

Time Commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.59pm

Communities Scrutiny Review Board 21 November 2022

Present: Councillor Dhindsa (Chair)
Councillors Pattison, Hezelgrave and Prosser

In Attendance: Councillor Eyre
Samantha Dennis – Director of Public Protection and Streetpride
Charles Edwards – Head of Service for Community Safety and Locality Working
Mark Elliott – Library Services Manager
Jennie Preedy – Manager: Service Delivery, Communities and Engagement
Verna Bayliss – Director of Planning, Transportation & Engineering
Nigel Brien – Head of Traffic & Transportation

17/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received for Councillor T Pearce and Councillor Cooper.

18/22 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

19/22 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

20/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

21/22 Community Managed Libraries - Update

The Board received a report on Community Managed Libraries. This was presented by the Head of Service for Community Safety.

It was reported that public libraries played a central role in their communities; as community spaces, offering a range of different services, access to advice, and connecting local people with other important activities.

It was noted that this was important in a post-COVID setting, with growing importance on local opportunities to connect with others and for access to advice and support services.

The Board noted that library services should co-design and co-create their services with the active support, engagement, and participation of their communities, so services were accessible and available to all who needed them in the context of available resources. It was noted that the current CML provision contributed to these aims but it was recognised that they were in addition to the statutory library provision.

It was reported that during the review of CMLs, financial analysis of each asset was conducted and forecast costs for DCC to operate were analysed. Cost ranges from lowest forecast to highest forecast for the 10 assets were;

Estimated cost range per visit:	£8.46 - £237.02
Estimated cost range per resource accessed:	£9.41 – £102.99
Estimated cost range per ward population:	£1.14 - £5.26

The total annual cost for DCC to operate and maintain access and operations from the 10 CML provisions was forecast to be £562,000, which would result in a revenue pressure of £442,000.

It was noted that during the review financial analysis of each asset was conducted and forecast costs for DHA to operate were analysed. Cost ranges from lowest forecast to highest forecast for the 10 assets were;

Estimated cost range per visit:	£5.33 - £149.49
Estimated cost range per resource accessed:	£5.93 – £64.95
Estimated cost range per ward population:	£0.72 - £3.32

The total annual cost for DHA to operate and maintain access and operations from the 10 CML provisions was forecast to be £314,352, which would result in a revenue pressure of £194,352.

The Board noted that the financial implications of closing the CMLs had not been calculated but it would likely result in a saving in the longer term and potentially a capital receipt if the buildings were sold.

It was reported that in July 2022, Council Cabinet accepted notice from DHA to withdraw from the CML arrangements, ceding its CML operations back to the Council with effect from 30 November 2022. DHA felt they were unable to continue a month-by-month grant agreement. As set out in the July 2022 Report, it was envisaged that by 30 November 2022 the Council would have had sufficient time to understand the outcome of the review of community library provision and would be in a position to bring forward a proposal for library provision going forward; unfortunately, this had not been possible and therefore an interim arrangement was required.

It was reported that officers had approached DHA to request that the arrangement reached in July 2022 be extended, that the ceding of the CML operations to the Council be suspended and that DHA continued to operate the CMLs between December 2022 and March 2023. Subject to future proposals for the CMLs brought forward by the Council, DHA had agreed that the date on which DHA would cede the CML operations back to the Council would now be 31 March 2023 and that in the interim DHA would continue to operate the CMLs on the basis agreed in July 2022.

It was noted that this proposed arrangement with DHA was outside the grant agreement established with DHA in 2018. In funding DHA for the period December 2022 to March 2023, the Council would be providing funding to DHA to ensure the CML provision remained functional pending the development of a future proposal for library provision, the finalisation of the budget process for 2023/24 and to allow the CML buildings to form a part of the Council's response to the energy and cost of living crisis.

A councillor asked whether libraries in Derby were being used as warm hubs. The Board noted that the Council were working with DHA on this, and that the Council were mapping other assets to determine where warm hubs were needed in the city. It was noted that warm hubs were offering advice to residents and that the Council were keen for communities to play a role in supporting warm hubs.

