



### **Councillor Wendy Nichols – Chair of Scrutiny Committee**

The Scrutiny Committee has met once since the previous update given to Council in February 2018.

#### **22 March 2018**

The main items of business on the agenda for this meeting were Corporate Performance Quarter 3 – 2017/18 (October to December), Financial Results and Budget Exceptions Report to 31 December 2017, Treasury Management Monitoring Report for Q3, Programme for Growth: Update, Olympia Park – update on progress and next steps, Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback and Next Steps and Tour de Yorkshire 2017.

The Committee discussed a wide range of issues across the agenda items:

- Empty homes in the District and what was being done to tackle the time taken to re-let properties when there was such a demand for social housing in the area was debated.
- Members discussed attendance levels at leisure centres and how to improve marketing and communications to encourage more visitors.
- The Committee considered the numbers of accidents at work that had been reported and what was being done to ensure that the appropriate training was in place for management to prevent accidents in the future.
- Following the LGA Peer Challenge, Members discussed how scrutiny would be reviewed and improved and how they could ensure that they were involved with this process, the provision of training and Officer support, how the Committee's work could be developed and the meaningful scrutiny of Executive decisions.
- The replacement of parking machines at back Micklegate car park in Selby was discussed, as was the management of the disabled facilities grant and remedial work on the culvert at Portholme Road, which was of concern to both local Members and residents in the area. The progress of the plans for co-location with the Police at the Council Offices was also queried with Officers.
- The Programme for Growth was discussed by the Committee, as well links to the Visitor Economy Strategy and tourism in the District.
- Work on unlocking the Olympia Park site was welcomed by Members, in particular the £8.9m in funding had been awarded to the Council by Homes England, following

a successful bid by Officers. The Committee were pleased that work was being started on the site to remove rubble, but asked that the 'new' primary school in the report be referred to in future as the 're-sited' school.

- Following consideration of a report on the impact of the Tour de Yorkshire in 2017, the Committee expressed its support for events and initiatives that promoted the local area local in a sustainable way, and emphasised the importance of community engagement in planning for such events.

The Committee also considered the work plan for the rest of the 2017-18 year and the draft plan for 2018/19, and made the following suggestions:

- **That the Committee's proposal to look at Council Funded Community Centres be kept under review on the work programme for 2018/19, and allocated an appropriate date for consideration later in the year.**
- **That the Chair of the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel be invited to a future meeting of the Committee;**
- **That the topic of transport in the District be considered by the Committee, and that representatives from Leeds City Region, Arriva and Northern Rail be invited to contribute to the discussion at the meeting.**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 5 July 2018 at 5.00pm.

**Councillor W Nichols**  
**Chair, Scrutiny Committee**