

LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: MARCH 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 1 March 2013, the Chair, Vice Chair and other lead and scrutiny members attended a Parliamentary Select Committee Regional Seminar in the Council Chamber. The event was well attended and provided scrutiny members with the opportunity to learn about parliamentary scrutiny. Attendees heard from the Clerk to the Justice Select Committee and Julie Elliott MP who sits on the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee about issues such as deciding which topics to choose, gathering evidence, questioning techniques and delivering the final report.
- 2.2 The Chair continues to attend Scrutiny Panels where possible and is impressed by the level of work being undertaken for the second policy reviews. A recent visit of the Responsive Services and Customer Care Panel to a domestic violence refuge served to highlight the importance of the work scrutiny undertakes in carrying out policy reviews.

Children's Services (Cllr Bob Francis)

- 2.3 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel continues to investigate the importance of children and young people in service design and delivery. The Panel has held or is to hold meetings with participation champions within the Council and also service heads who have involved young people in some form of consultation. These meetings will conclude the evidence gathering part of the review and the Panel will then reflect on the evidence and prepare a draft report with its conclusions and recommendations. The Panel continues to monitor the CAMHS service and will look to invite back representatives from NTW to discuss any further progress made in respect of waiting times.

City Services (Cllr Stephen Bonallie)

- 2.4 The Panel met on 11 February 2013 to take evidence in relation to its review into refuse collection and waste management. The intention is to focus on the approach the Council takes to communications and public

engagement following its successful bid for Government funding to maintain weekly collections. The Panel heard from Colin Curtis, Assistant Head of Streetscene and Jane Peverley, External Communications Manager on the development of a communications strategy and will make further contributions on its development at the next meeting.

- 2.5 A further meeting of the Panel will be held on 7 March 2013 to look in more detail at these issues.

Health, Housing and Adult Services (Cllr Christine Shattock)

- 2.6 The HHAS Scrutiny Panel has now met with the Council's Empty Homes Team and the Panel is looking to go out with the team and experience the day to day issues that are encountered; this will provide an invaluable insight into the empty homes situation across the city. Members are also to attend a meeting of the Private Landlord's Forum to gain the perspective of private landlords and some of the key issues they face. The Panel continues to work towards completion and submission to the Scrutiny Committee by April 2013.

Public Health, Wellness and Culture (Cllr George Howe)

- 2.7 The Panel has been continuing to review partnership working within the new health structures with the purpose of developing a joint 'ways of working' agreement. Members of the Panel had the opportunity to debate the newly published Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.
- 2.8 The Panel will apply the detail of the Regulations to the 'ways of working' document. The publication of the regulations helps to finalise local preparations for the Health and Wellbeing Board and health scrutiny arrangements. The new regulations, which replace the 2002 regulations on health scrutiny, provide new obligations on NHS bodies, relevant health service providers and local authorities around consultations on substantial developments or variations to services to aid transparency and local agreement on proposals.
- 2.9 Panel Members will be taking part in regional and sub-regional health development sessions over the coming weeks, all of which are intended to debate and clarify varying roles and responsibilities within the new health arrangements.

Skills, Economy and Regeneration (Cllr Tom Martin)

- 2.10 The Panel has agreed its remit and objectives of its review into Apprenticeships in Sunderland and received a report on the development of the National Apprenticeship Scheme at both a local and national level. On 28 February, the Panel met with the Business Schools Task Group at Biddick School Sports College to discuss the main challenges facing the development of apprenticeships in the city. This Group comprises

representatives from local schools, businesses and the National Apprenticeship Service. On 14 March, the Panel will also be meeting with the main training providers operating in the city in order to obtain their views.

Responsive Services and Customer Care (Cllr David Errington)

- 2.11 The Panel met on 13 February 2013 to hear evidence from Councillor Harry Trueman in his role as Deputy Leader and Chair of the Safer Sunderland Partnership, and DI Denise Clark from Northumbria Police.
- 2.12 On 18 February 2013, the Panel visited Lake House, a domestic violence refuge in the city and were given the opportunity to talk to service users and representatives of Wearside Women in Need (WWIN). Later the same day, the Panel met with Jeanette Smith from the Crown Prosecution Service and other service providers in the city including Gentoo, Victim Support and .Impact Family Services.
- 2.13 Finally, on 19 March 2013, the Panel will meet with Vera Baird QC, the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss the future plans of the Commissioner in regard to domestic violence across the wider Northumbria force area. This meeting was rearranged from 25 February and the invitation to attend the meeting is extended to all Scrutiny Committee members.

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 At its last meeting the Scrutiny Committee agreed a revision to the Public Health, Wellness and Culture Scrutiny Panel. 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 4 March 2013 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

Description	£
Scrutiny Development	£798.85
Travel/Accommodation/Hospitality	£1193.79
Policy Review Development	£2910.95
Total Expenditure to Date	£4903.59
Budget	£15,000
Remaining Budget	£10,096.41

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>