



DERBY CITY COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

Democratic Services



Foreword



Cllr Martin
Repton

Party: Labour **Ward:** Darley

I am pleased to once again be able to introduce Derby City Council's Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022-23. This report provides an overview of the work of scrutiny in 2022-23 and provides a snapshot of the issues and topics that our Scrutiny Review Boards have looked at during the year. The work programmes for the various Scrutiny Review Boards have again covered an array of subjects and involved a wide range of services and organisations.

The year has been both challenging and worthwhile as the Scrutiny Review Boards dealt with issues that affect residents of Derby. It was also a rewarding year as the Scrutiny Boards looked at some of the positive projects and initiatives happening in the City. The consequences of the pandemic continue to be a challenge, not least in the long-term health of our residents. There are also international issues like the war in Ukraine. They are both major issues which impact on the lives of all.

There is also a cost-of-living crisis which has affected all communities in the City and especially the most vulnerable. We need to meet the challenge of supporting our communities through the hard times ahead. Scrutiny has a role to play in helping good policy making and ensuring the voices of the community are heard and responded to.

Derby City Council's finances and budgets are one of the most important issues, as they are for any local authority, with the need to ensure that resources and services are used in the most effective way for the City and its residents. With budgets tightening for Councils, businesses, and households the importance of an effective scrutiny function is evident.

This report includes a summary of the roles and responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny, the work undertaken over the past year and the various outcomes that have been achieved. Looking to the future in 2023 – 2024 there are challenges ahead for Derby City Council, and the work programmes of all our Scrutiny Review Boards will continue to be full and varied but, we hope, targeted on areas where the most impact can be made.

Overview and Scrutiny Board meetings are open to the public and I would encourage as many partner organisations and residents to get involved as possible. I would like to thank all the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs, Councillors, Officers, and external partners who have contributed to the scrutiny process and our co-opted Scrutiny Board members for their hard work and dedication.

Cllr Martin Repton

Chair of Executive Scrutiny 2022-23

Get involved: Contribute to an Inquiry. Scrutiny work is improved by the involvement of local people. To have your say on any current scrutiny inquiry, please email committee@derby.gov.uk

Introduction to Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Committees were introduced under the Local Government Act 2000 as part of new executive governance arrangements, to ensure that members of an authority who were not part of the executive (Cabinet) could hold the executive to account for the decisions and actions that affect their communities. Overview and Scrutiny Committees have statutory powers to scrutinise decisions the executive is planning to take, those it plans to implement, and those that have already been taken or implemented.

Recommendations following scrutiny enable improvements to be made to policies and how they are implemented.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees can also play a valuable role in developing policies before they are agreed.

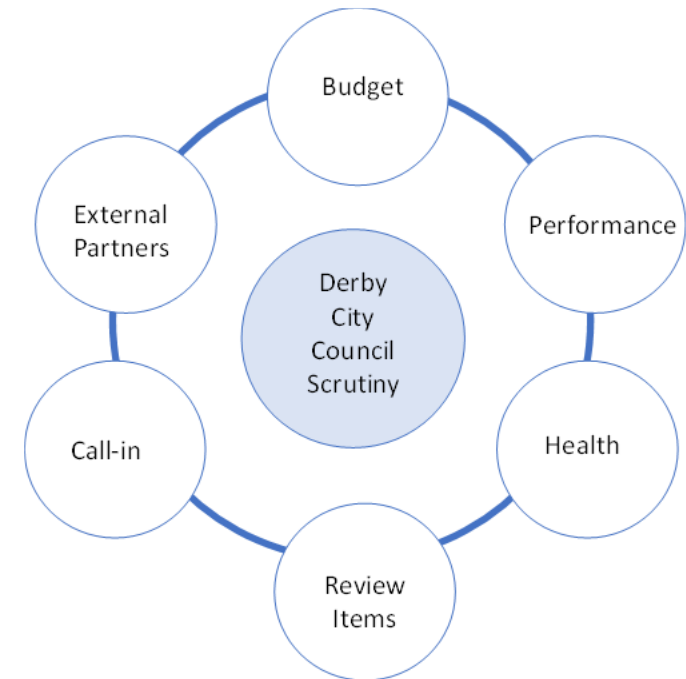
KEY PRINCIPLES OF SCRUTINY

PROVIDES A CHALLENGE AND FEEDBACK TO EXECUTIVE POLICYMAKERS AND DECISION MAKERS

ENABLES THE VOICES AND CONCERNS OF THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