A councillor asked why DHA had announced in July that they would like to end this arrangement but had now changed their mind. It was noted that the Council would now be providing DHA with a slightly higher amount of funding until March 2023 and that DHA felt that they could work with the new level of funding. It was noted that the new funding amounted to £26,196 per month. The Head of Service for Community Safety and Locality Working agreed to provide the Board with the previous funding figure.

The Board Resolved:

- 1. to note the information provided in the report.**
- 2. to recommend that the Council does all it can to continue to provide Community Managed Libraries.**
- 3. to recommend that, as part of the review into Community Managed Libraries, the Council acknowledges the value that libraries provide to their communities, including school aged children.**

22/22 Normanton library update

The Board received a report on Normanton library. This was presented by the Library Services Manager and the Manager for Service Delivery, Communities and Engagement.

It was reported that Pear Tree Library closed in April 2018 at a time when there was much talk in the national media about library closures. The library (renamed Normanton) reopened on a new site in November 2019. It was noted that a pandemic lockdown was declared on the 23rd March 2020 which greatly impacted on the community and therefore the library. The library only fully reopened on 29th July 2021. The library team realised that many in the community were not aware of the new library and its changed location

It was noted that since reopening, a lot of work had been done to raise awareness of the library in the community. The Board noted that the library team was small with 4 part time staff supporting a Library Manager. With limited resources, the library team had tried to maximise their impact by working with / through partner organisations. It was reported that the library team also encouraged cultural organisations in the city that wanted to improve the cultural offer in Normanton to use the library. It was reported that one organisation / network that had helped the library team to reach into the Normanton community was the Normanton Community Information Network. The network brought the library team into contact with a host of organisations working in Normanton.

It was noted that the library team were piloting a number of additional activities at Normanton to see if there was interest, including:

- Seed exchange / gardening club (cost of living, wellbeing, reading)
- Working with a charity to provide free data (getting people online)
- Warm library / Radio Derby blanket collection point
- Coffee morning extended with themed sessions and activities (wellbeing)
- Author and poetry events (literacy / creativity / cultural)
- Weekly yoga and mindfulness sessions (wellbeing)
- Livewell are providing keep fit classes (wellbeing)
- NHS clinicians using library rooms to meet clients (wellbeing)
- Menopause support sessions are going to be offered (wellbeing)

It was noted that Normanton benefited from a small hall and meeting room and that the library team were continuing to explore how this space could be used to enhance the cultural offer in the area. It was reported that Derby Theatre intended to use this hall as a base for their outreach work. Derby Libraries had also hosted a popular performance for children called Roti Moon which was produced by Fishhouse Productions. It was noted that this performance was heavily subsidised by the Arts Council.

The Board noted that following the sale of the Council's interest in Pear Tree Library, extensive repairs and renovation works were undertaken by the new owner to bring it back into use and the building opened as a modern shopping plaza in July 2021. The landlord aimed to attract new businesses with retail space to start or to expand their businesses. It was reported that tenants were given flexible terms, flexible space from which they could explore new ventures and pursue business opportunities.

There was a wide selection of independent retailers with a strong fashion mix and food, and all 10 units were let, occupied and trading. It was noted that several of the innovative businesses were owned by aspiring entrepreneurs in their mid-20s, including one person that had just completed university education.

It was reported that in addition to the shopping plaza, the new owner allowed the large community space on the first floor to be used by local community groups. It was considered that the re-use / refurbishment of the building was beneficial to the local community due to the encouragement it offered to new businesses and the subsequent employment it provided.

Councillors asked for more information on the costs of refurbishing the Pear Tree Library building to be provided.

A councillor asked how residents were referred for family learning. It was noted that colleagues at the Council referred residents who they believed would benefit from this support. It was noted that family learning was voluntary, but that there was structure to it and that parents could gain qualifications through it.

