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Leeds City Council Democratic Services – Scrutiny Support Unit

Scrutiny News

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Scrutiny News is a monthly publication, which aims to keep Members, officers and other interested parties informed of the work of the Council's seven Scrutiny Boards.

For those with access to the internet, further information on Scrutiny is also available at www.leeds.gov.uk/scrutiny. This site includes information about each Scrutiny Board and links to the meeting papers.

If you have any comments on the work of any of the Scrutiny Boards please get in touch with the individual contacts for the Board.

Scrutiny Board (Central & Corporate Functions) – contact **Peter Marrington** (Tel: 0113 395 1151)

In February the Board discussed the **Budget Strategy 2009/10**. No further action was identified.

Members also undertook the final session of their Inquiry into **Procurement, Outsourcing and Commissioning**. The Board's final report on this matter will be considered at the April meeting.

In March the Board will consider the following items; Members involvement with the **Fair Play Partnership Project, the Sustainable Communities Act, quarter 3 performance information, quarter 3 financial health information** and undertake the final session of its inquiry into **attendance management**.

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) – contact **Kate Arscott** (Tel: 0113 247 4189)

The Children's Services Scrutiny Board received two **Requests for Scrutiny** from the council's Executive Board at their February meeting. The first related to the **Annual Performance Assessment**, and members resolved to monitor this as part of their quarterly performance monitoring cycle. The second invited the board to consider a number of issues relating to the health assessments of prospective adopters by the **Adoption Service**. The board reached the conclusion that current arrangements were satisfactory and no further investigation was required.

In addition to this, the Board considered two Recommendation Tracking items relating to past inquiries into **Inclusion Consultation** and **Adoption**, and finalised a report from the current inquiry into the Multi Agency Support Team (**MAST**).

This month members also took part in a series of visits as part of the inquiry into **Education Standards – Entering the Education System**, and the **Young People's Scrutiny Forum** held a Delegate Event as the final stage of their inquiry into 'Protecting our Environment'.

Next month the Board will hold the final session of the inquiry into **Education Standards – Entering the Education System**, and will also receive reports on the **Draft Children**

and Young People's Plan, the **Sustainable Communities Act** and the Request for Scrutiny relating to **Meadowfield Primary School**.

Scrutiny Board (Health) – contact **Steven Courtney** (Tel: 0113 247 4707)

At their February meeting, the Health Scrutiny Board began by receiving a report on the **Draft Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan**. Members resolved to issue a statement outlining their comments, with a focus on the need to develop a 'One Council' approach to Health issues.

Members also received a paper on the **Provision of Hospital Food in Leeds**, and discussed the final stages of the inquiry into a **GP-led Health Centre**. The board requested an update on the progress of the health centre to come to their April meeting.

At their next meeting the board will hold a general discussion around **Mental Health Provision**, and continue their inquiry into **Hospital Discharges**.

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) – contact **Angela Brogden** (Tel: 0113 247 4792)

The Board's February meeting was held at the Moor Allerton Care Centre as the primary focus of this meeting was to consider evidence in line with session two of its ongoing Inquiry into **Older People's Housing**. As part of this session, the Board discussed issues around affordable housing for older people; the role of Assistive Technology; fuel poverty and older people; and addressing social isolation.

During its meeting, the Board also considered and commented on the **draft Annual Service Improvement Plan for Grounds Maintenance (March 2009 – February 2010)**. Representatives from Environment and Neighbourhoods and Glendale attended the meeting to discuss the key issues and proposed actions set out within the Plan.

Following its review of **Dog Fouling Enforcement** in Leeds, the Board agreed its Statement setting out its final conclusions and recommendations. Members also considered a request for a Scrutiny Inquiry into the **East and South East Leeds (EASEL) Regeneration Scheme** and agreed to bring back draft terms of reference to its March meeting for consideration.

In March, the Board will also be considering a **Quarter 3 2008/09 Performance Report**; a quarterly **recommendation tracking** report; a report on the **Sustainable Communities Act** and its implications for Leeds; a further update on **miscellaneous properties**; and monthly service data relating to **dog fouling enforcement**.

Scrutiny Board (City Development) – contact **Richard Mills** (Tel: 0113 247 4557)

In February the Board considered a report on a **Climate Change Strategy** for the authority. It also contributed to the discussion on a proposed scheme design guide and vision for a **Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme**.

The Board approved a draft statement and recommendations on the proposed phase 1 of the **A660 Corridor** improvements following a request for scrutiny by the North West (Inner) Area Committee.

Members also discussed proposals and commented upon the development of a **City Centre Park** and received an update on **Roundhay Mansion**.

In March the Board will consider a **Cycling Strategy and Plans**. Members will also

receive **Performance Management Information** for Quarter 3 . Finally the Board will consider a report on the **Sustainable Communities Act** and its implications for Leeds and a draft action plan for developing and preparing a submission to the Selector.

Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Care) - contact **Sandra Newbould** (Tel: 0113 247 4792)

The board were presented with a **Safeguarding of vulnerable adults overview** on the 11th of February in preparation for the morning's scrutiny activities which included the receipt of the Proposals Working Group update on the progress of Adult Social Services against the **Independence, Well-being and Choice action plan**. In addition the Board received its first Safeguarding report focusing on Strengthening Strategic Partnerships. A second Safeguarding report is scheduled for the 11th of March with a **Quality Assurance** focus.

The draft Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan was also presented to the board, who requested that further consideration was made to clarifying the provision of physical activities for individuals with impairments.

The final meeting of the Adaptations Working Group took place on the 12th of February. Recommendations arising from the inquiry will soon be agreed and reported to the Scrutiny Board.

On the 11th of March the board will also receive information relating to the updated **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Commissioning** and the **Sustainable Communities Act**.

Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships) – contact **Richard Mills** (Tel: 0113 247 4557)

The Board agreed its final report and recommendations following completion of its inquiry into the role of the **Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector** (VCFS) in Council led community engagement.

The February session saw the completion of session 4 of its inquiry into **Skills** which explored the Local Area Agreement and the skills targets in the Leeds Strategic Plan.

The next meeting will consider a report from the Chief Executive of **Marketing Leeds** which will include the outcome of funding applications, details of its work programme and the proposed contract with the Council for 2009/2010.

Session 5 of the Board's inquiry into **Skills** will take place in March. There will also be a report on the **Sustainable Communities Act**.