan Cllr Tom Wright</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Public Health, Wellness & Culture</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr George Howe</p> <p>Cllr Dianne Snowdon Cllr Debra Waller Cllr Louise Farthing Cllr Fiona Miller Cllr Julia Jackson Cllr Rebecca Atkinson Cllr Paul Maddison</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive Services & Customer Care</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr David Errington</p> <p>Cllr Bob Heron Cllr Betty Gibson Cllr Barry Curran Cllr Anne Lawson Cllr John Scott Cllr George Thompson Cllr Iain Kay Cllr John Wiper Cllr Dennis Richardson</p>