

Time Commenced - 5.00pm  
Time Finished – 7.00pm

## **Executive Scrutiny Board**

**8 September 2020**

Present: Councillor Repton (Chair)  
Councillors Care, Evans, Hudson, Hussain, Pattison,  
P Pegg, Testro, Willoughby

In attendance: Emily Feenan – Director of Legal, Procurement and  
Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer  
Iain Fullagar – Head of Strategic Housing  
James Joyce – Social Housing Options Manager  
Kirsty McMillan – Director of Integration and Direct Services  
(Adults)  
Steven Mason – Democratic Services Officer  
Matt Palmer – Head of Housing Options and Homelessness  
Simon Riley – Director of Financial Services  
Councillor Roulstone – Cabinet Member for Finance and  
Procurement  
Andy Smith – Strategic Director for People Services

### **15/20 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Cooper

### **16/20 Late Items**

There were none.

### **17/20 Declarations of Interest**

There were none

### **18/20 Minutes of the meetings held on 4 August 2020**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 August were agreed as a correct record.

### **19/20 Forward Plan**

The Board considered the contents of the Forward Plans published on 11 August 2020 and 8 September 2020.

No items were added to the future work programme.

**Resolved to note the Forward Plans.**

## 20/20 Executive Scrutiny Board Performance Plan 2020-21

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive on Executive Scrutiny Board Performance Plan 2020-21.

It was reported that the Executive Scrutiny Board had ownership for monitoring corporate performance and that to support the delivery of improved outcomes, the Board approves an annual performance plan of items for consideration.

It was also reported that further to discussions with the Chair, it had been recommended that the Executive Scrutiny Board defer agreement of a Performance Plan for 2020-21 until the Council Recovery Plan had been agreed by Council Cabinet. Members noted that this was to ensure that topics for Overview and Scrutiny reflected revised corporate priorities, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was reported that discussions had been held between the Chair of the Executive Scrutiny Board and the Chairs of Scrutiny Review Boards at a meeting on 19 August 2020 and that a broad consensus existed as to the public interest in scrutinising the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to adopt a structured approach that did not place unreasonable demands on frontline resources, in what remained a rapidly changing situation.

Members noted that the report intended to formalise those discussions and to establish a framework within which the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic could be appropriately scrutinised.

### **Resolved:**

- 1. to note that an Executive Scrutiny Performance Plan for 2020-21 will be determined at a later date, once the Council's Recovery Plan has been formally agreed; and**
- 2. to request that Scrutiny Review Boards:**
  - a) consider the Council's response to Covid-19, in relation to their respective terms of reference, for incorporation within their individual work programmes; and**
  - b) provide recommendations to the Executive Scrutiny Board by the conclusion of the 2020-21 municipal year, for consolidation and submission to Council Cabinet or other committees of the Council as appropriate.**

## 21/20 Council Cabinet Responses to Scrutiny Recommendations

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director or Corporate Resources which allowed the Scrutiny Board to receive responses from Council Cabinet on recommendations made at the previous Board meeting held on 4 August 2020.

**The Board resolved to note the report.**

## **22/20 Council Cabinet Agenda**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources on the Council Cabinet Agenda. Members considered the Council Cabinet Agenda in its entirety for the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 9 September 2020.

### **Key Decisions**

#### **Adult Social Care “Your Life Your Choice” Strategy**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director for People Services on Adult Social Care “Your Life Your Choice” Strategy.

It was reported that in October 2019, Cabinet agreed to engage in consultation to update the Adult Social Care “Your Life Your Choice” Strategy. It was also reported that the previous strategy was approved by Cabinet following a period of consultation and engagement, in April 2015.

Members noted that following consultation and an analysis of the feedback, a revised strategy for 2020 - 2025 had been produced to describe the key areas of focus for the Adult Social Care service in Derby over the coming years. It was also noted that if adopted, the strategy would be launched and communicated widely so that care providers, families, individuals and partners could understand how the Council would support them.

It was reported that the consultation around the draft strategy was conducted before the start of the coronavirus pandemic and therefore did not focus on the areas that the Council would need to consider in relation to supporting individuals, families and care providers during the ongoing pandemic, and also in the recovery phase. It was also reported that the strategy objectives were focused on areas that would remain important for individuals into the future notwithstanding the impact of the pandemic and that the specific actions for Adult Social Care that arose from the pandemic would be considered as part of the overall Council and NHS response to restoration and recovery.

It was noted that Council Cabinet would be asked to consider the consultation findings and approve the revised Your Life Your Choice Strategy for Adult Social Care in Derby.

