



## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

### Full Council

---

**Report of:** Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

---

**Report to:** Full Council

---

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014

---

**Subject:** Scrutiny Mid-Year Update Report

---

**Author of Report:** Matthew Borland and Diane Owens,  
0114 273 5065

---

#### Summary:

This report provides an overview of scrutiny activity undertaken so far this municipal year. It summarises the work done through formal meetings (scrutiny and policy development committees) of the:

- Children Young People and Family Support
  - Economic and Environmental Wellbeing
  - Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care
  - Safer and Stronger Communities
  - Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
- 

#### Recommendations:

Full Council is asked to note the work undertaken through the scrutiny committees so far this year.

---

**Background Papers:** None

---

**Category of Report:** OPEN

---

## Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

<b>Financial Implications</b>
NO Cleared by:
<b>Legal Implications</b>
NO Cleared by:
<b>Equality of Opportunity Implications</b>
NO Cleared by:
<b>Tackling Health Inequalities Implications</b>
NO
<b>Human rights Implications</b>
NO:
<b>Environmental and Sustainability implications</b>
NO
<b>Economic impact</b>
NO
<b>Community safety implications</b>
NO
<b>Human resources implications</b>
NO
<b>Property implications</b>
NO
<b>Area(s) affected</b>
<b>Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader</b>
<b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in</b>
<b>Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?</b>
NO
<b>Press release</b>
NO

## **Scrutiny – Mid-Year Update Report**

### **1. Summary**

1.1. This report provides an overview of scrutiny activity undertaken so far this municipal year. It summarises the work done through formal meetings and task and finish groups of the:

- Children Young People and Family Support
- Economic and Environmental Wellbeing
- Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care
- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

### **2. What does this mean for Sheffield people**

2.1. A challenging and effective scrutiny function is a key contributor to Sheffield achieving its long term goals. The key priorities set out by the Council are reflected in the breadth of issues that Scrutiny Committees look at.

2.2. By investigating issues of local concern, reviewing performance against local targets, and making recommendations for improvements in services, scrutiny can ensure that better outcomes are achieved for Sheffield people.

### **3. Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

3.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee has focused its efforts on the Electoral Review. Sheffield City Council will be the subject of an electoral review to be carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission.

3.2. The first part of this review will decide the number of councillors to be returned to the Council. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee heard evidence in July from organisations and members of the public as to the most appropriate number. A draft submission on Council size has been developed informed by the evidence heard and the Committee has referred the draft to Full Council for approval.

### **4. Recommendation**

4.1. Full Council is asked to note the work undertaken through the Scrutiny Committees to date this year.

**Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee**  
**Chair: Cllr Gill Furniss**

**Mid Year Update**

The Committee have considered a range of issues which affect children and young people including **School Governance** and developments in **early year's provision**. A key focus for the Committee has been **educational attainment** including **outcomes for looked after children**. The Committee have received both an interim update and a full report on attainment data for 2012-13. This was an opportunity for the Committee to scrutinise the educational outcome data and provide constructive challenge in terms of the action being taken to address areas for improvement.

**The re-design of early years**

In July the Committee dedicated its meeting to the re-design of early years and the communication and transition plans. The meeting was well attended by members of the public and those involved in delivering early years services in Sheffield.

The meeting provided an opportunity for an open debate about the issues and responses to questions raised were provided by the Cabinet Member and Executive Director for Children, Young People & Families.

**Teenage Pregnancy**

In October 2013 the Committee considered the latest teenage pregnancy data for Sheffield and have subsequently written to the service to congratulate them on the progress that has been made.

The outcome of the discussion was a request from the Committee that "a review be conducted into the quality of sex education currently provided for young people with Special Educational Needs".

This request has been fed back to the Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) Review Team and it has been confirmed that they will incorporate provision for children and young people with special educational needs into the review. The Committee will receive an update on this work in January-February 2014.

**Task & Finish Group**

**Pupil Premium Task & Finish Group**

In addition to its bi-monthly meetings the Committee have established the Pupil Premium Task & Finish Group which will undertake a focussed review between January-April 2014. The aim of the review is to identify best practice and any policy recommendations in terms of the use of pupil premium and its impact on attainment in Sheffield Schools. The Inclusion & Learning Service will also be providing support to this work.

The Task & Finish Group will use a range of information gathering techniques to inform the review, including site meetings, interviews with teachers and pupils and desk top research. A report will be presented to the full Committee for sign off in April 2014.

**Work Programme for 2012-13**

Topics for consideration during the remainder of the year:

- Annual Report on Adoption & Fostering
- Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)- Annual Report
- Report on looked after children and care leavers
- Annual Meeting with Young People, Young Carers and the Children in Care Council (tbc)

Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee  
Chair: Cllr Cate McDonald

Mid Year Update

The Committee has considered a wide range of issues. During discussion of the **Streets Ahead** programme it was highlighted that Northern Power Grid are responsible for a significant number of the streetlights that are not working. The Committee decided that if performance from Northern Power Grid does not improve, it will invite a Senior Officer from the Company to attend a future meeting to report on their performance. Changes to the opening hours of the **Household Waste Recycling Centres** were scrutinised.

The Committee scrutinised the Future of Sheffield's **Library Service** and was confident that the approach taken would result in the Council being able to provide an efficient and comprehensive Library Service and asked officers to return following the consultation. The Committee contributed to the policy development of the **Sheffield Food Strategy** through an early discussion with the Cabinet Member and lead officers. Through the Call In process the Committee considered a decision to dispose of **Cobnar Road Cottage**, Graves Park. Since the Scrutiny discussion the Cabinet Member has agreed the Friends of Graves Park Group would be given up to 12 months to progress an alternative option.

