

Report of City Solicitor

Report to Council

Date: 10th July 2019

Subject: Scrutiny at Leeds City Council – Annual Report 2018/2019

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary

1. Main issues

- Article 6 of the Council’s Constitution requires that the Council’s Scrutiny Officer reports to Council annually about how the authority has carried out its overview and scrutiny functions. The 2018/19 Annual Report is appended.

2. Best Council Plan Implications

- The Annual Report illustrates those areas of work undertaken by Scrutiny which directly contribute to the delivery of the Council’s Best Council Plan; as detailed within the schedule included within this report.

3. Resource Implications

- This report has no specific resource implications.

Recommendations

- a) Council is asked to receive and note the Annual Report 2018/19.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Council the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2018/19.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires that the Council's Scrutiny Officer reports to Council annually about how the authority has carried out its overview and scrutiny functions.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The attached Annual Report for 2018/19 highlights the work originated by Scrutiny during the last Municipal Year and also reflects on the monitoring of past scrutiny activity to ensure agreed recommendations stay on track.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 The Scrutiny Annual Report for 2018/19 was produced by the Head of Democratic Services (designated as the proper officer for Scrutiny) in consultation with Scrutiny Chairs and the Executive Board Member for Resources.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 All terms of reference for work undertaken by the five Scrutiny Boards require inquiries 'to review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme'.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The annual report illustrates those areas of work undertaken by Scrutiny which directly contribute to the delivery of the Council's Best Council Plan.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 As this is a factual report providing an overview of the work of the Council's scrutiny function for 2018/19 there are no specific climate emergency implications.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 This report has no specific resource or procurement implications.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 This report has no specific legal implications.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 There are no risk management implications relevant to this report.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires that the Council's Scrutiny Officer reports to Council annually about how the authority has carried out its overview and scrutiny functions. The Annual Report for 2018/19 is therefore appended for information.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Council is asked to receive and note the Annual Report 2018/19.

7. Background documents¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

scrutiny

Annual Report 2018 – 2019



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Introduction

This Annual Report provides a general summary of the work undertaken by the scrutiny function in Leeds during the 2018/19 Municipal Year as well as setting out the key highlights and achievements of the council's individual Scrutiny Boards.

2018 brought a reconfiguration of the Scrutiny function and reduction in the number of Boards to five. However, as in previous years, the council's Scrutiny Boards continued to target their resources on priority areas aimed at driving forward the council's ambitions and making a real difference to the people of Leeds. Across the five Boards, 133 work items were considered.

The Best Council Plan 2018/19 to 2020/21 is the council's strategic plan, setting out the authority's ambitions and priorities for both the city (working in partnership) and the organisation. A refresh of the [Best Council Plan](#) for 2018/19 was approved by Council in February 2018.

As well as having a key role in influencing the content of the Best Council Plan, Scrutiny plays a fundamental part in promoting efficient and effective partnership working between the Council and stakeholders to meet the Best Council Plan outcomes.

This Annual Report therefore illustrates how the work of Scrutiny has particularly contributed towards achieving the key outcomes set out within the Council's Best Council Plan for 2018/19.

The Scrutiny team in Leeds has also provided advice and support to other local authorities on the Leeds' approach to Scrutiny and continues to actively engage with the work of the Centre for Public Scrutiny to develop best Scrutiny practice.



Summary of work 2018/19

This section summarises the type of work undertaken by the Scrutiny Boards¹ during the 2018/19 municipal year, as well as looking at trends over the last 3 years.




43 Formal Scrutiny Board Meetings



12 Additional Working Groups/Site Visits

PROVIDING SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE FOR THE FOLLOWING OUTPUTS



