

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

16 May 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 15 February 2018. At that meeting:

- The key findings of the Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry into effectiveness of local authority overview and scrutiny were reviewed and the implications for North Yorkshire assessed
- The County Council role in supporting the planned expansion of military and associated civilian facilities at Catterick and the surrounding area was looked into, with a view to identifying potential lines of enquiry for more in-depth scrutiny
- An overview of the proposed introduction of Area Constituency Committees and how their enhanced role around local scrutiny could be co-ordinated with the work of Scrutiny Board and the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees
- The work programmes for the five committees were reviewed and areas of common interest identified.

Members of Scrutiny Board attended the Executive Performance Monitoring meeting on 20 February 2018, to raise questions regarding key areas of the Council's performance, including determining what work was being done to:

- Improve educational outcomes at Key Stage 2 and bring it in line with that for Key Stages 4 and 5
- Support the increasing number of children and young people who are being identified as having special educational needs
- Assess what the impact of the current financial difficulties in the NHS nationally and locally may be upon the provision of social care services and interventions
- Encourage Parish Councils to use the Parish Portal
- Enable and support people to access information, advice and report issues via our website.

The next meeting of Scrutiny Board is on 8 June 2018. In addition to scrutinising council-wide performance, the meeting will review:

- The findings of the Northamptonshire County Council Best Value Inspection Report (March 2018) to see what lessons can be learned for overview and scrutiny at the Council
- The use of second homes council tax surcharges to influence local community development.

Chairman  
Cllr Jim Clark  
26 April 2018.