

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**24 July 2019**  
**SCRUTINY BOARD – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Members will be aware that Scrutiny Board brings together the Chairs of the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees at the Council and the Older Peoples' and Young People's Champions. It provides an opportunity for a whole council view of scrutiny activity, which avoids gaps and overlaps and helps establish a lead committee for areas of joint interest. It also provides a forum in which the key performance issues for the Council can be reviewed and items for further scrutiny identified.

The last meeting of Scrutiny Board was on 16 May 2019. At that meeting the following matters relating to the delivery of overview and scrutiny at the Council were discussed:

- Agreeing a programme of joint scrutiny, across all five committees, of the Council's efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions directly associated with its services and operations
- The new central government guidance on overview and scrutiny in local government and any areas for local improvement in practice
- Committee work programmes, the development of substantive lines of enquiry for overview and scrutiny and identifying a lead committee for them.

Members of Scrutiny Board attended the Executive Performance Monitoring meeting on 21 May 2019, to raise questions regarding key areas of the Council's performance under the headings of Public Health and Modern Council. This included clarifying:

- What action was being taken to mitigate the impact of the reduction in the Public Health Grant, by central government, upon key prevention and early intervention services
- What more could be done to reduce variations in life expectancy and disease free life expectancy across the county
- Whether more could be done to promote the uptake of NHS Health checks and whether the health checks themselves could cover a broader range of tests, such as blood and urine
- What work was being done to promote the uptake of vaccinations and whether the Council had a role to play in public reassurance and myth busting
- What measures are being put in place to prevent fraud as more of our services are moved on-line
- Whether more could be done to reduce competition between public sector and community sector groups for volunteers and whether greater collaboration was needed.

The meeting of Scrutiny Board on 16 May 2019 was my first as Chairman. I would like to express my thanks to my predecessor, County Councillor Jim Clark, for the work that he has done over a two year period to champion the work of overview and scrutiny at the Council. I look forward to continuing that work as the Council changes the way in which it delivers services to meet changing demands and increasing financial pressures.

Chairman of Scrutiny Board, County Councillor Derek Bastiman, 4 July 2019