A councillor asked whether there had been any feedback from schools on the impact of family learning. It was noted that anecdotal evidence suggested that family learning was having a positive impact on children in Normanton.

The Board resolved:

- 1. to acknowledge that the performance of Normanton Library post lockdown is improving in line with service take-up at other statutory lending sites.**
- 2. to request that an update on footfall figures for Derby's libraries is brought to a future Board meeting.**

23/22 Safer Derby Community Safety Partnership Plan

The Board received a report on the Safer Derby Community Safety Partnership Plan. This was presented by the Head of Service for Community Safety and Locality Working and the Director of Public Protection and Streetpride.

The report stated that reducing disorder, protecting vulnerable people, and working proactively to reduce the risk of serious criminal activity were critical factors in improving the lives of Derby residents. It was noted that the Council's Better Together approach, ensuring work was done 'with' Derby's communities and not 'to' communities, would work alongside this strategy to complement and connect the Council's corporate ambitions.

It was reported that the Safer Derby Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-2025 would become a three-year rolling document, that would identify how the Community Safety Partnership would work to tackle community safety-related issues that matter to residents, businesses, and visitors. It was noted that the plan would be revised annually by reviewing information set out in the community safety strategic intelligence assessment.

It was reported that the overarching aim of the Derby City Community Safety Partnership was to:

1. Work in partnership to address local crime and disorder priorities
2. Improve safety in the city for people who live in, work in, and visit Derby
3. Identify key local crime and disorder priorities through assessments and consultation
4. Monitor and evaluate these strategies

It was noted that the delivery of this strategic plan was accountable to the Safer Derby Board which provided governance and oversight of the issues affecting Derby residents. Several thematic boards reporting to the Safer Derby Board provided focus and alignment to agreed priorities that had been identified by the strategic intelligence assessment.

It was reported that each board was represented by statutory and non-statutory partners as well as the community and voluntary sector. The Board noted that the board structure encouraged the national public health approach to be adopted to improve services: identifying, focusing, and investing in the most efficient and effective local service. The delivery of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) took a whole system approach and recognised the influence of place-based risk on residents.

It was noted that to support the place-based risk approach and facilitate Team Derby working better together, multi-agency hubs had been developed in the heart of the City;

- Public Protection Hub - Council House
- Enforcement Hub - Riverside Chambers
- Community Action Derby Hub - Shot Tower

It was reported that the Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) was an annual evidence base compiled and analysed to inform the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The SIA aided understanding of emerging trends and patterns in crime and disorder and was used to explore future threats and opportunities.

It was noted that the most recent SIA highlighted several priorities that could be identified under 5 key themes;

- Integration and Community Cohesion
- Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls
- Serious Violence and Serious Youth Violence
- Organised Crime

The Board noted that the plan would document how the partnership intended to respond to each theme by highlighting;

- It Matters Because – Taking data from the SIA, the plan will evidence why it is a priority for the partnership.
- We Hope Together We Can – ensuring that the plan aligns with ambitions to improve outcomes for the City
- Together We Will – commitments that will form the basis of the partnership action plan.

A councillor commented that graffiti was not always anti-social behaviour and suggested that the plan should be amended to remove the picture of graffiti. The Head of Service for Community Safety and Locality Working agreed to make this amendment. A councillor commented that the plan should include a foreword from the police. The Head of Service for Community Safety and Locality Working noted this suggestion.

A councillor commented that cyber crime and cyber enabled crime were not covered by this plan. The Director of Public Protection and Streetpride informed the Board that the Director of Digital and Customer Services was chairing a new group which had been formed to focus on cybercrime outside of this plan. The Director of Public Protection and Streetpride informed the Board that they would take these comments on Board and would work to ensure that the Safer Derby Board and the cybercrime group linked up to tackle cybercrime.

A councillor asked for the Board to be provided with an update next year on crime baseline data in Derby to determine whether this plan was having a positive impact. The Director of Public Protection and Streetpride agreed to bring an update to the Board in Summer 2023.

