

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

11 October 2013



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 July – October 2013.

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 July to October 2013 are as follows:

Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CIOSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	CIOSC on 25 th July received <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An update on the recommendations of the light touch review of the Postal System within DCC.
Scrutiny Review Activity	CIOSC on 25 th July received <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A report on the Medium Term Financial Plan (4), Council Plan and Service Plans 2014/15 – 2016/17.
Overview reports/ Presentations	CIOSC on 25 th July 2013 received: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An overview of the Corporate Asset Management Plan and Property Strategy. CIOSC on 19 th September received: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A report on the Council's use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (Q1)• A report on the Council Budget Consultation 2014-17• A presentation on Customer Feedback: Complaints, Compliments and Suggestions Quarter 1 report 2013/14.

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSC)

<p>Update on Previous Reviews</p>	<p>SSC on 23rd September 2013, received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on recommendations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/S review of Use of Legislation to tackle Metal Theft • O/S review of Road Safety for Children and Young People. • Information on a Scrap Metal Dealers Bill which received Royal Assent in February 2013 • A presentation on metal theft incidents, partnership activity and implementation of new licensing powers from 1st October 2013. • A report by the Council's Road Safety Manager and Senior Public Health Specialist to inform Members that recommendations from the review are being delivered upon and a progress will be provided at future meeting.
<p>Scrutiny Review Activity</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Warden Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A SSC working group meeting on 18 July 2013 received an overview of the Neighbourhood Warden Service. • Further working group meetings have been arranged to provide a focus on partnership arrangements, tools and powers and communication. • Members have also undertaken field study activity to gain an insight into the wide range of work undertaken by the Service.
<p>Overview reports/ Presentations</p>	<p>SSC on 23 September received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation from the Deputy Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on their Estates Improvement Programme • A report to provide information on the activity of the Police and Crime Panel. • A briefing to update the Committee on the work of the Safe Durham Partnership

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

<p>Update on Previous Reviews</p>	<p>E & E OSC on the 24th September received an update on the progress against the recommendations contained in the Empty Homes Scrutiny Review Report.</p>
<p>Scrutiny Review Activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting of the E & E OSC Members Reference Group held on the 18th July, 2013 received a joint presentation focusing on the scale of the impact of changes in Government funding . The next meeting of the group will be held on the 16th October, 2013.
<p>Updates/Overview Presentations</p>	<p>At a special meeting of the E & E OSC on the 10th September, 2013, the following presentations were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's approach to regeneration – an overview presentation focusing on the ambition and objectives of the Regeneration Statement, challenges, opportunities, the approach to regeneration and economic development within County Durham and key initiatives.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) • EU Structural Funds Programme - providing a summary of the programme. It was agreed that the Committee would receive further timely updates in relation to the progress of the funding programme. • Improving economic governance in the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Area. It was agreed that the Committee would receive further updates on the development of the governance arrangements for the Combined Authority. <p>E & E OSC on 24th September, 2013 received the following presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Stock Transfer Project – an update on the progress with the transfer process, next steps and how stakeholders can get involved. Also the initial findings of informal consultation with tenants on the transfer proposal and plans for the establishment of governance arrangements. • Adult Learning Strategy – an overview presentation focusing on the Strategy, national priorities and moving forward the review of the Adult Learning Strategy.
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Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Environment OSC)

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
<i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i>	There is no scrutiny review activity to report on for this period.
<i>Updates/ Overview Presentations</i>	<p>Environment OSC on 26th September, 2013 received the following presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limestone Landscapes – an overview of the Limestone Landscapes Programme together with details of a recent visit undertaken by the Committee to Thrislington and Raisby Quarries.
<i>Site Visit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 12th September, 2013 members of the Environment OSC carried out a visit to the SITA Energy from Waste (EfW) facility at Tees Valley providing an opportunity for members to receive information on the cost, layout and capacity of the facility, the treatment process including emissions and information specific to the waste arrangements for County Durham.

Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYP OSC)

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
<i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i>	CYP OSC on 2 nd October agreed a scoping report on Alcohol and Substance Misuse by Young People. A series of working group meetings involving partners will take place during October and November.

Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>CYP OSC on 2nd October received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview presentation on Alcohol and Substance Misuse by Young People. • An overview presentation on Special Educational Needs.
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Adults, Well-being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AWBH O/S Committee)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	As part of an on-going consultation regarding proposals to reconfigure Emergency Medical and Critical Care services within North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT, a special meeting of the AWH OSC was held on 23 rd July 2013 to hear evidence from representatives of the Trust and DDES CCG. A formal response was agreed by members of the Committee and included in the response of the Statutory Joint Health Scrutiny Committee comprising representatives from Durham County Council, Hartlepool Borough Council and Stockton on Tees Borough Council.
Overview reports/ Presentation	<p>AWH OSC on 3rd October 2013 received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview presentation on the Public Health service following its transfer back into Local Authority control. • An update presentation from North Durham and Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCGs detailing progress against their 2013/14 commissioning plans and also the proposed consultation on the plans for 2014/15 • A report updating members on the consultation and decision regarding proposals to reconfigure Emergency Medical and Critical Care services within North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT

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 – N/A

Staffing – N/A

Risk – N/A

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – N/A

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and Disorder – N/A

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Issues – N/A

Legal Implications – N/A