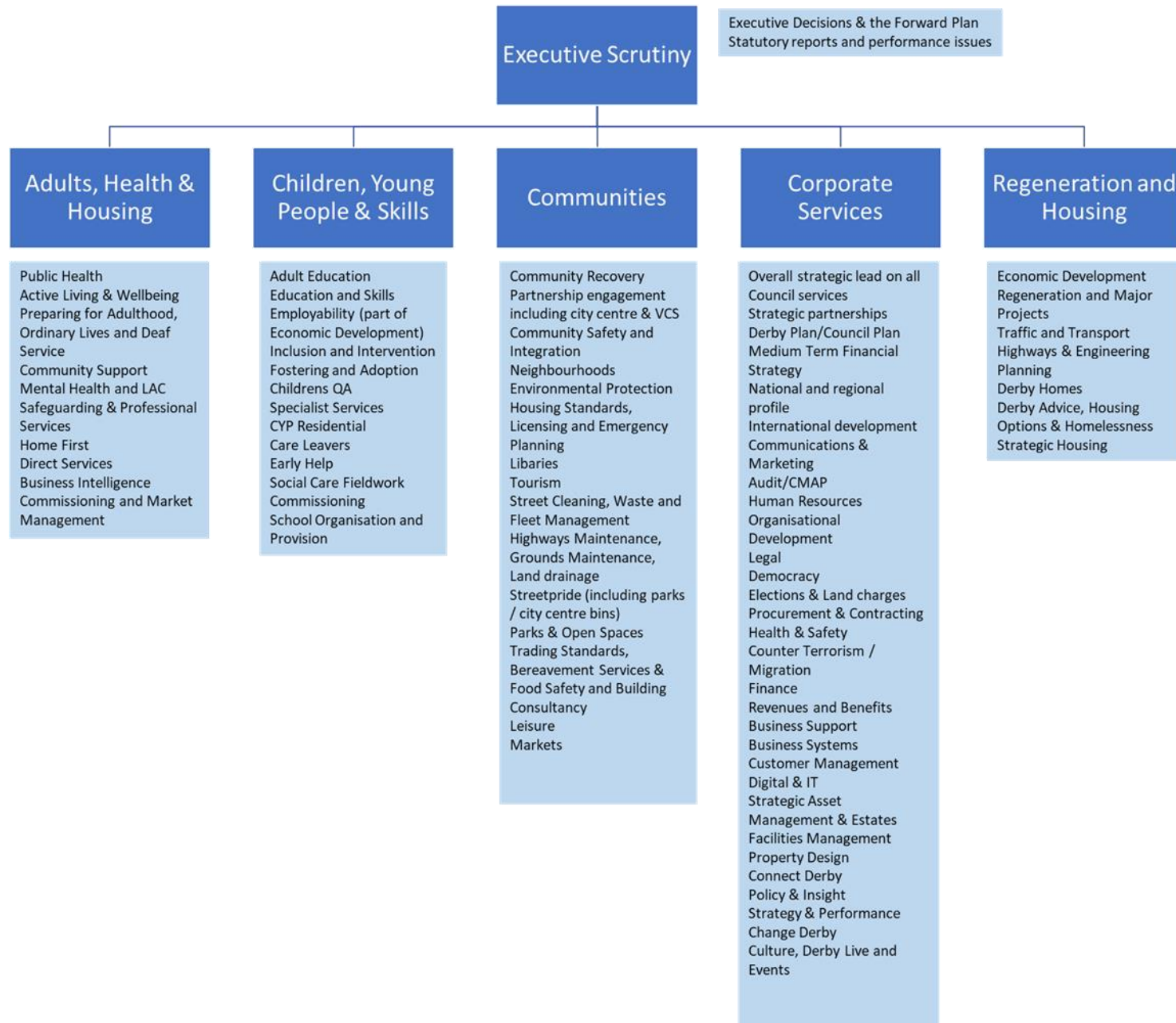
IS CARRIED OUT BY INDEPENDENT MINDED PEOPLE WHO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ROLE

IT DRIVES IMPROVEMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICES



WHAT SCRUTINY DOES NOT DEAL WITH

SCRUTINY IS NOT ABLE TO DEAL WITH LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS, OR REGULATORY DECISIONS SUCH AS PLANNING OR LICENSING APPLICATIONS. IT ALSO DOES NOT CONSIDER ANY ISSUES WHERE THERE ARE RECOGNISED COMPLAINTS/OTHER PROCEDURES SUCH AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN OR THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER



There are six Overview and Scrutiny Boards at Derby City Council.

