

## **Scrutiny board recommendations and Council Cabinet responses**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report outlines the recommendations which resulted from the Planning, Housing and Leisure Scrutiny Board, which took place on Tuesday 11 June 2013.
- 1.2 Where the overview and scrutiny board makes recommendations in a formal report for consideration by Council Cabinet, rules OS23 and OS24 of the Council's Constitution (Rules of Procedure) Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply. Rule OS23 requires the Council or Council Cabinet to consider the report of the overview and scrutiny board within one month of it being submitted to the proper officer, and rule OS24 requires the Council Cabinet to respond to the board indicating what, if any, action the Council Cabinet proposes to take.
- 1.3 There were no scrutiny recommendations made to Council Cabinet at its first meeting of the new municipal year held on Wednesday 12 June, and therefore no Council Cabinet responses to report.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note the recommendations made by the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.2 To ensure the Corporate Scrutiny and Climate Change Board is aware of recommendations being made by other boards and Council Cabinet's responses to these recommendations.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **Terms of Reference and Remit of the Board**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Officer introduced the terms of reference and highlighted some anomalies relating to the museums and library services that had been highlighted by the Director for Leisure and Culture. Members expressed concern that any amendments ought not to reduce the Museums Trust's status as an arms-length

organisation. It was also suggested that it would be timely to receive an update on the work of the Museums Trust.

4.2 Members raised the process of sending scrutiny reports through COG and requested that the Chair and Scrutiny Officer monitor this to ensure it does not lead to delays or obstruction in matters being presented to the board.

4.3 It was resolved to:

- Request the Director of Leisure and Culture bring an update report on the work of the Museums Trust before the board.
- Agree the terms of reference and remit of the PHL board.

### **Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2013-17**

4.5 The board received a report from Environment Team Leader on the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2013-17 and were informed that this would be consulted upon with the public for six weeks before being reported back to Council Cabinet.

4.6 Members questioned whether a six-week consultation was sufficient for such a large piece of work, given that a great many organisations would need to be involved (such as ramblers associations).

4.7 It was resolved to:

- Recommend that the consultation for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2013-17 be extended to 10-12 weeks.
- Request that the outcome of the consultation be reported to the board.

### **Local Sustainable Transport Fund Programme – Better Ways to Work**

4.8 The Director of Planning and Property Services and Better Ways to Work Coordinator presented the report and outlined the aims and objectives of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme including details on the five key strands and projects. The officer also made the board aware the project will be launched on Friday 28 June.

4.9 Members discussed the branding of 'Connected – Keeping Derby Moving' which had been chosen for Derby. It was felt that more could be done to increase awareness of the brand. It was suggested that cycling vests sporting the brand could be made available, with councillors and employees of the authority cited as an easy target group to begin with.

### **Work Programme**

4.10 The Scrutiny Officer presented a report outlining the board's potential work programme and topic reviews. A list of issues for potential inclusion in the work programme was also circulated.

- 4.11 It was highlighted by the Scrutiny Officer that a decision would need to be made on whether to complete a topic review which had been started by the board in the previous municipal year, focused on homelessness provision.
- 4.12 It was further highlighted that officers had requested that the board seek to review processes relating to planning application objections. Members felt this review could be wider and involve more areas relating to planning control processes, but agreed to look at this element as a report from officers to the scrutiny board.
- 4.13 It was resolved to:
- Continue with the topic review on homelessness and request that the Scrutiny Officer circulate dates for evidence gathering in relation to the unfinished topic review on homelessness provision.
  - Undertake a review on processes relating to planning application objections and request that the Scrutiny Officer request a report to the next meeting on proposals to change the planning control processes.
  - Request that members of the board respond to the Scrutiny Officer with comments on items for inclusion in the work programme.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 No other options have been considered.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Mahroof Hussain, Scrutiny Manager
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Clare Harrison 01332 643648clare.harrison@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 Implementation of the recommendations outlined in this report may lead to financial implications, however these have not been determined at this stage.

**Legal**

- 2.1 Part 4 of the Council's Constitution (Rules of Procedure) set out a series of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules. Rules OS23 and OS24 are particularly relevant to this report. Where recommendations are made by the overview and scrutiny board; rule OS23 requires the Council or Council Cabinet to consider the report of the overview and scrutiny board within one month of it being submitted to the proper officer, and rule OS24 requires the Council Cabinet to respond to the board indicating what, if any, action the Council Cabinet proposes to take.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 The workload of Council personnel may increase, or priorities may be altered due to recommendations outlined in this report.

**Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 None directly arising from this report.

**Health and Safety**

- 5.1 None directly arising from this report.

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.1 None directly arising from this report.

**Property and Asset Management**

- 7.1 None directly arising from this report.

**Risk Management**

- 8.1 The proposals set out in this report would act to ensure that Chief Officers are aware of information being released into the public domain through scrutiny meetings, thereby reducing the risk of unforeseen media and public interest.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 9.1 Scrutiny supports the improvement of services delivered across the Council (and by accountable external partners) to fulfil the corporate priorities and ensure the people

in Derby enjoy good quality services that meet local needs.