

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 December 2010

SCRUTINY BOARD

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Scrutiny Board was due to meet on 1 December 2010 but the meeting had to be cancelled because of the weather. The next meeting of the board will be on 26 January 2010.

Members Regional Scrutiny Network

In October I attended a meeting of Scrutiny Chairs from across the region. The purpose was to agree proposals to make to the LGYH Executive regarding regional scrutiny arrangements. All Members present supported the principle of a Members Regional Scrutiny Network to share information, best practice and the outcomes of scrutiny reviews in order to make the best use of the scrutiny resources in the region.

Members also agreed that there could be opportunities for joint working, most likely on a sub-regional basis.

I raised a concern about how administrative and other support could be provided for regional scrutiny when resources are reducing. I also have some concern that not all councils in the region may be as committed to such a regional network as only nine of the 22 councils in the region were represented at the meeting.

My view is that we should continue to focus on opportunities for sharing and joint working on a sub-regional basis with the district councils in North Yorkshire and with the City of York, rather than committing resources to regional scrutiny arrangements.

Proposed Joint County/District Scrutiny Members event

In line with this, as I reported to County Council in October, the Scrutiny Board have agreed to support a joint event with Scrutiny Members from across the sub-region to promote working together and to share information and learning. I am sure that this will provide a valuable opportunity for Members to work together to share ideas and build on existing good relationships. The timing is likely to be early summer, after the District Council elections in May 2011.

County Councillor John Blackburn
Chairman of Scrutiny Board
6 December 2010