Work Programme for 2012-13

Topics for consideration during the remainder of the year:

- Cycling Inquiry
- City Centre Vibrancy
- Streets Ahead
- Libraries

Cycling Inquiry

The main focus of the Committee's work has been on a **Cycling Inquiry**. The Inquiry has operated along lines similar to that of a Parliamentary Select Committee, requesting written evidence and taking oral evidence. A final report will be produced in early 2014.

The key part of the Inquiry's work is to identify measures to broaden and increase participation in cycling in Sheffield, with a particular emphasis on the economic, health and environmental impacts of these measures. The Council's Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development will be asked to respond to the report.

The Inquiry involves the whole of the Committee, with a Task and Finish Group doing work between the Committee's formal meetings. As well as members of the Committee this group includes Mick Nott, the Chair of Cycle Sheffield and Dick Proctor, the Council's Transport Vision and Strategy Manager. It is too early to fully assess the impact as this work has not yet been completed. However, there has been significant engagement with members of the public and organisations. Over 260 responses to the Call for Evidence were received and 9 organisations took part in an oral evidence session with the Committee.

The Committee has also made sure it hears from a wide range of voices, for example the views of motorists and pedestrians were sought. The views of groups that did not respond through the Call for Evidence were also sought in other ways, for example, a representative from the Youth Parliament gave oral evidence.

**Healthier Communities & Adult Social Care Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee**  
**Chair: Cllr Mick Rooney**

**Mid Year Update**

The Committee have considered a wide range of issues across health and social care including the **Dementia Strategy** for the City and the second phase of the **Right First Time Programme**. The Committee have also scrutinised proposals to reduce waiting times for **Memory Management Services in Sheffield**. This followed a request from Scrutiny in March 2013 that the Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust, worked with the Primary Care Trust to identify what steps could be taken to further reduce waiting times. The resulting proposals were presented to the Committee in November 2013, the outcome of which has been a request from the Committee that the timescales for implementation be reduced from 12-24 months to 12 months. The Committee have also submitted feedback on the content and layout of the draft **Adult Social Care Local Account** and following a "call in" held an extraordinary meeting to discuss a Report on **Developing the Social Model of Public Health**. In January 2014 the Committee will hold its meeting at St Luke's Hospice, this will include a discussion on the nature of **funding for hospice care** in Sheffield.

**2 Task & Finish Groups**

**Nutrition & Hydration in Hospitals Working Group**

In October 2012 a public question raising concerns about the quality of hospital food in Sheffield resulted in the Committee establishing this Working Group. To date the focus has been on the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trusts Northern General Hospital. The Group have undertaken a series of observation visits, where they have spoken with staff and patients, as well as conducting interviews and carrying out desk top research.

A report outlining a series of recommendations has been produced and shared with the Trust. The Working Group will review this in 12 months' time (November 2014) to ascertain the impact of its recommendations. In addition to this the Working Group have proposed extending this piece of work from January 2014 by carrying out observation visits to Weston Park, Royal Hallamshire (including the Jessops Wing) and the Children's Hospital to see how the new production kitchen food service has embedded across the Trust.

**Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Working Group**

In response to concerns from members of the public regarding waiting times for the CAMHS service, the Committee established the CAMHS Working Group in November 2012. The Group have met with providers, commissioners and young people who access services and their parents to gather information and develop lines of inquiry. The Group have recently drafted a report and recommendations. This was shared with commissioners and providers on 13<sup>th</sup> December and a further follow up meeting is planned for January 2014.

**Work Programme for 2012-13**

Topics for consideration during the remainder of the year:

- The Francis Report
- Dilnot Commission & Care Bill 2013
- Public Health Investment
- GP Practices in Sheffield
- Developing the Social Model of Public Health

**Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee**  
**Chair: Cllr Chris Weldon**

**Mid Year Update**

The Committee looked at the **impact of Welfare Reform** on Sheffield's residents and requested officers to publicise the Council's policy that tenants in rent arrears would not face eviction provided they were engaging with the Council. The Chair also wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister to raise the impacts with him. The Committee have regular written updates and have requested a further report in the New Year which will include examples of how other local authorities are dealing with the issues and case studies on the impact in Sheffield.

On community safety the progress of the **Partner Resource Allocation Meeting (PRAM)** and feedback from a Local Government Association Review of PRAM, which had taken place in June, 2013 was considered. The Committee approved the proposed City-wide development of the Partner Resource Allocation Meeting and requested efforts be made to improve relations between the Partner Resource Allocation Meeting and the Neighbourhood Action Groups.

The Committee considered a report of the **Challenge for Change Tenants' Scrutiny Group** which examined the grass cutting service delivered by Sheffield Homes (now the Council Housing Service) and the Council's Parks and Public Realm Service. The Committee requested the report be presented to the Cabinet Management Team and the Executive Management Team and that the relevant Cabinet Member reports back to the Committee on the Council's response to the report's recommendations.

The Committee scrutinised performance on **homelessness**. It decided that Social Landlords in the City could do more to provide accommodation for homeless people and that the Chair would write to the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods to inform him of their view. In the summer four members of the Committee visited some of the **Bed and Breakfast accommodation** used to accommodate homeless households. The Committee were pleased to see that the Council had no homeless families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. The Committee provided its input into the revision of the 'Schedule of Requirements' that is in place between the Council and Bed and Breakfasts used to accommodate homeless households.

Other issues covered include a progress update on the **Sheffield Housing Company** and looking at future **land responsibility and management arrangements** within the Council.

**Work Programme for 2012-13**

Topics for consideration during the remainder of the year:

- Welfare Reform
- Private Sector Landlords
- Community Safety Partnership
- Implementation of Allocations Policy
- Relationships between external contractors and housing
- Kier Contract
- Review of HRA Business Plan
- Challenge for Change: Grass Cutting

This page is intentionally left blank