

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 July 2017

SCRUTINY BOARD – STATEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

Scrutiny Board has not met since February 2017. The scheduled meeting on 9 June 2017 had to be cancelled, due to its proximity to the general election. Although the Chairs of the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees have not met, work has been undertaken by email and individual meetings on the following:

- A review of the work programmes of the committees to ensure that there is a whole council view of scrutiny activity, which avoids gaps and overlaps and helps establish a lead committee for areas of joint interest
- Agreement of a standard paper on overview and scrutiny practice at the Council that went to all of the first meetings of the committees
- Identification of areas for improvement in scrutiny practice for Scrutiny Board to work on over this financial year
- Consideration of an approach across the five thematic committees to assessing the potential impacts of the UK exit from the EU.

Members of Scrutiny Board also attended the Executive Performance Monitoring meeting on 13 June 2017, to raise questions regarding key areas of the Council's performance, including determining what work was being done to reduce:

- The variations in life expectancy and disease free life expectancy across the county
- The variations in school readiness between boys and girls
- The variations in progress with phonics by Year 1 between those who receive Free School Meals and those who do not.

Specific queries were also raised by the Chairs about the future of Public Health funding at the Council, once the national ring-fence is removed, and how far Public Health is engaged in the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership process.

The next meeting of Scrutiny Board is to be on 10 August 2017.

Acting Chairman
Cllr Jim Clark
5 July 2017