The Executive Scrutiny Board reviews decisions made by Council Cabinet. The membership of Executive Scrutiny consists of some of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the other Scrutiny Review Boards.

Each Overview and Scrutiny Board is made up of councillors from different political groups. The number of councillors from each party reflects the political balance of the Council.



The five Scrutiny Boards come under the Executive Scrutiny Board and each focus on a different area of the Council, and broadly relate to individual Cabinet portfolios. Their remit includes:

- reviewing services and putting forward recommendations for their improvement or development
- participating in the early stages of consultation for any changes to services and any new proposals
- contributing to policy development
- monitoring the performance and progress of specific projects

The Aim of Scrutiny

Scrutiny Boards aim to make sure that decision makers are held accountable and local services are fit for purpose. Scrutiny of decisions is carried out in public in an impartial manner through scheduled meetings throughout the municipal year. The meetings can involve questioning of Cabinet Members, Council Officers, and representatives of partner organisations about their decisions and policies. Board members can also speak to local people who could be affected by the decisions being taken. Scrutiny Boards also have legal powers to ask representatives from some other public organisations to attend. These are called “responsible authorities” and include:

- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- National Probation Service
- NHS
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire



Co-opted Members



Derby City Council continues to bring external voices into scrutiny to enhance our work and offer different perspectives and challenge. The co-opted members ensure a strong external representation and help scrutiny to engage with the public.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

ACT AS AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR THOSE WHO LIVE OR WORK IN DERBY.

BRING SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND AN ELEMENT OF EXTERNAL CHALLENGE TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCESS.

TAKE AN INTEREST IN, ATTEND AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS TO WHICH THEY ARE APPOINTED.

ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND CO-OPTES.

Get informed

Watch a webcast Scrutiny Boards are webcast and can be watched live or up to a year after the meeting on Derby City Council's YouTube channel. Between **June 2022 and April 2023**, the Scrutiny Boards have had a total of **2,805** views.

Executive Scrutiny Board



Cllr Martin Repton - Chair



Board Members



Councillors Cooper, M Holmes, Jennings, Roulstone, Martin, Dhindsa, Whitby, Prosser, Carr and Carr

The Executive Scrutiny Board comprises 12 elected members who reflect the Council's overall political balance. They meet monthly to examine every Council Cabinet decision and in particular "Key Decisions" that the Council takes; the Board makes recommendations on these prior to the Council Cabinet meeting.

Ask a public question

Public questions are an opportunity for the public to ask questions on agenda items that have an impact on their local community or the city. For more information, visit the Council's website:

<https://www.derby.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/>

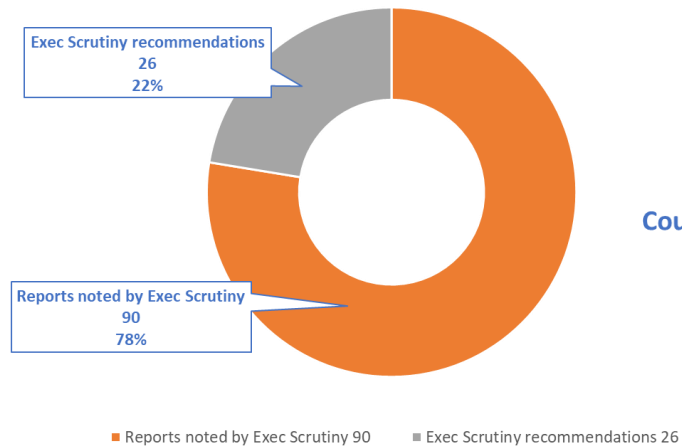
KEY DECISIONS

KEY DECISIONS ARE THOSE WHICH RESULT IN A FINANCIAL COST OR SAVING OF £250,000 OR MORE.

A DECISION WOULD ALSO BE KEY IF IT IS LIKELY TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL, PHYSICAL, SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PEOPLE LIVING OR WORKING IN TWO OR MORE WARDS IN DERBY.



