

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



23 April 2012

Information update from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present to Members an information update of overview and scrutiny activity from March – April 2012.

Background

- 2 As previously agreed, a written report of Chairs' updates will be presented for information only to all Overview and Scrutiny Management Boards. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are encouraged to get involved in any area of Overview and Scrutiny activity via thematic committees and/or talk to Scrutiny Committee Chairs and OS Officers on areas of project/overview activity.

Updates

- 3 Updates from Overview and Scrutiny Committees from March - April 2012 are as follows:

Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An update was received by the Committee on the scrutiny review of Contracts and Tenders. Proposals to host a members' seminar and consideration on how best to share information with members on procurements are being developed.
<i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i>	<p>Two light touch reviews are taking place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Postal arrangements within Durham County Council – incoming and outgoing. This is running alongside an existing review being carried out by Resources and is looking at corporate arrangements, with regard to efficiency and value for money. The review will report by July.• Telephone Calls - in considering the Q3 Performance Report, members have expressed concerns regarding the Council's performance in respect of telephone calls answered within 1 minute and also the percentage of abandoned calls. It has been suggested that a LTR be undertaken on these issues and accordingly terms of reference and a project plan are being drafted in conjunction with the service grouping. It is intended that the outcome of the review will report by the end of June.

Overview Presentations	<p>Refresh of the CIOSC Work Programme, in line with the Council Plan 2012-16 with suggestions to focus on MTFP. Items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management Strategy • Single Asset Register • Customer First Strategy • ICT Services • Regulation of Investigatory Powers • Engaging effectively with our communities and Partners • Quarterly monitoring of accounts payable.
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Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSC O/S Committee)

Update on Previous Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period
Scrutiny Review Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At its meeting in March, the Committee agreed to undertake a light touch review of the ‘Use of Legislation and Powers to tackle Metal Theft within County Durham’.
Overview Presentations	<p>The Committee also received :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation on Road Safety including activity of the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership and progress of initiatives and enforcement activity by the Council’s Consumer Protection Team. • A report to provide an overview of projects that are currently funded through the Safe Durham Partnership’s Community Safety Fund and details of the allocation at a reduced level for 2012/13. • Refresh of the Committee’s Work Programme in line with the Council’s Plan 2012-16 was also considered at the meeting in March. The report highlighted work undertaken during 2011/12 and highlighted gaps within the existing work programme including High Impact Localities and Building community and organisational resilience for emergency preparedness, response and recovery. Members of the Committee are asked to forward suggestions for potential review topics and the Committee will agree its work programme at the July meeting. • A joint meeting was held on the 12th March 2012 between the Safer and Stronger and the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider a response to the Library Strategy Consultation.

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<p><i>Update on Previous Reviews</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period
<p><i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee has completed the review focusing on Increasing the employment opportunities for young people (18-24) by the further development of partnership working within County Durham. The report is scheduled to go to Cabinet on the 30th May, 2012. • In addition a special joint meeting was held on the 27th February, 2012 between the Economy and Enterprise and the Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committees providing an overview in relation to the Empty Homes Strategy. A scoping paper is currently being prepared for a Light Touch Review to be undertaken.
<p><i>Overview Presentations</i></p>	<p>The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting on 29th March, 2012 considered the following overview presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham Key Options – this provided members with an update on the progress against the recommendations contained in the independent review report produced by a consultant from the Housing Quality Network. • Multi-disciplinary Teams – Members received a progress report on the introduction of Multi-disciplinary teams which combine the Empty Homes and Private Landlords Initiatives, Officers into the Area-based Housing Regeneration Teams. • Council Plan 2012-2016 - Refresh of the Work Programme for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee –the following areas were identified for overview presentations with a view to deciding future Light Touch Review projects: Affordable Homes Strategy; Adult Learning Strategy; Homelessness; Regeneration Strategy; Tourism; Financial Inclusion Strategy; geographical profiles at AAP level and Business Support. <p>The Committee is currently commencing a Light Touch Review focusing on Empty Homes.</p>

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no systematic reviews to report on for the period.
<i>Updates/ Overview Presentations</i>	<p>The Committee at it's meeting on 2nd April 2012 received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Programme – update on the implementation of new alternate weekly collection arrangements, the progress on the procurement of new waste management contracts and the Council's approach to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme announced by the Department of Communities and Local Government. • Setting up of a Charitable Trust to manage the Council's Sport, Leisure, Cultural and Library Services –update on the objective of the above project, general progress, the composition of a trust and its relationship to the Council, scope of services to be included, procurement arrangements, project risks and the proposed timetable. • Council Plan 2012 – 2016 – Refresh of the Work Programme for the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – refreshed to reflect the five objectives and subsequent outcomes identified within the Council Plan 2012 – 2016 for the Council's 'Altogether Greener' priority theme. Items proposed for inclusion were the Revised Bathing Quality Water Directive, Playing Pitch Strategy and the operation of the Council's Neighbourhood Warden Service following its restructure.

Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYPS O/S Committee)

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
<i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee has agreed to carry out a review on Excess Weight in Primary Aged Children. The focus of the review is looking at the affect of excess weight on children taking into account 4 key lines of enquiry: Review of the current strategy; Social marketing and behaviour change; Gaps in data and the impact of commissioned programmes. This is a cross cutting working group with Adults Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Committee. The first meeting of the working group will take place on 25th April 2012.

<p>Overview Presentations</p>	<p>The CYP OSC has received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Strategic Needs Assessment • Council Plan 2012 – 2016 – Refresh of the Work Programme for the Children and Young Peoples O/S Committee – Members were given details of the refresh of the Council Plan and asked to give consideration to what items members would like added to the work programme such as: Child Exploitation, Child Poverty, Mental Health Issues of Children and Young People and Children’s Health Services which are cross cutting areas with Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
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Adults, Well-being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AWBH O/S Committee)

<p>Update on Previous Reviews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
<p>Scrutiny Review Activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members have considered proposals by North East Ambulance Service to reconfigure Accident and Emergency Ambulance Services. The Committee have requested details of the proposals as well as NEAS Consultation/Engagement plans with updates planned at future meetings.
<p>Overview Presentations</p>	<p>9 March 2012 -The Committee considered :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health • An update report regarding Public Health Reforms • An update report regarding NHS Reforms • Performance report updates in respect of Rural Ambulance Services <p>Special meetings of the AWH OSC are to be held in May/June to discuss the NHS and Public Health reforms in more detail.</p> <p>16 April 2012 – The Committee considered:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update regarding the Momentum project • The refreshed Joint Strategic Needs Assessment • Proposals for the Committee’s engagement in NHS Organisational Quality Accounts for 2011/12 • Proposals for the refresh of the AWH OSC Committee in line with the Council Plan 2012 – 2016.

Performance/Budget/Work Programme Reporting

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

Recommendation

- 5 Members are invited to receive the report and note the information contained therein.

Background Papers: Previous committee reports/presentations.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - 1

N/A

Staffing - 2

N/A

Risk - 3

N/A

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - 4

N/A

Accommodation - 5

N/A

Crime and Disorder - 6

N/A

Human Rights - 7

N/A

Consultation - 8

N/A

Procurement - 9

N/A

Disability Issues - 10

N/A

Legal Implications - 11

N/A