A councillor asked how the Safer Derby Board planned to capture the impact of this plan. It was noted that the Safer Derby Board now had a risk register and monitored performance using a series of actions which would be continually refreshed.

A councillor commented that vulnerability was not covered by this plan. The Director of Public Protection and Streetpride informed the board that the plan reflected the strategic intelligence assessment and that they would discuss these concerns with the Head of Service for Community Safety and Locality Working.

The Board resolved:

- 1. to note the information provided in the report.**
- 2. To request that an update on crime baseline data in Derby and the impact of the partnership is brought to a meeting in summer 2023.**

24/22 Transforming Cities Programme

The Board received a presentation on the Transforming Cities Programme. This was presented by the Director of Planning, Transportation & Engineering and the Head of Traffic and Transportation.

It was noted that the first phase of the Transforming Cities Fund had seen £8m shared between Derby and Nottingham to kick-start transport projects including:

- The start of a major upgrade to the real-time information system at bus stops across both cities
- An upgrade to the software in the signals (traffic lights) at key junctions, making them 'bus priority' – so if a bus is running late the signals will prioritise this over other traffic to help them get back on track.
- Improved cycle paths to key employment sites including along Chequers Road in Derby

It was reported that Derby and Nottingham then received £161m as the second major phase of the Government's 'Transforming Cities' Fund, aimed at improving connections between major employment sites and promoting active travel and public transport.

The Board noted that the Strategic Outline Business Case was co-produced with the Department of Transport and covered the following areas:

Connectivity

- Improving the area around both stations to create a more welcoming gateway that connects with the city centre, public transport, active travel links
- Improving real time information, signal and bus lane priority for public transport across the region and cashless ticketing
- Expanding the rapid electric charge point network
- Upgrading parts of the cycle links between the two cities and providing an e-bike scheme in both cities

Derby growth corridors

- Smart Park & Ride Hub – Development of suitable site with improved facilities such as cycling and public transport links, upgraded RTI and waiting and electric charging facilities
- Mass Transit Link – establish a dedicated mass transit link
- Demand Responsive Transport service – supplementary DRT to link employment centres
- Priority corridor for public transport – upgrading junctions, infrastructure and RTI at key junctions to improve bus reliability on major routes.

- Cycle lane improvements along key routes to employment sites, including dedicated cycle lanes
- Workplace Travel Service – continued funding to enable SMEs to make improvements, which encourage staff to make sustainable travel choices

The Board noted that the two City Councils were also successful in securing Future Transport Zone funding, which had included partnering with Wind Mobility to provide electric scooters, also known as e-scooters. It was reported that these were an authorized Government trial and in Derby these were available for long-term hire to key workers.

A councillor questioned how the proposed combined authority would affect the governance of this programme. It was noted that the funding for this programme was due to end in 2023 before the proposed combined authority came into effect. It was also noted that in previous similar Government funding initiatives, Combined Authorities were allocated funding rather than having to go into a competitive bidding process.

A councillor suggested that the Council should look to introduce hydrogen busses to the city. It was noted that projects involving hydrogen vehicles would be discussed within the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership. It was noted that a form of shuttle bus linking Pride Park, Derby train station, Derby bus station and the city centre was being investigated but there were challenges because of the current public transport market and the lack of revenue funding associated with this programme.

The Board noted that a project was being explored in the Darley ward of the city to establish a 'mobility hub'. This could potentially integrate access to public transport and active travel options such as e-scooters and e-bikes, as well as linking with possible car sharing schemes and the use of new technology through Mobility as a Service or MaaS Apps. It was hoped that in this area of the city it could give different options for residents and reduce the number of additional personal vehicles per household.

The Board resolved to note the information provided in the report and presentation.

25/22 Work Programme 2022/23

The Board considered a report setting out the Terms of Reference and Remit of the Board.

The report provided Members of the Board with the opportunity to consider its terms of reference and remit for the forthcoming municipal year, its work programme for 2022/23 and any topic reviews.

The Board resolved to note the information provided within the report.

Minutes End.