

Time Commenced – 18:01
Time Finished – 19:25

Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Board

20 June 2017

Present: Councillor Stanton (Chair)
Councillors Bayliss, Barker, Eldret, Graves, Hezelgrave,
Jackson, J Khan, M Holmes, Pegg and Webb

In Attendance: Christine Durrant, Andy Smith, Mark Taylor, Claire Davenport,
Gordon Stirling, Gurmail Nizzer, Heather Greenan, Duncan
Cowie, Dave Powner, Clare Harrison (Democratic Services).

Members in Attendance: Councillor Bolton

01/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carr and Poulter.

02/17 Late Items

There were no late items.

03/17 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bayliss and Webb declared an interest in housing related items due to being Council-appointed Members of the Derby Homes Board. This did not preclude Members from participating in discussions or taking part in any potential vote-taking.

04/17 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2017

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 April 2017 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

05/17 Forward Plan

The Board considered the contents of the Forward Plan published on 23 May 2017. No new items were added to the Board's Work Programme.

The Board resolved to note the Forward Plan.

06/17 Performance Items and Performance Forward Plan

Members considered a report of the Chief Executive to consider and agree the proposed Forward Plan for Performance for consideration by the Board at future meetings and to receive and consider information relating to the Council Scorecard for 2017/18.

It was reported that the draft performance forward plan for 2017-18 had been developed following the refresh of the Council Delivery Plan 2017, review of inspection and assessment activity and refresh of the Council Scorecard for 2017/18. The Board also previously requested a number of items to be brought back for further consideration of progress and impact which have been included in the plan. It was also proposed that, in order to make the plan more manageable, only one item will be considered at each meeting.

Members were informed that based on a review of the 2016/17 scorecard alongside the Council Delivery Plan and 2017/18 business plans, it is proposed to remove of a number of measures from the 2017/18 scorecard. It is also proposed to add a number of new measures to ensure that the scorecard continues to reflect priority issues eleven are proposed for 2017/18, which link to commitments in the Council Delivery Plan. Members queried the removal of measures and sought assurances that these areas would still be subject to performance monitoring. The Head of Performances assured the Board that these areas would still be monitored and managed but that the data was not reliable enough for inclusion in the scorecard.

The Board resolved to:

- 1. Note the report; and**
- 2. Agree the Performance Forward Plan for 2017-18.**

07/17 Council Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Recommendations

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive which allowed the scrutiny board to receive responses from Council Cabinet on recommendations made at the previous Board meeting held on 12 April 2017.

The Board resolved to note the report.

08/17 Council Cabinet Agenda

The Board considered a report from the Chief Executive on the Council Cabinet Agenda. Members considered the Council Cabinet Agenda in its entirety for the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 21 June 2017 and made a number of comments and recommendations to Council Cabinet.

Item 8 - Regionalisation of Adoption

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Safeguarding and Strategic Director for People asking Cabinet to endorse the commencement of a D2N2 pilot of a permanency team from July 2017 and programme an update report for early 2018 with outcomes from the pilot and next steps for regionalisation and the implications for Derby's adoption services.

It was reported that the benefits of the pilot would be to:

- Address performance and practice inconsistencies
- To have a bigger regional pool of adopters and children
- Enable the strategic development of adoption services, including in adoption support
- Create a powerful regional voice for adoption and adopters to shape policy at a national level
- Ensure a culture of excellence in adoption practice through strong Local Authority and Voluntary Adoption Agency partnership

Members expressed concern that the current reputation for taking it's time to achieve good quality stable placements could be at risk. Members were reassured that all partners were committed to making the pilot work and that the Council would have a larger pool of appropriate placements available and it would be more likely that performance would improve than deteriorate. The Board also expressed concerns about the lack of Ofsted powers and that an appropriate inspections framework should be in place.

The Board resolved to recommend that:

- 1) Officers ensure that taking part in the Pilot does not damage the Council's good reputation for adoption placements;**
- 2) The Board's concerns are noted in relation to the lack of an inspection framework for the pilot and hopes that appropriate mechanisms are in place for inspections when the time arrives; and**
- 3) To Board should receive an update report on progress of the pilot in early 2018.**

Item 9 - Secondary School Place Planning: Schools Capital Programme

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Strategic Director for People Services to approve to approve the Secondary school expansion schemes to be added to the Council's capital programme; to approve consultation on the proposal to expand Murray Park School by 550 places from September 2019; and to amend the 2017/18-2020/21 approved Capital Programme.

Members queried what would happen if schools outside of the Council's administration did not agree with expansion proposals. The Board was reassured by officers that the Council has good partnerships in place with these schools and negotiates with individual partners to agree proposals. It was reported that if negotiations failed the Council would need to raise the issue formally with the DFE to achieve expansions necessary.

