

Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board Recommendations from the meeting held on 08 September 2015

Council Cabinet Agenda – 09 September 2015

Item 8 Healthwatch Derby Funding

Members discussed the content of the report to Council Cabinet and Healthwatch Derby Annual Report 2014-15 appended. The Board expressed concern over value for money due to a lack of performance related data and information provided in the Annual Report. Members of the Board were informed that the service provided by Healthwatch Derby is a statutory service required by Local Authorities under the 2012 Health Act and the role of the Council is to ensure that it is fulfilling its statutory role whilst remembering that it is and should be independent. The Board was informed that detailed performance data is regularly provided to the Health and Well-Being Board.

No recommendations were made to Council Cabinet on this item, however the Board recommended that the Protecting Vulnerable Adults Board continue to work closely with and monitor the work and performance of Healthwatch Derby.

Item 9 Revisions to the Written Statements for Mobile Homes

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Urban Renewal on the Written Statements for Derby's mobile home sites, which are the Imari Park Traveller site and the Shelton Lock Park Homes site. Councillor Bayliss expressed a concern that the statements appended do not accurately reflect the latest legislation.

The Board recommended that the Council's legal team double check that the Written Statements accurately reflect the latest legislation prior to approval by Council Cabinet.

Item 10 Contract and Financial Procedure Matters Report

A report of the Leader of the Council on items that require reporting to and approval by Council Cabinet under Contract and Financial Procedure relating to changes to the current 2015/16-2017/18 capital programme and the use of reserves rules was summarised for the Board by the Group Accountant.

Members heard that changes to the current capital programme include:

- the use of £300K from the Budget Risk Reserve for a programme of budget consultations.
- £97K brought forward from 2016/17 in the CYP project comprising of £80,000 for a new boiler at Ivy House School and £17K for Walter Evans Church of England School.

Members expressed concern that the report did not include any context to explain the potentially use of £300,000 from the Budget Risk Reserve to fund consultation as this is a large amount of funding from reserves that requires explanation and justification. Members requested that in future the report should include the breakdown of figures for changes to the capital programme.

The Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that in future the Contract and Financial Procedure Matters Report should include further context and a breakdown in figures in relation to the use of reserves and changes to the capital programme.

Item 11 Review of Derby City Council's Diversity Forums

Members considered a report of the Leader of the Council on a summary of the findings from all the review activity alongside the recommended option for the structure and running of the forums going forward which was presented by the Head of Performance and Intelligence.

Members expressed mixed views on the proposed reduction in the number of forums from four to one, but appreciated this would be the best use of funding under the current difficult financial services. The Board heard that Forum members have previously expressed that they felt they had limited influence on decision making and changes made sought to tackle this issue.

It was reported that changes to operational aspects of the proposed Diversity Forum would allow more frequent meetings and therefore an opportunity for closer alignment between the work of the Forum and the Council's Forward Plan. The Board heard that these changes would also allow more diverse attendance by groups previously unrepresented and would afford the Forum better opportunities to influence decisions and engagement with the Council's executive.

The Board resolved to support the recommendations to Council Cabinet and request that a review of the changes be reported to the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board in the next municipal year.

Item 12 Opportunities for Overseas Economic Twinning

Members considered a report of the Leader of the Council outlining an options paper on the potential for Derby to have economic twinning links with cities in other countries.

Councillor Bayliss noted that Marketing Derby were missing from the list of key stakeholders and should be included. Members expressed that within reason, any cost neutral opportunities for twinning which would expand the city's economic growth and provide inward investment should be considered and welcomed.

The Board resolved to support the recommendations to Council Cabinet and request that Marketing Derby should be included in the list of key stakeholders for exploring and delivering these opportunities.