

Time Commenced – 6:00pm
Time Finished – 7.19pm

Corporate Services and Cost of Living Scrutiny Review Board

28 September 2023

Present: Councillor Pattison (Chair)
Councillors Atwal, Kaur, Pandey, Repton and Wilson

In attendance – Heather Greenan - Director of Corporate Management
Danny Rutter - Welfare Reform Officer
Ejaz Sarwar – Community Action Derby
Paul Brookhouse – Food for Thought
Charles Edwards – Head of Community Safety and Localities

08/23 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

09/23 Late Items

There were no late items

10/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

11/23 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

12/23 Hardship – Affecting Residents

The Board received a report and presentation which stated that despite the many challenges of the last 3 years, many differences had been made by working together with the city, for the city. The presentation included our response to cost of living, the wider implications of cost of living, winter 2023 – emerging risks, what was driving demand for hardship, the community hub, Food 4 Thought, access to benefits, the transition to Universal Credit, welfare reform support overview and support for 2023/23, Household Support Fund, holiday activities and food programme, shared communication and resilience in the longer term.

A Member of the Board asked how support could be accessed and be sure they would receive the same support. It was reported that people could contact any of the access points and they would receive the same offer of support.

A member of the Board enquired about providing information and in particular letters in languages other than English. It was reported that people using the website could have information translated but this had not yet been extended to letters. It was also reported that if people seek debt advice, every opportunity was taken to make sure people could access all the information they needed in a language they understood.

A Member of the Board asked about the need to spend £10k per month on food and if this was sustainable. It was reported that they had 4-6 weeks of funding available but had put out a call to secure more funding going forward.

Resolved to note the presentation.

13/23 Voluntary Sector Engagement Update and Locality Working Update

The Board received a report and presentation which outlined a radical shift in working with communities. The presentation also included the vision, 'Every person in Derby should be able to live in a place they call home, with the people and things that matter to them; as part of a community where they look out for one another.' The presentation also included locality working – team roles and locality plans.

A Member of the Board asked about what was driving the radical shift in working with communities. It was reported that the best use needed to be made of scarce resources.

A Member of the Board wanted to make sure that conversations took place with local Councillors as they were responsible to the electorate and could identify community strengths and weaknesses. It was reported that this was an evolving process and officers were working with Cabinet Members to ensure the best approach for communities.

A Member of the Board asked about the role of Public Protection Officers (PPO's). It was reported that enforcement had not been the focus during the pandemic as the focus had been diverted to other tasks. The focus had now changed and enforcement was now being undertaken.

A Member of the Board asked how many PPO's there were. It was reported that there were currently 10.

It was reported that there were 5 locality teams and they were talking to communities about how they identified their communities. It was anticipated that there would be between 9 and 12 localities identified.

A Member of the Board asked what checks and balances were in place to ensure that everyone was getting the same support. It was suggested that Members speak the locality manager to discuss the nuances for their particular areas.

A Member of the Board wanted to make sure that there was not any duplication.

Resolved to note the presentation.

14/23 Remit, Work Programme and Topic Reviews

The Corporate Services and Cost of Living Board reviewed its Terms of Reference and Remit. The Board meets up to four times in the municipal year. The Board may undertake Topic Review/s supported by Democratic Services Officers and officers from other departments, but would also look at service reviews, policy development and any issues referred from the Executive Scrutiny Board.

The report allowed officers to inform the Board of any key work areas, issues or potential topic review subjects for discussion or inclusion in the work programme.

Members of the Board also reviewed items for the Corporate Services and Cost of Living Board work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year and any topic reviews.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To inquire if diversity and inclusion fell within the remit of the board and if it did to add it to the work programme for the March 2024 meeting.**

MINUTES END