

Time Commenced – 5.01pm
Time Finished – 6.18pm

Executive Scrutiny Board

6 October 2020

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

In attendance: Emily Feenan – Director of Legal, Procurement and
Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Heather Greenan – Director of Policy, Insight and
Communications
Steven Mason – Democratic Services Officer
Rachel North – Strategic Director for Communities and Place
Simon Riley – Director of Financial Services
Paul Simpson – Chief Executive
Andy Thomas – Head of Partnerships and Communities

23/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Pattison.

24/20 Late Items

There were none.

25/20 Declarations of Interest

There were none

26/20 Minutes of the meetings held on 8 September 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

27/20 Forward Plan

The Board considered the contents of the Forward Plan published on 8 September 2020.

No items were added to the future work programme.

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

28/20 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 8 September 2020.

The Board resolved to note the report.

29/20 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 7 October 2020.

Matters Referred

Parent Carers Needs Assessment – Referral from Children and Young People Scrutiny Board

The Board received a referral from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board, in relation to Parent Carer Needs Assessment.

It was reported that at its meeting on 7 September, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board received a report on Parent Carer Needs Assessment.

It was noted that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board resolved:

1. to ensure the pathway for parents accessing information on how and when Derby City Council undertakes parent carer needs assessments is explicit and clear within the Local Offer, on the Council website and within the policy, and that it is accessible for parents who have English as an additional language, including Deaf parents and visually impaired parents;
2. to ensure any parent carer needs assessments which are either stand-alone assessments or combined with another assessment, are headed in a way to show that needs in section 17ZD are specifically addressed. Parent carer needs assessments may form part of a single assessment but will be clearly identified as a “parent carers needs assessment”;
3. in order to take forward recommendations 2.1 and 2.2, a project group of parents and relevant stakeholders will co-produce and publish the process by January 2021; and
4. to recommend that Council Cabinet agree and support the above proposals.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved note the referral from the Children and Young People Board.

Key Decisions

Devolution and Local Government Review

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive on Devolution and Local Government Review.

It was reported that the context in which the city operated had never been more challenging and that the impact of COVID-19 would be serious and long lasting in terms of economic resilience and financial sustainability. It was also reported that the Council needed to look beyond short-term imperatives and organisational boundaries to collaborate effectively with partners and stakeholders to achieve the best possible outcomes for its citizens.

Members noted that the local government landscape was also changing and that regions such as London, the North West and West Midlands had benefitted from the introduction of directly elected mayors and combined authorities, with increased influence at Government level, opportunities to leverage funding and greater flexibilities. It was also noted that within the East Midlands, joint strategic working had been explored informally within recent years but had not come to fruition.

It was reported that the Government was expected to publish a White Paper on Recovery and Devolution before the end of the calendar year and that in recent weeks, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire County Councils had announced their intention to put forward county wide unitarisation proposals to the Secretary of State. It was also reported that in response, the Leader of the Council had written to the Secretary of State to seek a meeting to discuss the city's local government arrangements.

Members noted that with this context in mind and given the challenges faced by Derby, including the ongoing impact of COVID-19, the Council was looking to proactively explore all options, together with partner local authorities, for devolution and local government reform. It was also noted that the aim was to work collaboratively to ensure that the Council delivered high quality, value for money services for all its local communities and businesses.

The report sought Council Cabinet approval to develop an initial business case to explore the options for local government reform, and how this would fit within a framework of wider devolution for the East Midlands. It was reported that the business case would outline a number of options with evidenced benefits and disbenefits and be subject to public consultation with the results being brought to Full Council for consideration.

Members noted that further to development of a final business case (with support from partner authorities, appropriate consultation and Council approval), the Council could request an invitation from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to formally progress

proposals for local government reform. It was also noted that this could be achieved by early 2022 based on an indicative roadmap, albeit 2023 may be more realistic.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:

- 1. to recommend to Council Cabinet that it sets up a cross-party working group consisting of the group leader of each political group (or a delegate) and a representative of the Independent Councillors, to develop the proposed options for local government reform in Derby, to be subject to support from partner authorities and public consultation. This is to consider, alongside other options, the viability and possibility of extending the City Council's border to include areas such as that part of Stenson Fields currently in South Derbyshire and the new developments on our borders at Mickleover, Mackworth and Allestree as well as potentially looking at Borrowash and sufficient land to allow for city growth over the next 30-50 years. All of these communities identify with and use City Council facilities, services and roads and these areas would potentially make a more natural "fit" than trying to absorb Amber Valley, Erewash and South Derbyshire. This example does not indicate any preference whatsoever; and**
- 2. to recommend to Council Cabinet that the principles of democracy, accountability, transparency, community and identity are as important as business and value for money when putting together the case for the future geography of local government and should be included centrally in the brief and consultation for the proposed future report.**

Contract and Financial Procedure Matters

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The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Resources on Contract and Financial Procedure Matters.

Members noted that the report sought Council Cabinet approval for the following:

- a) The acceptance of the Opportunity Area Grant for Derby for an additional grant of up to £1.43m as outlined in section 4.1
- b) Delegated approval to the Strategic Director of Peoples Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, the spending of Opportunity Area funds through grants and contracts as outlined in section 4.5
- c) The direct award of a new short-term contract to the current provider of the 0-19 Public Health Contract under the umbrella of a Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency Notice - that essentially extends the service's delivery for 12-24 months as outlined in section 4.10

- d) Entering into of a new contract for service delivery provision of Pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV for 12 months with the option to extend for a further 12 months and delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Peoples Service to approve the Council undertaking the optional extension period at such time as appropriate as outlines in section 4.14.
- e) The acceptance of funding in the region of £0.420m from the Safer Streets Fund, allocated by the Home Office, and ported to DCC via the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire (OPCC), subject to acceptable grant conditions being agreed as detailed in section 4.17
- f) To approve the addition of Safer Streets CCTV to the 2020/21 capital programme as detailed in section 4.17
- g) To delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Communities and Place, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Neighbourhoods and Street Pride, and the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources to enter into grant/funding agreement contracts and associated arrangements for the Safer Streets CCTV plan, as detailed in section 4.17.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that it sets in train the process of longer term contracts as appropriate for those contract extensions currently being proposed.

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 paragraphs 3 and 7 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.

Contract and Financial Procedure Matters

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The Board considered exempt detail in the report of the Strategic Director of Resources on Contract and Financial Procedure Matters.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

MINUTES END