19
Pre-Decision Scrutiny Work Items



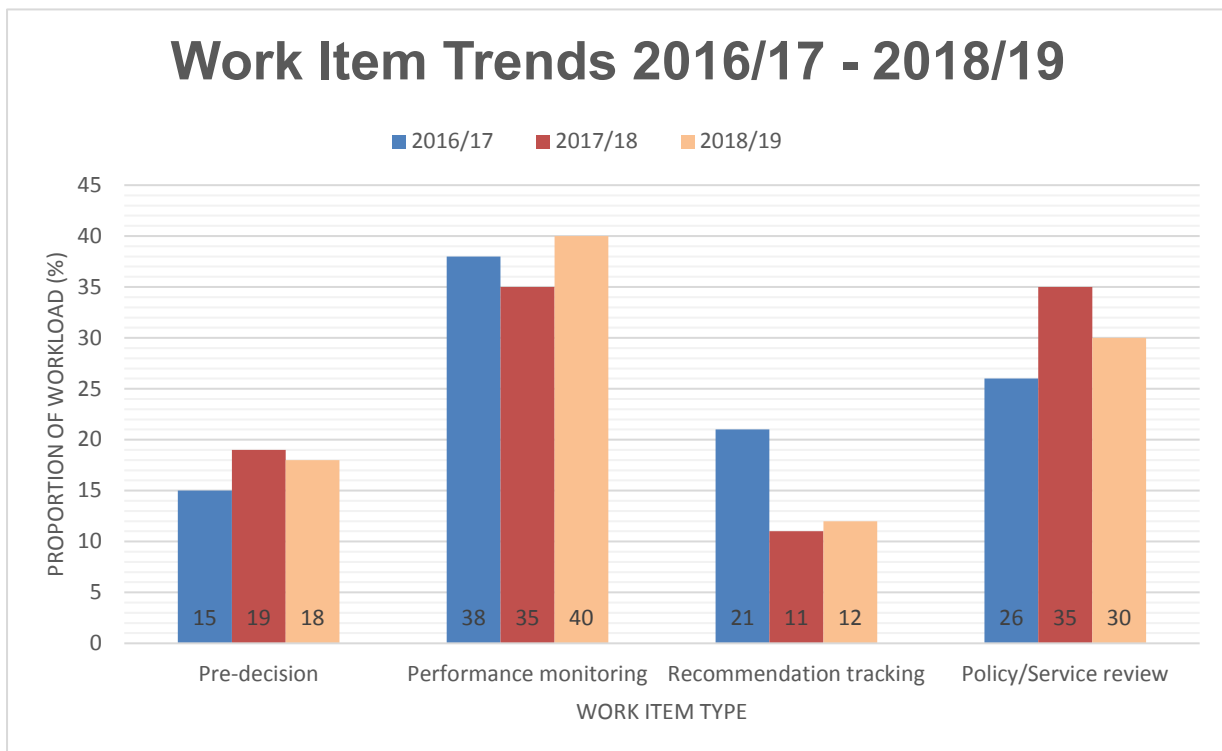
43
Performance Monitoring Work Items



13
Recommendation Tracking Work Items



33
Policy/Service Review Work Items



¹ This does not include the work of the Tenant Scrutiny Board as the responsibility for this function does not fall within Democratic Services.

Collaborative working across the Scrutiny Boards

All Scrutiny Boards are consulted annually on the Council's [initial Budget proposals](#) and any proposed changes to the [Best Council Plan Refresh](#) prior to formal approval. Observations and recommendations are reported back to the Council's Executive Board as one composite scrutiny report.

Scrutiny Boards have also continued to work collaboratively this year on a number of cross-cutting issues – this maximises resource and avoids duplication of work. Examples of how this approach has worked are listed below, with further details provided as part of the highlights and achievement section of this report.

- The draft Integrated Market Position Statement - Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles) and Scrutiny Board (Children and Families).
- Road Traffic Anti-Social Behaviour, Road Traffic Reduction and Killed and Seriously Injured – Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) and Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth).
- Joint work with North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council on proposed changes to in-patient mental health services for adults and older people in Harrogate, likely to affect the population around Wetherby.
- Working collaboratively with the Children and Families Directorate in using their annual Youth Voice Summit as a platform for the Children and Families Scrutiny Board to directly engage with young people as part of its Child Friendly Leeds inquiry.

Regional Scrutiny

The Council has continued to take a lead role to support and deliver regional joint health scrutiny arrangements – improving collaboration between and across local authority health scrutiny functions across West Yorkshire and Harrogate.

The [West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2018/19](#) has maintained oversight arrangements for the developing West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership across a range of programme areas and other matters, including:

- Specialised Stroke Care
- Cancer
- Mental Health
- Urgent and Emergency Care
- Development of proposed changes to vascular care
- Access to Dentistry
- Acute Care Collaboration (Hospitals working together)
- Financial and Workforce Challenges

Highlights and Achievements



Useful Links:

[Adult Social Care Complaints and Compliments Annual Report](#)

[Bereavement Arrangements](#)