Executive Scrutiny made 26 Recommendations to Cabinet and noted 90 reports 2022-23

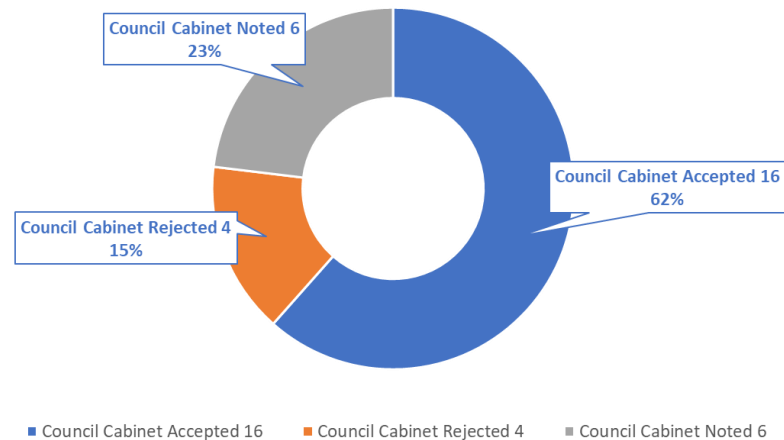


Recommendations

During the municipal year 2022/2023, 113 reports were considered by the Executive Scrutiny Board who made 26 Recommendations to Council Cabinet of which:

- 16 were accepted
- 4 were rejected
- 6 were noted

Council Cabinet Responses to Exec Scrutiny's 26 Recommendations 2022- 23



Executive Scrutiny Work Programme

The Work Programme for 2022-2023 included an in-depth scrutiny of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and revenue and capital budget proposals for 2022-2023, to make sure that the council's resources are used effectively and efficiently.

Comments from the Executive Scrutiny Board when scrutinising the proposed financial plans were fed back to Council Cabinet as part of the consultation process in setting the budget.

Performance Monitoring

A Performance Work Programme is normally set at the start of each Municipal Year to ensure that robust performance monitoring and challenge takes place. The Executive Scrutiny Board agreed the performance items identified for consideration by the Board as part of the Performance Plan for the year 2022-2023.

CALL IN OF CABINET KEY DECISIONS

This is a process used by three or more councillors to question if a Cabinet decision has been made in line with the Council's Decision-Making principles.

Councillors who ask for a "call in" have to prove that the decision was not taken in accordance with the following principles:

- Proportionality – the action must be proportionate to the declared outcome
- Due consideration – professional advice must have been taken from officers
- A presumption in favour of openness – all relevant information in the public interest must have been disclosed
- Clarity of aims and desired outcomes
- Respect for human rights

Call in also applies

- if a record has not been provided of what other options were considered
- if the reasons for the decision are not available
- if any relevant issues do not appear to have been taken into consideration.

Call In

It is one of the Executive Scrutiny Board's responsibilities to meet to consider key decisions that have been "called in". During **2022-2023** there was a **Call in of Council Cabinet Key Decision 161/22 - Long Term Waste Contract**; in response to the call-in, Council Cabinet re-affirmed its earlier decision.



Adults & Health Scrutiny Review Board



Cllr Alison Martin - Chair



Cllr Emily Lonsdale - Vice Chair



Board Members

Cllrs Cooper, Froggatt, A Holmes, J Khan, and Pattison

THE ADULTS AND HEALTH SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD HAS A STATUTORY ROLE UNDER THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ACT 2001, AS AMENDED TO SCRUTINISE LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

There were four meetings of the Adults & Health Scrutiny Board during the year 2022-23.

Provision for people with chronic conditions such as ME, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) - ME/CFS was a complex, multi-system, chronic medical condition that had considerable personal, social, and economic consequences and a significant impact on a person's quality of life, including their psychological, emotional, and social wellbeing. People

WORK PROGRAMME 2022 - 23

- NHS Dentistry
- Fluoridation in Water
- Provision for people with chronic conditions
- People and Communities Strategic Approach to Engagement 2022-23
- Primary Care Enhanced Access Report
- COVID 19 Update
- Waiting times for Accident & Emergency and Hospital Discharge
- Ambulance Response Times
- Orthopaedic Centre
- GP Services Update
- Services for Adults with Learning Difficulties and Autism
- Mental Health – youth aspect 18+ (transitions and onward provision)
- Derby & Derbyshire Integrated Care Strategy
- Urgent Treatment Centre Review Update Report
- Maternity Services

with ME need a targeted service provision, including health and social care.

The Board asked whether GPs in Derby were trained to identify ME, they learnt that training for GPs had been held previously, and that the network co-ordinator could arrange more training. The Board members suggested that a training and awareness programme could be set up for

GPs for better identification of ME symptoms, to improve initial referrals and to reduce waiting times.

