

Time Commenced – 6.00pm  
Time finished – 8.23pm

**Communities Scrutiny Review Board**  
**23 January 2023**

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

In Attendance: Councillor Naitta  
Heather Greenan – Director of Policy, Insight & Communications  
Bernard Fenton – Head of Customer Service  
Kim Harper – Community Action Derby Chief Executive Officer  
Natalie Tuckwell – Corporate Insight Manager  
Emma Sharp - Area Operations Business Lead (Waste Water) at  
Severn Trent  
Gareth Mead - Network Protection & River Ranger Lead at Severn  
Trent  
Chris Giles - Head of Wastewater Recycling at Severn Trent

**26/22 Apologies for Absence**

There were none.

**27/22 Late items introduced by the Chair**

There were none.

**28/22 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**29/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

**30/22 Sewage discharge in rivers and streams**

The Board received a presentation from Severn Trent on Sewage discharge in rivers and streams in Derby.

It was noted that Under the Water Industry Act, Severn Trent provided, maintained, improved and extend a system of public sewers for the collection of;

- Domestic wastewater

- Surface water runoff from roofs
- Industrial & commercial effluent
- Highway drainage by agreement

It was reported that this was a qualified duty, not an absolute duty, as there was a requirement to prioritise resources to the areas most needed. It was noted that the Water Act also provided a right to connect, meaning anyone could have their drains and sewers connected to a public sewer. The Board noted that Severn Trent were not a statutory consultee in the planning process.

It was reported that Severn Trent looked after the large public sewers serving communities and businesses and that in 2011 their sewer network increased by approx. 37,000km following the Water Industry Scheme of Adoption of Private Sewers Regulations 2011 (PDaS). It was noted that this meant that Severn Trent were now responsible for all laterals and drains outside customer property boundaries. However, it was noted that homeowners were still responsible for maintaining their private drains.

It was noted that the Government's Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan published in August 2022 aligned with Severn Trent's Get River Positive commitments published in March 2022. It was reported that these commitments were underpinned by five key pledges that paved the way for the restoration and revitalisation of the region's rivers. It was reported that these five commitments were:

- 1.Ensure storm overflows and sewage treatment works do not harm rivers
- 2.Create more opportunities for everyone to enjoy our region's rivers
- 3.Support others to improve and care for rivers
- 4.Enhance our rivers and create new habitats so wildlife can thrive
- 5.Be open and transparent about our performance and our plans

The Board noted that 27% of Reasons for Not Achieving Good Status (RNAGs) were attributable to the water industry. It was reported that Severn Trent were working to reduce this and were supporting others to reduce their shares too. It was noted that Severn Trent aimed to reduce RNAGs to 700 by 2025 and to 0 by 2030.

Councillors asked whether Severn Trent were a statutory consultee in the planning process. It was noted that Severn Trent were not a statutory consultee and that developers could connect into their combined system. The Board agreed that the Planning Control Committee should add Severn Trent as one of the consultees for the planning process in Derby.

The Board agreed that the Neighbourhoods Team and Severn Trent should liaise on litter picks and on educating residents on how to avoid contributing to sewage overflows.

The Board agreed that the Cabinet Member for Community Development, Place and Tourism should write to the government, encouraging them to adopt Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act.

**The Board Resolved:**

- 1. to note the information provided in the presentation.**
- 2. To recommend that the Neighbourhoods Team and Severn Trent should liaise on litter picks and on educating residents on how to avoid contributing to sewage overflows.**
- 3. To recommend that Planning should add Severn Trent as one of the consultees for the planning process in Derby.**
- 4. to recommend that the Council should write to the government, encouraging them to adopt Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act.**

### **31/22 Hardship in the City. How have communities recovered from lockdown**

The Board received a presentation on Hardship in the City. This was presented by the Director of Policy, Insight & Communications, the Head of Customer Service and the Community Action Derby Chief Executive Officer.

