

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT PANEL (SMP)

Updates and Suggested Topics for Review for the Themed Panels

February 2019 to now

Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel (ECYP)

SMP agreed at its meeting on 28 January 2019 that the ECYP Scrutiny Panel would carry out a review into children with disabilities to focus particularly on out of city placements and the use of Beechside. Since then the Panel has met on 17 June to clarify what they would like the review to cover and on 15 July to discuss the scoping document. The next meeting is on 16 September where they will receive initial evidence from Children's Services.

Scrutiny Management Panel is asked to note this update

The Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel (TECS)

Update

On 8 February the panel completed its review of general parking issues in Portsmouth with a view to considering alternative strategies. The Cabinet considered the report at its meeting on 12 March and supported the panel's recommendations.

Scrutiny Management Panel is asked to note this update

Suggested Topics for Review

The panel has chosen to do a review **into the accessibility of the highways**, subject to the agreement of the Scrutiny Management Panel. The exact scope has yet to be agreed but the panel would investigate the overall physical accessibility of the transport network in Portsmouth for users of reduced mobility and cover the following elements: public transport; private hire vehicles and hackney carriages, the highway network and road works.

Scrutiny Management Panel is therefore asked to consider allocating the above topic

The Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel (HSC)

Update

On 28 January 2019 the Scrutiny Management Panel allocated the following reviews to the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel's work programme:

The provision of temporary accommodation

This review was completed on 30 July and was considered by Cabinet on 9 September where it was well received and the recommendations within the Director's response report were supported (which broadly supported the Panel recommendations).

A review of the experiences gathered after the decant of residents from tower blocks

This review started on 30 July.

Scrutiny Management Panel is asked to note this update

Economic Development Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel (EDCL)

Update

The panel signed off the review of the Portsmouth International Port on 22 August and was considered by Cabinet on 9 September where it was well received and the recommendations within the Director's response report were supported (which broadly supported the Panel recommendations).

Suggested Topics for Review

The Panel has asked that SMP consider the following 4 topics for allocation, in this priority order:

1. Heritage Regeneration

This was seen as the highest area of priority for scrutiny. PCC has recently started a conversation with Historic England to develop a Heritage Strategy, and the city has already started work to make some of its heritage stock economically sustainable, such as the Hotwalls Studios. Portsmouth is ranked as 32nd out of 325 local authorities in England for heritage buildings in the RSA Heritage Index, but we know that our heritage stock presents opportunities in terms of maximising usage and that 17 properties in Portsmouth remain on the Historic England Heritage at Risk register. Other authorities such as Nottingham have recently introduced Heritage Strategies, or Heritage-led regeneration policies, such as Derby. A range of stakeholders from relevant organisations could present as witnesses and scrutiny of this area could highlight further development for economic and cultural benefit.

2. Access to Culture and Leisure

The panel were conscious of the social value of this area. For many years the City Council has supported low income families to access Culture and Leisure opportunities through schemes such as the Leisure Card and the BH Live experience. PCC is conscious of the social importance of keeping public libraries accessible through initiatives such as removing fines, keeping museums free, and offering free events in the city. The Director of Culture, Leisure & Regulatory Services has clear evidence from Experian MOSAIC research into our cultural audiences that price sensitivity is key for many of our lower-income residents, and recent national research suggests that access to culture and leisure can have

significant social and economic impacts and offer life opportunities to our most vulnerable communities.

3. Food Economy

The panel was interested in this area covered not only by Regulatory Services but also the regeneration opportunities. Effective food safety regulation in Portsmouth provides essential protections from risks posed by day-to-day business operations. It protects residents and visitors from unsafe food, from public and occupational health risks and from fraudulent practices and criminal activity in the food sector. Good regulation also supports the growth and prosperity of food businesses in the City. It can reduce business costs by clarifying legal requirements, avoiding 'gold-plating' and providing accessible advice about compliance to mitigate risks. The service aims to give business confidence in its regulatory decisions and in so doing enables business to plan future investment decisions. By supporting local and national businesses to grow the service also contributes to improved community economic well-being within the City by supporting new start-ups which provide local employment and a wide choice of safe food outlets. The port health function contributes to supporting businesses that trade food internationally. Although such benefits are difficult to quantify, effective food safety regulation significantly contributes to creating conditions favourable to the growth of local economic activity and enterprise.

4. Visitor Economy

Whilst there had been some mention of this in the Port review the panel recognise that tourism is a key part of Portsmouth's economy, generating income in excess of £600 million annually and supporting around 13,000 jobs. As a destination Portsmouth is relatively unique in that Portsmouth City Council owns or manages a large amount of the tourism product - e.g. the International Port, Emirates Spinnaker Tower, The Pyramids, the Seafront, six museums, major events, historic defences and much more. As such, PCC has continued to support tourism through challenging times when other UK cities have withdrawn funding. New opportunities and challenges are presenting themselves, notably the significant development of the cruise offer at the Port, Brexit, sustainability and air quality, the growth in local creative industries and the importance of cultural tourism and the changing digital landscape.

Scrutiny Management Panel is therefore asked to consider allocating the above topics in the priority order shown