COVID 19 Update October 2022 – The Board heard that local statistics on Covid-19 were now provided by survey data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Cases in England were increasing and that 1 in 65 people now had the virus. There had been an increase in cases in secondary school aged children. The BA.5 variant had been circulating throughout the summer. There were high levels of reinfection for omicron variants of the virus, but significant increases in death rates were not expected.

Ambulance Response Times - Nationally, Ambulance Trusts were struggling to meet performance standards; this was linked to resource availability. Throughout the financial years 21/22 and 22/23 there was an increase in the number of Ambulance crews waiting to hand patients over to Emergency Departments which had increased delays in response times for patients waiting in the community.

EMAS were working with systems to support the development and access to alternative pathways to transporting patients directly to an Emergency Department.

The Board recommended the Council redoubles its efforts to recruit social care staff, working alongside the NHS to find staff for those roles. Also, to invite the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health, and Housing to attend the Board's next meeting to discuss how the Council's social care services can help to improve hospital discharge times.

GP services update - Generally patients were most concerned about their ability to get through to their practice. Patients had problems with getting through on the phone or were concerned about the waiting time for a GP appointment. However, patients did report high levels of

satisfaction with the care they received once they got through. There was some anecdotal evidence that patients were concerned about not being seen face to face, however for the first time Derbyshire practices had shown an increase in face-to-face appointments since before the pandemic.

Nationally best practice was to have a mixture of ways to treat patients – face to face, online, telephone. It was also best practice to have a mix of people seeing patients – not everyone needed to see a GP – more options gave better outcomes and quicker treatment.

Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Strategy – The Board received a report on the Integrated Care Strategy. They heard there were three key areas of focus spanning prevention, early intervention, and service delivery. These three areas were not framed as priorities, as they were not necessarily regarded as being more important than other topics. The areas were chosen by senior responsible owners from across the System as ideal areas to test



Joined Up Care Derbyshire's strategic aims and ambitions for integrated care, in response to population health and care needs. The three key areas of focus were: Start Well, Stay Well, Age /Die Well.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board



Cllr Danielle Lind - Chair



Cllr John Whitby - Vice Chair



Board Members

Cllrs Bonser, Kus, Pandey, Pattison, and T Pearce

THE WORK OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD CONTRIBUTES TO THE COUNCIL'S AMBITIONS TO GIVE PEOPLE IN DERBY AN INSPIRING START IN LIFE, PARTICULARLY BY IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Many children who come into the Council's care or who receive other support services are presenting with complex needs and it is essential that the Council responds with appropriate services in a timely way. The Children & Young People Scrutiny Board has an important role to play in scrutinising children's social care and education provision.

WORK PROGRAMME 2022 - 23

- Outcome of Derby's Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services
- Opportunity for all – Strong Schools with great teachers for your child – Education White Paper and SEND Green Paper
- Development of a Family Hub Model for Derby
- NHS Dentistry Early Years Dental Care
- Neurodevelopment (including Autism) Pathways for children and young People
- Outcome of the SEND Inspection – update
- Accommodation Strategy and Sufficiency
- Home to School Transport
- Off Rolling Update
- Derby City Youth Justice Plan 2022-23
- Care Review
- Minute Extract Audit & Governance
- Discretionary Travel Assistance for eligible students aged 16-19 with SEND
- Attainment and Progress SEND
- Proposals to consider changes to provision of discretionary travel assistance for eligible students aged 16-19 with SEND
- Household Support Fund – Families in need of help
- Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) Quality & Timeliness
- Monitoring Safeguarding Practice
- Derby Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) Children at Risk of Exploitation (CRE) Annual Report

Outcome of the Derby's Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) The background and context of the Inspection outcome were explained. Headline findings from the ILACS Inspection showed there was a significant improvement from the last inspection. Derby City Council were judged to be "Outstanding" in three areas and "Good" in one. It was highlighted that "Derby City had an impressive and committed senior leadership team which ensured that children living in the City received a consistently good and often outstanding response from services". The Board thought the Ofsted Result was a staggering achievement given the financial challenges of the council.

Development of a Family Hub Model for Derby. Family Hubs are an initiative from the DFE to support vulnerable families with children and young people 0-19, (up to 25 for SEND). A bid for funding of £700k plus to deliver the Family Hub Model was submitted in December 2021 but was not successful. However, Derby was identified as one of the 75 councils eligible for Start for Life funding. Work was now ongoing with plans for the wider offer of Family hubs and a model, and how this could be achieved without the £700K funding.