Topic Area	Added Value/Impact	Associated BCP Outcome(s)
1. Mental Health	➤ Focusing on a number of areas including the commissioning of enhanced Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services, the redesign of Community Mental Health Services for adults and the development of Leeds' Mental Health Strategy.	➤ Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives ➤ Live with dignity and stay independent for as long as possible
2. Quality of Care Services in Leeds	➤ As in previous years, the Board has continued to maintain oversight of the quality of care across the City. This involved regular examination of the outcomes of Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection reports for residential and nursing care homes. During 2018/19 the Board also increased its focus on the quality of Homecare Services and operation of the contractual arrangements in place.	➤ Be safe and feel safe ➤ Live in good quality, affordable homes in clean and well cared for places ➤ Live with dignity and stay independent for as long as possible
3. Adult Social Care Compliments & Complaints	➤ Responding to concerns raised by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, the Board examined the Adult Social Care Complaints and Compliments Annual Report and agreed to review the report in the future.	➤ Be safe and feel safe ➤ Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives
4. Leeds Health and Care System	➤ Maintaining oversight of progress against the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Leeds Plan. This included the ongoing development of Local Care Partnerships across the City and the outcome of independent reviews examining how partners across the system work together to provide access to seamless services and improve outcomes for people.	➤ Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives ➤ Live with dignity and stay independent for as long as possible
5. Bereavement arrangements	➤ Building on the work of the previous Board and the review of bereavement arrangements at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT), the Board called for greater consistency of practice between acute hospital trusts across West Yorkshire and Harrogate. This has translated into one of the Patient Experience priorities within LTHT's 2018/19 Quality Account. The Board also identified changes in practice elsewhere, which highlighted the potential use of non-invasive techniques for the majority of post-mortems.	➤ Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives ➤ Live with dignity and stay independent for as long as possible ➤ Making better use of resources and ensuring Leeds is an efficient Council.
6. NHS proposed service changes and consultations	➤ Maintained oversight of proposed local NHS service changes, including some specific proposals around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stroke Services • Urgent Treatment Centres • Urgent Dental Treatment • Community Dental Services 	➤ Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives ➤ Live with dignity and stay independent for as long as possible

Highlights and Achievements



Useful Links:

[Let's Talk about Leeds – Youth Voice Summit 13th March 2019](#)

Topic Area	Added Value/Impact	Associated BCP Outcome(s)
1. Is Leeds a Child Friendly City? – Scrutiny Inquiry	➤ This year the Board agreed to take stock of the overall progress made since the launch of the Child Friendly Leeds initiative in 2012. Linked to this, it adopted a thematic approach based around the five outcomes within the Children and Young People's Plan. In asking the question 'Is Leeds a child friendly city?' the Board reflected on the city's key achievements as well as highlighting areas of continued development.	➤ Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life.
2. Youth Voice Summit Event	➤ Linked to its main inquiry this year, the Board worked closely with the Children and Families Directorate in using their annual Youth Voice Summit event for youth and community groups as a platform to directly engage with the young people attending. The event was themed 'Let's Talk about Leeds' and was attended by 134 children and young people aged 8 to 25 from 17 different youth and community groups.	➤ Be safe and feel safe.
3. Tracking of Scrutiny Inquiry into Child Poverty & 3As	➤ During the year, the Board sought assurances that progress was being made in terms of implementing the recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny inquiry last year which focused around mitigating the impact of Child Poverty and improving living conditions for children in order to support their education and wellbeing.	➤ Enjoy greater access to green spaces, leisure and the arts.
4. Annual Standards Report	➤ As in previous years, the Board considered the Annual Standards Report and reflected on progress made over the last year towards achieving the aims and priorities outlined in the education strategy for Leeds: The Best City for Learning 2016-2020. The Board also made suggested changes to the future layout of the report which was welcomed by the directorate.	➤ Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives.
5. Dissolution of the School Organisation Advisory Board	➤ An Executive Board decision to dissolve SOAB was subject to Call In but subsequently released for implementation. However, the Board had requested a report in the new municipal year that clarifies how objections linked to proposals to close, open or make prescribed changes to a school are to be addressed along with potential alternative options.	➤ Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life.
6. Tracking of Scrutiny Inquiry into Children's Centres	➤ In tracking the recommendations of this earlier Scrutiny Inquiry, the Board identified a need to undertake further scrutiny work in the new municipal year, with a particular focus around strengthening partnership working between local GP services and Children's Centres.	➤ Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life.
		➤ Be safe and feel safe.
		➤ Enjoy greater access to green spaces, leisure and the arts.
		➤ Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life.
		➤ Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life.
		➤ Making better use of resources and ensuring Leeds is an efficient Council.
		➤ Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life.
		➤ Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives.

