

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 December 2012

SCRUTINY BOARD

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. Following discussions at Executive (Performance Monitoring) on 21 August 2012 and at Scrutiny Board on 4 October, I spoke at Executive (Performance Monitoring) on 20 November 2012 and summarised Scrutiny Board's views on both the Citizens Panel and how performance monitoring information is reported to the Executive.
2. By consensus, our main message to the Executive was that the Citizen's Panel provides useful information on policy development. We also commented that it provides a higher level of response than would be expected from random surveys. We received a commitment that Scrutiny Board would be kept abreast of any decisions on how the Panel might be developed. This would include arrangements that will be introduced for gathering the views of local communities across the County once the current contract for managing the Citizens Panel comes to an end on 31 March 2013.
3. With regard to the reporting of the quarterly performance monitoring information we advised the Executive that the objective should be to provide an understanding of the issues that are driving performance. This should include the facility to examine the change processes taking place across the Council in terms of are they being delivered on schedule, outcomes achieved, the activity levels attained, and the finances available. This would then help Members and senior managers to focus their efforts where corrective action is required. We also felt that it is important to avoid getting bogged down in the detail and there may be a case of "less is more".

County Councillor John Blackburn
Chairman: Scrutiny Board

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