Members questioned where growth had come from in the absence of the completion of large housing developments and were informed that this has come from growth within the city due to increased birth rates and the city's population growth.

Members also asked if the works would be carried out under one single capital project and the Board was reassured that this is the case.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

Item 10 - Our City Our River (OCOR) Masterplan - Project Munio Phases and further funding opportunities

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy and Strategic Director of Communities and Place seeking a number of approvals to enable further delivery of elements of the Our City, Our River (OCOR) Masterplan.

Members queried where additional funding could come from to support the project and were informed that the Council is trying to seek funding from a number of Government pots, including one from Highways England. It was reported that Highways England is offering funds for projects to ensure protection of parts of the Highways network, including Raynesway, and that package 2 would assist with this objective.

Members queried if it is possible to get part way through implementation of phase 2 and then not have enough funds to complete the scheme. The Board was reassured that no work would commence on phase 2 until this is fully funded. Members were also informed that there is a possibility that the Council could go back to Defra and apply for additional funds to help complete the scheme due to a change in economic circumstances.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 11 - Use of Section 106 Funding for Improvements to Leisure Facilities in Littleover and Blagreaves

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy and the Strategic Director for Communities and Place to approve the recommended schemes and amend the 2017/18 – 2019/20 Capital Programme to include the budget required for the S106 schemes.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 12 - Council House - Ground Floor Redevelopment

Members resolved to consider this item under Item 17 on the Council Cabinet Agenda.

Item 13 - Council Scorecard 2017/18

This item was considered under the Executive Scrutiny Board Agenda item on Performance.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 14 - The Future of Derby – Cabinet Pledges and Council Delivery Plan 2016-19

Members considered a report of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive to present the Council Delivery Plan 2016-19, incorporating the Cabinet Member Pledges.

The Board queried responsibility for the pledges and how they would be monitored. The Board was informed that the Council Cabinet is responsible for the pledges and that monthly reporting is in place to monitor progress. It was also reported that an update on this is programmed in the performance forward plan for the November meeting of the Executive Scrutiny Board. The Board was concerned that this should be reported more regularly to quickly pick up areas of concern and the slippage of targets. The Board requested a verbal update monthly on any such areas as part of the standing item on Performance.

The Board resolved to;

- 1) Request a verbal update is provided monthly on areas of slippage as part of the standing item on Performance Items and the Performance Forward Plan; and**
- 2) Request further information be presented by the Performance Team to the topic specific Scrutiny Board meetings in relation to pledges relevant to their individual remits to inform their work programmes and identify areas for performance review.**

Item 15 - Contract and Financial Procedure Matters Report

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance and Chief Executive outlining a number of items that require reporting to and approval by Council Cabinet under Contract and Financial Procedure rules.

It was reported that items included:

- A bid for ERDF funding to support Derby Homes energy efficiency works Establishing a new reserve for Parkland View Extra Care Scheme;
- The provision of day opportunities for adults with complex needs Changes to the current Capital Programme;
- Additions to the Capital Programme for 2017/18;
- The submission of an application for National Productivity Investment Fund for Local Road Network;
- A bid to the European Social Fund - Gateway to Success.

The Board queried match funding for the bid for the National Productivity Investment Fund and were informed that the Council is not committed to provide any match funding at this stage and that further work is required to confirm the details of the local contribution if successful.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

09/17 Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider a resolution to exclude the press and public during consideration of the following item

“that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information”

17/17 Council House – Ground Floor Redevelopment

Members considered two Council Cabinet reports of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance and report of the Chief Executive containing public and exempt information in relation to Council House Ground Floor Redevelopment. The reports presented a Business Case has been for the redevelopment of the Ground Floor of the Council House and sought Cabinet approval for the capital expenditure required to fund the project.

The Executive Scrutiny Board was generally happy with the redevelopment plans, however raised concerns over the current location of the Registration Service at the Council House and felt that this service should be relocated back at Royal Oak House. Members of the Board had experienced complaints from members of the public over its current location and felt that Royal Oak House was purposefully designed for this service and was therefore fit for this purpose.

The Board felt that this was therefore an opportune time to consider the relocation of the Registration Service back to Royal Oak House and give the Council an opportunity to redesign/use the Ground Floor of the Council House to accommodate Unison or for other purposes.

The Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that:

- 1) The effectiveness of the location of the Registration Service at the Council House should be reviewed to determine:**
 - a) whether efficiency savings have been realised in relation to the relocation of the Registration Service; and**
 - b) the impact on customers of the relocation the service to Council House and review what customer feedback has been received.**
- 2) The reconfiguration of the Ground Floor of the Council House Reception/Atrium area is paused to consider the need to relocate the Registration Service back to Royal Oak House and give the Council an opportunity to redesign/use the Ground Floor of the Council House to accommodate Unison or for other purposes.**

MINUTES END