Highlights and Achievements



Useful Links:

[Scrutiny Inquiry into Kerbside Collection and Recycling of Domestic Waste](#)

[Safer Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2018-21](#)

Topic Area	Added Value/Impact	Associated BCP Outcome(s)
1. Refuse and Waste Management	➤ In response to a request for Scrutiny, the Board undertook an Inquiry into refuse and waste management arrangements in the city, in order to support the development of an improved local waste management strategy.	➤ Live in good quality, affordable homes within clean and well cared for places.
2. Locality Working and Priority Neighbourhoods	➤ The Board maintained focus on the progress of the refreshed Locality Working arrangements. In November 2018, the Board considered the key features of the new arrangements, including emerging issues and areas for further development to bring greater levels of transformation around neighbourhood working.	➤ Enjoy greater access to green spaces, leisure and the arts. ➤ Live in good quality, affordable homes within clean and well cared for places. ➤ Be safe, feel safe
3. Air Quality Solution for Leeds	➤ Following its Inquiry in May 2017, the Board retained its focus on Improving Air Quality in Leeds. In July 2018, the Board considered a progress update, specifically an overview of the consultation responses received on the Clean Air Charging Zone proposal, thus providing an opportunity to support and challenge the proposals in the latter stages of the process, prior to the submission of the Full Business Case to Government in September 2018.	➤ Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives. ➤ Live in good quality, affordable homes within clean and well cared for places.
4. Revised Safer Leeds Plan and Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Service Review	➤ The Board considered the draft Safer Leeds Community Safety Strategy which provided the basis for several pieces of work throughout the year – including anti-social driving behaviour and a review of the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team service.	➤ Ensuring Leeds is a safe city with resilient communities. ➤ Be safe, feel safe
5. Road traffic Anti-Social Behaviour; Casualty Reduction and KSI.	➤ In response to local concern regarding anti-social driving behaviour, the Board reviewed police related activities to address the issue across the district and overview of the progress made on the Leeds Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) road casualty reduction programmes with the emphasis on reducing casualties for vulnerable road users.	➤ Be safe, feel safe ➤ Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives
6. Impact of Universal Credit	➤ The introduction of the Government's full service Universal Credit in Leeds provided the Board with an opportunity to review the impact of Universal Credit across the city and how front line services work in partnership to support people affected. The Board will continue to monitor how well the new support system is embedded.	➤ Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives. ➤ Live in good quality, affordable homes within clean and well cared for places

Highlights and Achievements



Useful Links:

[Scrutiny Inquiry into the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy](#)

[Scrutiny Inquiry Report into Advancing Bus Service Provision](#)

[Sustainable Development Scrutiny Inquiry Report](#)

Topic Area	Added Value/Impact	Associated BCP Outcome(s)
1. Inclusive Growth Strategy	➤ The Board undertook an Inquiry throughout the year which sought to identify how Scrutiny could influence and shape the implementation of the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy, with a focus on creating better jobs, tackling low pay and boosting productivity	➤ Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life ➤ Strengthening 'Smart City' infrastructure and increasing digital inclusion.
2. Leeds Transport Strategy and Advancing Bus Service Provision	➤ The Board continued to focus on how implementation of the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme supports the priorities within the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy, and progress against the recommendations made in the inquiry 'Advancing Bus Service Provision'.	➤ Move around a well-planned city easily ➤ Enjoy greater access to green spaces, leisure and the arts
3. Sustainable Development	➤ An Inquiry into sustainable development was undertaken by the Board between July 2017 and January 2018, with the final report published in March 2018. In July 2018 the relevant Chief Officers presented a report welcoming the Inquiry recommendations and noting the need to work with the Board in developing and prioritising this work in the future. The Board will continue its significant focus on this area during 2019/20 having particular regard to climate change.	➤ Live in good quality, affordable homes in clean and well cared for places. ➤ Be safe and feel safe
4. Digital Inclusion	➤ The Board continued to monitor progress against recommendations relating to the improvement of broadband infrastructures, and digital literacy through education, learning and the provision of equipment. The Board were pleased that Scrutiny focus has given Digital Inclusion greater prominence in the Councils corporate priorities and secured funding to ensure this work is sustained.	➤ Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life. ➤ Strengthening 'Smart City' infrastructure and increasing digital inclusion.
5. Housing Mix	➤ The monitoring of recommendations that ensure the timely delivery of the right property type and tenure within criteria of affordability as defined in the Core Strategy. The Board will continue its work in this area during 2019/20.	➤ Live in good quality, affordable homes in clean and well cared for places.
6. Information, Advice and Guidance Provision in Leeds	➤ Following the inquiry which considered existing challenges and gaps associated with local IAG provision, the Board received a response in July 2018 to the recommendations made. The Board will continue to specifically monitor progress and explore opportunities during 2019/20 to ensure that aspirational employees and young people receive the advice and guidance needed to identify and secure employment opportunities. This area will also be supported through the Boards wider focus on Inclusive Growth.	➤ Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life.