NHS Dentistry Early Years Dental Care - A report was received by the Board. They learnt that dentistry in Derby faced several challenges including deprivation and patient access to services. A strategic review of dental access was planned for 2022/23 and it was hoped to have access to a mapping tool which would help them to identify local areas with specific issues to assist with a more targeted approach to tackle them.

SEND Ofsted Inspection re-visit. The Board considered an update presentation on the Ofsted Inspection re-visit. A five-point written statement of action (WSOA) was approved in December 2019, five areas of weakness were identified: the update highlighted that all areas were judged to have made sufficient progress and the WSOA was removed.

Discretionary travel assistance for eligible students aged 16-19 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Proposals were received by the Board to consider changes to the current scheme of provision. A consultation took place from 30th September 2022 to 12 December 2022. The consultation document was circulated to all key stakeholders and interested parties. A summary of the responses was provided. Parents raised concerns and indicated they did not support the proposed changes, but young people felt that independent travel training and the introduction of Personal Transport Budget would offer some advantages and would support them, and it would promote increased independence for young people in the future. The Board asked for figures on attendance be brought to a further meeting early in 2024 to see if young people were still accessing post-16 education in the same way as they did under the previous scheme.



Communities Scrutiny Review Board



Cllr Hardy Dhindsa - Chair



Cllr Paul Hezelgrave- Vice Chair



Board Members

Cllrs Atwal, Cooper, Pattison,
T Pearce and Prosser

THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD SCRUTINISES STREETPRIDE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING, LEISURE CULTURE AND TOURISM. THE BOARD IS ALSO THE COUNCIL'S STATUTORY CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

The Communities Scrutiny Review Board held four meetings during 2022- 2023. The terms of reference for this board cover the service areas of Community Recovery, Safety and Integration, Highways Maintenance, Leisure & Business Development amongst others.

Bus Partnership and Routes - the Department for Transport announced the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding allocations

WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23

- Bus Partnership and Routes
- Grounds Team Litter Bin Audit Report
- Safer Derby Community Partnership Plan
- Bereavement Services Plan
- Eastern Gateway Update
- Market Hall Update
- Community Managed Libraries Update
- Normanton Library Update
- Transforming Cities Programme
- Communities Recovery from lockdown
- 2021 Census Update – future demands of the city
- Sewage discharge in rivers and streams

in April 2022. Derby was one of 31 successful counties, city regions and unitary authorities. The funding was for three years to the end of 2025. The funding allocations would be confirmed in September 2022. The award was to be allocated to a new statutory

Enhanced Partnership. Decisions on investment must be in line with national guidance and needed the joint agreement of the Council and the bus operators as equal partners.

The October 2021 Council Cabinet report on the draft BSIP highlighted the need for a network review. Council Cabinet accepted Executive Scrutiny's recommendation that a network review should consider the needs of the community, and not just focus on commercial routes. The Board heard that the network review requirements of the BSIP would include consultation with the community. They recommended that Council Cabinet hold a full bus network review as soon as possible so that a better service was provided to Derby's communities, and that the Climate Change Working Group engage with the BSIP.

Eastern Gateway update – Derby City Council were successful in securing Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) to deliver transformational change on the high street, drive economic growth, increase vibrancy, and support the recovery of the city centre. In February 2021, Council Cabinet approved the FHSF programme. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) confirmed the FHSF award of £15m FHSF grant to the Derby Programme and that a Memorandum of Understanding was in place to govern the use of this funding. In October 2021, Council Cabinet approved the addition of the Eastern Gateway project budget of up to £5.097m (£5m grant to the owners of Derbion Centre and £0.097m DCC costs) to the Council's capital programme, to be funded wholly by FHSF, and subject to approval of the grant agreement terms and conditions. The estimated revised total cost of the scheme was £14.295m, resulting in a funding gap because of the cost increases. An additional grant funding amount of £1.639m was sought from the Council to contribute to funding this gap. The Board recommended that no further additional costs to this project be borne by the Council and that the £1.639m grant was spent only when all conditions were met.

