

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 February 2018

SCRUTINY BOARD – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

Members will be aware that Scrutiny Board brings together the Chairs of the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees at the Council and the Older Peoples' and Young People's Champions. It provides an opportunity for a whole council view of scrutiny activity, which avoids gaps and overlaps and helps establish a lead committee for areas of joint interest. It also provides a forum in which the key performance issues for the Council can be reviewed and items for further scrutiny identified.

Scrutiny Board last met on 10 November 2017. At that meeting:

- A whole Council approach to the overview and scrutiny of the potential and actual impacts of the UK exit from the EU on North Yorkshire was agreed
- The way in which standards of scrutiny practice at the Council are assessed was discussed, with the agreement to hold a formal review in the next months
- The work programme was reviewed and areas of common interest identified, such as the progress being made with health and social care integration
- The role of the Council in supporting the development and expansion of the Catterick Garrison site was explored.

Members of Scrutiny Board attended the Executive Performance Monitoring meeting on 14 November 2017, to raise questions regarding key areas of the Council's performance, including determining what work was being done to:

- Respond to winter pressures, such as a prolonged cold spell and/or an increase in influenza
- Ensure that children are 'school ready'
- Respond to the increase in the numbers of children and young people with a statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan
- Attract high paying employers into the county and to ensure that we have the people locally who have the skills that are required by businesses

The next meeting of Scrutiny Board is to be on 15 February 2018. In addition to scrutinising council-wide performance, the meeting will review:

- The role of Area Committees in overview and scrutiny at a local level and how this fits with the scrutiny that is done at a district level and a county level
- Performance data, information and analysis and how this can be systematically used to inform the work programmes of the overview and scrutiny committees

Since my last statement to Council, the Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry into effectiveness of overview and scrutiny has published its report. Areas identified by the Committee which will be looked into further by Scrutiny Board include:

- How overview and scrutiny works with Executive
- What access there is to financial and performance information
- How much use is made of external experts in scrutiny
- Training needs of committee members, particularly when scrutinising technical issues
- How far service users and members of the public are engaged in scrutiny
- Whether committees are able to 'follow the council pound', wherever it is spent.

Chairman
Cllr Jim Clark
2 February 2018.