It was reported that a partnership approach was being taken to developing a Cost of Living strategy, based on insight and collaboration. It was noted that a range of support was on offer, including:

- Cost of living offer
- Community Hub
- Food 4 Thought
- Good Neighbours
- HAF and HSF

It was reported that the Council had received £2,224,711 in HSF3 funding and that £1,096,000 had been spent on free school meals support, £588,000 had been spent on online claim form support and £502,074 had been spent on Community network support. It was reported that £35,000 had also been spent on administration costs. It was reported that the Council expected to receive a credit of £144k in Jan 2023 for expired vouchers and that previously these had been re-issued to schools.

It was reported that 100 free school meal voucher codes had been sent to schools and that the number of voucher codes was based on schools' requirements. It was reported that schools then distributed these codes to pupils/families and that codes were for £20 per pupil per week.

It was reported that for online claim forms the average days from application to award was 3.7 days. It was noted that families with children

had received 56% of awards paid covering 5,365 children. It was noted that 79% of these were single parent families. It was reported that 13% of claims had failed checks – 695 claims. It was noted that the scheme was forecast to close at the end of February 2023.

It was reported that 51 organisations across the city had signed up to the Community Network. It was reported that funding of £200k has been allocated to these organisations. It was reported that a second tranche of organisations would be added in January 2023 and that another £80k funding would also be added. It was noted that a new Energy Support Form had been launched for use by this network and that 309 referrals had been made in 9 days amounting to £15.5k.

The Board agreed that the Council should write to the government, encouraging them to increase the level of Household Support Fund being provided to the Council in order to meet the increasing needs of Derby's residents.

The Board thanked Community Action Derby for their work in distributing this funding.

**The Board resolved:**

- 1. to note the information provided in the presentation.**
- 2. To recommend that the Council should write to the government, encouraging them to increase the level of Household Support Fund being provided to the Council in order to meet the increasing needs of Derby's residents.**

## **32/22 2021 Census update – future demands on the city**

The Board received a presentation on 2021 Census update – future demands on the city. This was presented by the Director of Policy, Insight & Communications and the Corporate Insight Manager.

It was reported that Derby's population size had increased by 5.1% to 261,400, compared to the 2011 census. It was noted that this was lower than the overall increase for England (6.6%) and the East Midlands (7.7%).

It was noted that in Derby 16.4% were aged 65 years old and over (England, 18.4%), 20.0% aged 15 years and under (England, 18.6%) and 63.7% aged 16-64 years old (England, 63%).

It was reported that 33,054 (31.3%) of households in Derby were single person, and that this was higher than national and regional average. This figure had increased from 2011 (30.9%). An increase of almost 1,500 households. It was reported that 33,738 were two people households (31.9%), lower than national and regional averages and a slight decrease from 2011 (32.9%). It was noted that households with 5 or more people

(8.6%) had also increased by almost 1,000 compared to 2011, it was higher than national and regional average.

It was noted that 66.2% of Derby residents identified their ethnic group as White British, compared with 79.6% in the region and 73.5% in England. A decrease from 75.3% in 2011 census in Derby. It was reported that there was an increase in the Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh ethnic group to 15.6%. East Midlands increased to 8% and England to 9.6%.

It was noted that in Derby, the percentage of people who did not identify with at least one UK national identity increased from 8.1% to 11.9% in 2021.

It was reported that 87.1% of Derby residents spoke English as their main language (East Midlands, 91.7% and England 90.8%). It was noted that most of the other main languages with higher rates in the city were of Asian or European origin, including:

- Panjabi 5,528 (2.2%)
- Polish 4,071 (1.6%)
- Urdu 4,050 (1.6%)
- Slovak 2,285 (0.9%)
- Romanian 1,784 (0.7%)
- Kurdish 1,275 (0.5%)

It was reported that 36.6% of respondents reported having 'no religion' increasing from 27.6% in 2011. This was the largest increase of all broad religious groups. It was noted that 40.2% described themselves as Christian (down from 52.7%). Below the regional (45.4%) and national (46.3%) comparators. It was also noted that 11.1% described themselves as Muslim (increase from 7.6%). Significantly higher than the regional (4.3%) and national (6.7%) comparators.

**The Board resolved:**

- 1. to note the information provided in the presentation.**
- 2. to request that a further update is brought to the Board once further data has been made available.**

## **33/22 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.