Safer Derby Community Safety Partnership Plan update - Reducing disorder, protecting vulnerable people, and working to reduce the risk of serious criminal activity were critical factors to improve Derby residents' lives. The Council's Better Together approach, ensured work was done 'with' Derby's communities and not 'to' communities, and would work alongside the strategy to complement and connect the Council's corporate ambitions. The Safer Derby Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-2025 was a three-year rolling document and identified how the Community Safety Partnership would tackle community safety-related issues for residents, businesses, and visitors. The Board asked for an update on crime baseline data in Derby, and the impact of the partnership, to be brought to a meeting in summer 2023.

Market Hall Update - The first phase of work to transform Derby's historic Market Hall into an attractive retail and leisure destination for the future was now complete. Work would start soon on the second phase, the focus would be on refurbishing the interior and developing the exterior public space at Osnabruck Square which was a key entrance to the Grade II listed building. When the Market Hall re-opened it would include both traditional and themed markets, events, one-off or pop-up uses, make and trade spaces, and small performances – with a greater emphasis on food and drink to attract a wide range of businesses and visitors. Being located at the heart of the city centre and linking Derbion and St Peter's Quarter to the Cathedral Quarter and Becketwell, the Market Hall would play a key role in widening the diversity of the city centre economy. The Board thought it was important for the history of Derby to be highlighted by the Market Hall. They heard that one of the units on the first floor of the Market Hall could be used to showcase the history of Derby. The Board recommended that creative ideas are used to promote the history of Derby throughout the Market Hall.



Corporate Services Scrutiny Review Board



Cllr Joe Naitta - Chair



Cllr Gulfraz Nawaz- Vice Chair



Board Members

Cllrs Cooper, Evans, Pandey,
T Pearce, and Rawson

The Corporate Scrutiny Board remit includes Strategic partnerships, National and Regional profile, International Development, the Derby Plan/Council Plan, Communications & Marketing, and Counter Terrorism/Migration. There were three meetings of the Board during 2022/23; one was cancelled and it was agreed to take the reports to the next meeting.

Our City Our River (OCOR) Project Update - The project was being delivered in phases. Phase 1 – upstream of the Silk Mill had been completed. Phase 2 ‘Munio’ – River Gardens and the Mill Fleam Pump Station on Bass’ Recreation Ground was in delivery. Phase 3 – Derby

WORK PROGRAMME 2022- 2023

- Overview of Digital Enablement and Foundations
- Our City Our River Project
- FMS Upgrade – Implementation Update
- Culture – bid for City of Culture and benefits of partnership working and sponsorship
- Counter Terrorism Priorities
- Partnerships
- Insight Led

Riverside was due to be delivered by 2026. Phase 4 – downstream from the city centre (Chaddesden and Alvaston) was not funded yet.

The key funders were flood defence, a grant in aid from the Environment Agency, growth funding from Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), European funding (ERDF) and Local Growth Funding from D2N2 LEP. The total funding to date was approximately £80m.

The Board asked how many trees would be planted to replace those removed. It was confirmed that it would be approximately the same number as those removed but possibly more, the target was at least 1,000 trees. They were also concerned that work would push flooding problems into the areas where work had not yet started. They heard that works were delivered without a negative impact on other areas. The Our City Our River projects were designed to mitigate issues from the River Derwent rather than surface water.

Overview of Digital Enablement and Foundations - There were two programmes, digital foundations programme and digital enablement programme. There were two strands:

- The digital enablers programme which included financial management system, adults social care reform – charging, revenues and benefits digitisation, smart city service leverage, collaborative solutions and digital by default.
- The digital foundations programme which included, the digital customer, digital community, core infrastructure and cyber defence, service excellence and automation, digital workforce phase 2 and smart cities.

It was a 5-year rolling programme of investment through the capital programme. The costs rose and fell at various times throughout the programme but would be around £3m at the peaks and £1m in the intervening periods. Digital enablement was costed on a programme-by-programme basis, with individual business cases funded differently.

Counter Terrorism Priorities Overview – The Prevent Programme worked with schools to identify individuals who might be at risk of radicalisation, and they worked with those individuals and provided access to inclusion qualifications. The aim was to encourage those individuals to change their behaviour. The counter terrorism local priorities for 2023 were described, they included Al Qaeda / ISIS inspired terrorism, extreme right-wing terrorism, on-line extremism and self-initiated terrorists.

The Bid for UK City of Culture, Strengthening the Cultural Sector Update - this was an update on the outcomes from the process of bidding for UK City of Culture, and how this was supporting regeneration

and placemaking priorities in Derby. The bid was city wide and not just Derby City Council and the judging panel had felt this was positive.