#### **The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:**

- 1. to recommend to Council Cabinet that references to use of technology in the last bullet point on page 10 specifically includes the use of assistant communication devices for which early research is indicating that it can reduce loneliness for some older people; and**

2. **to agree that a further paper on Adult Social Care “Your Life Your Choice” Strategy be provided to the Adults and Health Scrutiny Review Board on the proposed plans for the delivery of this vision.**

### **Allocations Policy 2020 – 2025**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director for Communities and Place on Allocations Policy 2020-2025.

It was reported that each local authority was required to have an allocations scheme for determining priorities for the allocation of social housing. It was also reported that the existing Allocations Policy, approved in March 2013, required formally updating to reflect subsequent legislative changes and to respond to local authorities current and emerging strategic priorities.

Members noted that Council Cabinet would be asked to approve the draft Allocations Policy 2020-2025.

#### **The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:**

1. **to recommend to Council Cabinet that young people who were living in Derby under the care of another local authority should be given priority in terms of having a local connection as they leave care;**
2. **to recommend to Council Cabinet that the policy clarifies the difference between someone sharing facilities within a recognised house in multiple occupation and someone staying with friends on an ad hoc basis when assessing them for a priority need band; and**
3. **to recommend to Council Cabinet that the policy clarifies whether Age is or is not a fairness factor.**

### **Compulsory Purchase of Empty Homes**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director for Communities and Place on Compulsory acquisition of empty homes.

It was noted that the report sought Council Cabinet approval to initiate compulsory purchase proceedings in relation to 5 long-term vacant properties and 1 uncompleted new-build, where the owners had not sufficiently demonstrated that they would be occupied in the near future.

It was reported that the Council's Empty Homes Strategy aimed to facilitate the renovation and re-occupation of vacant dwellings; thereby contributing towards meeting local housing demand and that the actions would also help tackle any anti-social and environmental nuisance that neglected properties could present. It was also reported that the re-use of these homes would contribute towards the Council's New Homes Bonus income under the Government's current rules.

Members noted that where owners could not be traced or were unwilling/unable to bring the property into use, there was a compelling case in the public interest for the Council to take enforcement action to achieve the aims of the strategy.

**The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:**

- 1. note the report; and**
- 2. to agree that the empty homes team be thanked for the work that they are doing, and to expand this activity if possible.**

**Budget and Policy Framework**

**2020/21 Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring for General Fund, Capital Budgets, Dedicated Schools Grant, Collection Fund and Housing Revenue Account and Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Plan Update**

The Board received a report of the Director of Financial Services on 2020/21 Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring for General Fund, Capital Budgets, Dedicated Schools Grant, Collection Fund and Housing Revenue Account and Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Plan Update.

It was reported that Council Cabinet would be asked to note the following:

- a) The revenue projected outturn and key budget variances set out in the report in section 4.2 and the savings to be delivered in the year in section 4.3
- b) The current forecast Covid Pressures as set out in appendix 2
- c) The capital programme forecast, and actual capital expenditure incurred during the quarter summarised in section 4.4
- d) The changes already approved under scheme of delegation to the capital programme detailed in Appendix 3
- e) The Council's reserves position, as set out in section 4.5 and Appendix 1
- f) The Council's treasury position and performance in the quarter, as set out in section 4.6
- g) The forecast Dedicated Schools Grant position summarised in section 4.7
- h) The Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Performance as set out in section 4.8
- i) The Housing Revenue Account Performance and projected outturn as set out in section 4.9
- j) The latest MTFS and Plan outlined in section 4.10.

Members noted that Council Cabinet approval would be sought for the following:

- a) To approve changes to the 2020/21 - 2022/23 capital programme outlined in section 4.4 and detailed in Appendix 4.
- b) To approve the creation of a revenue reserve for £2m for the City Growth fund and that delegated approval is given to the Director of Finance to utilise this reserve in line with its intended use as appropriate.

**The Executive Scrutiny Board recommend to Council Cabinet that if lower waste levels mentioned in 4.2.25 reflects higher recycling performance, and noting the recent addition of aluminium foil and food trays to the blue bin collections, the Council uses these to encourage further recycling by citizens across the city.**

### **Exclusion of Press and Public**

A resolution to exclude the press and public was put to the vote and carried.

**The Board resolved 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 item on the grounds that it involves 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.**

### **Key Decision**

#### **Compulsory Purchase of Empty Homes**

The Board considered exempt detail in the report of the Strategic Director for Communities and Place on Compulsory Acquisition of Empty Homes.

**The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.**

MINUTES END