Highlights and Achievements



Strategy and Resources

Useful Links:

[Scrutiny Report on Embracing Digital Technology](#)

[Statement on Void Properties](#)

[Statement on Resilience & Emergency Planning](#)

[Summary Note on Maximising the Apprenticeship Levy](#)

Topic Area	Added Value/Impact	Associated BCP Outcome(s)
1. Embracing Digital Technology Solutions	➤ The Board undertook an inquiry to review the cultural readiness of the Council in terms of embracing digital technology solutions. Linked to this, the Board reflects on measures aimed at ensuring that all leaders, managers and staff are being educated to understand 'Digital' and that services are being proactive in making the most of emerging digital automation, on-line service delivery and mobile working solutions.	➤ Making better use of resources and ensuring Leeds is an efficient Council.
2. The management and financial implications of council owned void properties	➤ In view of the financial implications of having void properties in Council ownership, the Board explored ways in which to improve the overall void management process in recognition of the potential benefits to be gained by the Council financially.	➤ Making better use of resources and ensuring Leeds is an efficient Council.
3. Resilience and Emergency Planning	➤ Historically the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board has received and considered the Council's Annual Corporate Risk Assessment Report. However, the Board agreed to undertake further scrutiny of current resilience and emergency planning arrangements in Leeds, particularly in light of good practice and learning stemming from local incidents and emergencies, but also in the context of other national major incidents and events.	➤ Be safe and feel safe.
4. Maximising the Apprenticeship Levy	➤ The Board continued to monitor the Council's progress in maximising the Apprenticeship Levy in relation to its own workforce development. Whilst acknowledging that the Council had exceeded the public sector target set by the Department for Education (DfE), the Board had welcomed ongoing efforts to drive future interest and uptake of apprenticeships.	➤ Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life.
5. Business Rates	➤ Building on the work undertaken last year, the Board received regular updates from the Chief Finance Officer surrounding the impact of the current Business Rates regime on the functionality of the Council and the risk factors associated with potential settlement costs of business rates appeal cases.	➤ Making better use of resources and ensuring Leeds is an efficient Council.
6. Devolution	➤ Further to its meeting with the Leader of Council and Managing Director of WYCA, the Board wrote to the Secretary of State reinforcing the importance of Central Government acknowledging the potential economic benefits of Devolution for Yorkshire communities and to commit to meeting with the One Yorkshire Leaders to progress discussions as a matter of urgency.	➤ Making better use of resources and ensuring Leeds is an efficient Council.

Moving forward into 2019/20

The local election in May 2019 brought 9 newly Elected Members to the Council – those joining the Scrutiny Member cohort will be offered additional guidance and support during 2019/20 to assist them in undertaking their scrutiny role effectively.

At Annual Council, amendments were made to Executive Member portfolios with subsequent changes to the focus of individual Scrutiny Boards. Details of these are set out below.



Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles

Focusing on services for adults and public health services to monitor progress towards improving health, lifestyles and quality of care across the city; and providing oversight of service integration and partnership working within and between health bodies. The Board will also oversee the sport and active lifestyle related functions and activity across the city.



Children and Families

Focusing on services affecting the lives of children and families across the city to monitor progress towards becoming a child friendly city; putting children first and developing active citizens.



Environment, Housing and Communities

Focusing on services and issues affecting the lives of citizens living and working in the council's neighbourhoods to monitor progress as a citizen focused city, prioritising environmental sustainability.



Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth

Focusing on development and infrastructure functions and services to monitor progress in relation to transport and planning, regeneration and housing growth. The Board will also oversee economic growth functions and services to monitor progress towards being a strong and compassionate city, promoting opportunities for access to learning, skills and employment for all.



Strategy & Resources

Focusing on the council's central strategic and regulatory functions, including financial services, human resources, digital and information services, elections, registrars, licensing, local land charges and council tax processing. The Board will also oversee cultural related activities to deliver the city's cultural ambitions.

West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny 2019/2020

The Authority will continue to participate in the review of the role and function of the Joint Committee to help ensure it remains fit for purpose; reflects the geography of the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership and ensures the Joint Committee forms an important and integral part of the governance arrangements for the developing West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership.