

**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny  
Management Board**

**27 January 2020**



**Information update from the Chairs of  
the Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

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**Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To present to members an information update of overview and scrutiny activity from 16 December 2019 – January 2020.

**Executive summary**

- 2 It was previously agreed that a written report of chairs' updates would be presented for information only to all Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Boards.
- 3 This update covers the time period from 16 December 2019 – January 2020.

**Recommendation(s)**

- 4 Members are invited to receive the report and note the information.

**Background**

- 5 Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB) are encouraged to get involved in any area of overview and scrutiny activity via thematic committees and talk to scrutiny committee chairs and overview and scrutiny officers on areas of project and overview activity.

## Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB)

Information on progress with the new scrutiny guidance in local and combined authorities can be found at paragraph 10 below.

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	No scrutiny review activity to report this period.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>COSMB on 16 December 2019 received reports on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Q2 2019/20 Council's use of powers under RIPA</li><li>• Update on the Delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan Q1 2019/20</li><li>• Q2 2019/20 Customer Feedback</li><li>• Request for Call-in – County Durham Plan – Delivery of the Western Relief Road</li><li>• Notice of key decisions</li><li>• Chairs Update</li></ul>

## Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AWH OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	A Review of GP Services across County Durham is being undertaken and has completed its evidence gathering. Work is ongoing to identify key findings and recommendations.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>AWH OSC on 17 January 2020 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Media Issues</li><li>• Health and Social Care Integration</li><li>• Care Quality Commission Inspection Report – County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust</li><li>• Draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025</li></ul>

## Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYP OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	A review of Elective Home Education is being undertaken. A meeting took place on 9 December 2019 that considered the key findings of the review and members formulated their recommendations.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>The CYP OSC on 13 January 2020 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media relations</li> <li>• Mainstream Primary and Secondary School Funding Formula 2020-21 and High Needs Block</li> <li>• Child Poverty in County Durham</li> <li>• Draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 - 2025</li> </ul>

## Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (E&E OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	No scrutiny review activity currently identified.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>A meeting of the E&amp;E OSC on 10 January 2020 considered reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Relations</li> <li>• Strategic Employment Sites</li> <li>• EU Funding</li> </ul> <p>A special meeting of the E&amp;E OSC on the 27 January 2020 will consider reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with Social Housing Providers operating in County Durham</li> <li>• Housing and Homelessness Strategies and Delivery</li> </ul>

## Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (E&S OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	Review of DCC's future allotment policy - The final report was considered by Cabinet 15 January 2020 and will be submitted to a future meeting of the County Durham Partnership Board.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>A special meeting of ESC OSC on 16 December 2019 received a report on the review of DCC's proposed allotment policy.</p> <p>A special meeting of ESC OSC on 8 January 2020 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of the management of Durham County Council's Fleet</li> <li>• Progress report on Air Quality Management in County Durham</li> </ul> <p>ESC OSC on 24 January 2020 will receive reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of the Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP2)</li> </ul>

## Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSC OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	A report on the progress of recommendations on the committee's review of Cybercrime and activity of the Safe Durham Partnership Safer Cyber Working Group was considered at the meeting on 9 January 2020.
Scrutiny Review Activity	The Road Safety Strategy working group met on 10 October 2019 and considered road casualty statistics and partnership road safety activity in the development of a County Durham road safety strategy.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>SSC OSC on 9 January 2020 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Relations</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Three Year Consultation</li> <li>• Draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2020-2025</li> <li>• Overview and Scrutiny review update</li> </ul>
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## **Performance/Budget/Work Programme Reporting**

- 6 Information on both performance and budget outturn reports continue to be received and commented upon.

## **Regional Scrutiny**

- 7 A meeting of a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (comprising Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council) established for the review of Stroke Rehabilitation Services in County Durham and Darlington and the future of Inpatient Rehabilitation services (Ward 6) Bishop Auckland Hospital took place on 6 January 2020.

Reports and presentations were received on:

- Terms of Reference and Protocol
- Review of Stroke Rehabilitation Services in County Durham and Darlington
- Review of Inpatient Rehabilitation Service (Ward 6) Bishop Auckland Hospital

Details of the re-arranged public consultation events in respect of both Reviews were reported to the Joint OSC and have been shared with wider Council membership.

- 8 A meeting of the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held on 19 December 2019 and received reports and presentations on:
- NECA Budget Proposals
  - Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities
  - NECA Forward Plan and Work Programme
- 9 A meeting of the NECA & North of Tyne CA Joint Transport Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held on 19 December 2019 and received reports and presentations on

- Budget Proposals
- Joint Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

## **New Scrutiny Guidance**

- 10 COSMB considered a report on the new statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny in local and combined authorities at its special meeting on 23 July 2019. COSMB considered recommendations on the guidance and following work by officers to develop changes to process, a report was submitted to the Constitutional Working Group (CWG) on 6 January 2020 setting out how those changes would be implemented.
- 11 The CWG agreed that
- (a) Overview and scrutiny awareness training be developed for officers
  - (b) The Durham County Council Scrutiny Handbook and relevant webpages be refreshed to reflect changes on providing the public and partners with information on what to expect when working with scrutiny
  - (c) A six-monthly scrutiny update be submitted to full council in addition to the Scrutiny Annual Report
  - (d) Minutes of NECA scrutiny meetings and updates on NECA scrutiny work programme be reported to COSMB
  - (e) Changes to the Councillor Compact frontline councillor and committee chair role descriptors to reflect the new scrutiny guidance
  - (f) That use of information by scrutiny committees is reviewed on an annual basis as part of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report, to ensure alignment with this new guidance.
- 12 A report is to be submitted to Cabinet prior to submission to Council to agree the necessary changes to the constitution.

## **Conclusion**

- 13 This report contains the key issues considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for the period 16 December 2019 – January 2020 and is provided for members information only.

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**Contact: Jenny Haworth**

**Tel: 03000 268071**

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

N/A.

### **Finance**

N/A.

### **Climate Change**

Any climate change implications will be included in individual reports to the appropriate scrutiny committee.

### **Consultation**

N/A.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

N/A.

### **Human Rights**

N/A.

### **Crime and Disorder**

N/A.

### **Staffing**

N/A.

### **Accommodation**

N/A.

### **Risk**

N/A.

### **Procurement**

N/A.