Challenges facing the creative and cultural sector were a lack of space for production and presentation. Creatives were leaving Derby which meant there was no associated economic activity.



Work to strengthen the culture sector was ongoing. A key priority was to establish Culture Derby as a new partnership for the city to create new opportunity and resources for the creative and

cultural sectors. Cultural spending was being reviewed and there was creative support to enable growth.

Vibrancy projects for the city centre were developed to create temporary and pop-up artworks to bring colour and new points of interest. They would signify change and ambition, helping to shape identity, placemaking and pride, with greater inclusivity and diversity.

The priority activity included street art installations, pop up performances, cultural takeovers and residencies and creative wayfinding connecting the city.

Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Review Board



Cllr Nicola Roulstone - Chair



Cllr James Testro - Vice Chair



Board Members

Cllrs Pandey, M Holmes, West, S Khan, and Lindsay

THIS BOARD COVERS SERVICE AREAS WITHIN THE PORTFOLIOS OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, DECARBONISATION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT AND THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS, HEALTH, AND HOUSING

The remit of the Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Board includes Regeneration and Major Projects and Strategic Housing amongst other service areas. There were four meetings of the Board during 2022 to 2023.

Empty Homes Update - The current situation about the number of long-term empty homes in Derby was highlighted. The strategy 2021 –

WORK PROGRAMME 2022 – 23

- High Rise Residential Building Safety in the City
- Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs)
- Empty Homes Update
- Becketwell Update
- Decarbonisation
- Update on new one- way traffic scheme in Corporation Street
- Forest of the Future
- South Derby Growth Zone - Update on proposed new A50 Junction and Link Road
- Home Energy Improvements funded by Derby City Council for homes
- Marketing Derby Update
- City Centre Vision and Regeneration of High Street- update
- Connect Derby with iHub
- Private Sector Housing Strategy and HMOs

2026 adopted by Derby City was detailed. The various schemes in operation were explained: bringing empty homes into use by voluntary assistance and enforcement action, increasing the affordable housing supply by buying empty homes, or leasing via a housing provider, and tackling Climate Change by improving thermal efficiency of housing, energy level C being the minimum requirement for landlords. The service delivery including current caseload and enforcement work of the team was outlined. The Board heard that 82 properties had been brought into use overall, five of the properties had been bought by the Council for affordable housing. The income generated by the team was highlighted: £8,000 additional council tax, a £104,000 new home bonus and £27,000

of debt had been collected, and £200,000 Empty Homes Loans had been approved.

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) – Small houses in multiple occupation do not need to be licensed by the local authority but larger HMOs do. There are currently 558 large HMOs in Derby City; the exact number of smaller HMOs was not known as they are unlicensed. The total number of large and small HMOs in Derby is approximately 658.

The Board heard that full Council in September 2022 resolved that the potential introduction of an Article 4 directive, under the town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 should be investigated. Article 4 ensured smaller HMOs must seek planning permission.

SmartParc Derby - The importance of bringing a new type of employer and industry to Derby was highlighted. A key part of Derby's strategy was to diversify the local and regional economy and generate growth in jobs. Another aim was to make the city as green as it could be given the challenges of the Climate Agenda. The project demonstrated strong partnership working between the public and private sector. It was built in the style of a campus hub with flexible spaces ranging from starter units to manufacturing units. It was planned to home a "Food Manufacturing Technology Centre of Excellence" offering education and career opportunities to both local and global food supply chains. The Board considered that SmartParc was one of the legacy projects of Derby and was a real benefit to the city.

City Centre Vision - The approach to the development of a vision for the city centre was described. The aim was to create a holistic framework with a strong direction for how the city would look and feel over the long-term. The pandemic had accelerated many trends that were changing the high-street, such as increasing on-line shopping. There was a need to

work collaboratively in the short/medium and long term, and not just focus on individual projects around buildings. Derby City Council had created an Ambition document, published in the summer of 2022, which set out a series of key themes. Amongst the subjects discussed were housing and city living, climate change, culture, connectivity, greening, University, office space, the inner ring road, heritage and conservation and the river.

The Board were concerned that funding was available, as the Council was



restricted financially. They learnt that several projects already had committed funding and that there would be future

opportunities from central government. They recognised the importance of demonstrating that Derby has a strong ambitious vision, with development planned in the short to medium term. This would build confidence in the city and bring external investment. The Council was committed to projects but restrained in the availability of its funding to support.