

Time Commenced – 6.00 pm
Time Finished – 8.26 pm

Cost of Living Overview and Scrutiny Board

24 November 2014

Present: Councillor Dhindsa (Chair)
Councillors Ashburner, Bayliss, Harwood, A Holmes, Stanton and
Tittley

16/14 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

17/14 Late items

There were no late items but an appendix for Item 8 was presented to provide the most up to date information available, it was entitled Homelessness Strategy 2015-19, Draft Delivery Plan.

18/14 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19/14 Forward Plan published 11 November 2014

The board considered the Forward Plan which was published on 11 November 2014.

Resolved to note the Forward Plan and request the report on Item 28/14 – Compulsory Purchase of Empty Properties be presented at the Cost of Living Board on 12 January 2015. The appendix to the report would, however, need to be discussed in private session under the following:

Exclusion of the Press and Public in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 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.

20/14 Supporting SMEs

A report of the Chief Executive was considered by the Board entitled Supporting Small and Medium sized enterprises, (SMEs). The report outlined that Derby City Council supported Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) primarily through the activity of the Regeneration department.

The Economic Strategy, owned by the Derby Renaissance Board, details the strategic priorities for supporting SMEs. The strategy focused on creating a culture where enterprise thrives and ensuring that workforce skills match business needs. Support included: accessing European and national funding for SME growth, local funding initiatives including Derby Enterprise Growth Fund, board membership of the Derbyshire Enterprise Agency, hosting business support events to showcase what all agencies can offer to SMEs, various levels of recruitment and training support, and signposting information on Derby City Council website.

This report had been prepared to help frame the presentations that had been requested by the Cost of Living Board from the Chamber and Federation for Small Businesses.

After a brief introduction by Head of Economic Regeneration and a verbal and Power Point presentation by Natalie Gasson from Federation of Small Businesses was received by the Board.

The Board were informed that the Federation of Small Business (FSB) is a lobbying organisation which is independent from any political organisations. FSB had approximately 5,200 members across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, with 1398 members in the Derby branch.

Scott Knowles from Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce, also known as the East Midlands Chamber also provided a brief presentation. The East Midlands Chamber has 3,800 members and 505 in Derby city with a turnover of £9m for 2014-2015.

The Schools Forum was also discussed as more schools could benefit from involvement in this. The forum is for primary and secondary schools with the aim of providing support to build better links with business, to embed employability skills within the curriculum to ensure that young people enter the world of work with the skills employers demand.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the report;**
- 2. Recommend to Council Cabinet that the following priorities for supporting SMEs are put in place:**
 - i) Ensure that small business owners and managers are assisted with 'upskilling' to enable them to develop skills in areas such as recruitment, interviewing and leadership, to enable expansion and the successful management of employees.**
 - ii) Encourage all primary and secondary schools within Derby city to engage with the Chamber of Schools Forum**

iii) Encourage engagement with the 'Start Challenge' within all Derby City secondary schools as well as engaging with students at an earlier age, rather than in the final two years of education

iv) Explore opportunities to assist with the exporting of goods, helping SMEs to overcome barriers, and promote the opportunities exporting could provide.

21/14 Procurement Collaboration with LAs and Public Sector Bodies

A report from the Interim Strategic Director of Resources was presented to the Board by the Head of Procurement. The report outlined and gave examples of the types of collaborative procurement projects the Procurement team had developed, along with the steps taken to increase the number of such projects in the future. This was in order to maximise the cashable and non-cashable savings that can result from collaborative activity.

The report described the work to develop closer collaborative relationships with other Derbyshire based public procurement teams particularly Derbyshire County Council, University of Derby and Derby College.

The House of Commons, Communities and Local Government Committee report, 'Local Government Procurement' detailed the benefits and barriers to procurement collaboration and made a number of recommendations. The work undertaken by the procurement team was in line with these recommendations.

Resolved to note the report.

22/14 Report on the Draft Homelessness Strategy

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Adults, Health and Housing which was presented by the Principal Housing Strategy Officer. The title of the report was "Draft Homelessness Strategy", the report stated that the Council's Planning, Housing and Leisure Board (PHL), had carried out a 'topic review' of homelessness. The review involved a thorough assessment of service provision and made 14 recommendations regarding future delivery of the service. The report demonstrated how the recommendations of the topic review have been taken into account in the new strategy.

The strategy had been developed in the context of shrinking resources and the increasing demand for services. These factors impact on what can realistically be achieved in the years ahead. Nevertheless, the aspiration remained to prevent homelessness wherever possible, but where it did occur, provide suitable accommodation for the affected people. Consequently, partners agreed on the following vision statement:

"Our vision is for a Derby where the Council and its partners work together effectively to ensure that homelessness is prevented wherever possible, and to enable those

who do become homeless to have access to housing that is sustainable and suitable for their needs".

A more detailed discussion of the strategic priorities and actions which derived from this vision is found in section 4.

Derby's new Homelessness Strategy is due to be adopted by Council early in 2015. The key elements of the draft strategy were included in the report and provided a further opportunity for scrutiny members to comment and feedback.

The report focused on the vision, strategic priorities and specific actions which would be implemented over the next four year period.

Members questioned Derby City Council's Single Point of Entry Officer how working with the Derby Hospitals Foundation Trust to help those admitted with serious health, drug or alcohol related problems was going, they were told that funding had been secured through the Clinical Commissioning Group and would run until March 2015.

The Director of Business Intelligence and Sector Development stated that whilst overall funding was limited the funding secured through the Clinical Commissioning Group was significant and the dialogue with them was on going.

The Homelessness Strategy 2015-19, Draft Delivery Plan, Appendix 3 of Item 8 was available at the meeting. Member's were concerned with the frequency of "to be confirmed" on Appendix 3 especially on Actions C3 and C6 of the report.

Resolved to request that a final version of the Homelessness Strategy Delivery Plan be presented again at the next Cost of Living Board meeting on Monday 12 January 2015, replacing "to be confirmed" with definite dates and the inclusion of any missing information.

23/14 Interim Report on the Older Persons' Accommodation and Support Strategy

As requested by the chair of the Cost of Living Board, this report set out the progress made to date on the development of the Older Persons' Accommodation and Support Strategy. The report was presented to the Board by the Principal Housing Strategy Officer but as the strategy is still under development this was an interim report. A final report would be submitted, once the strategy is completed.

The strategy will examine the growth in size and changing profile of the elderly population, in order to determine their housing and support needs. These changes give rise to a number of challenges which must be responded to in a planned and coordinated way.

The strategy's overall purpose is encapsulated in the following vision statement:

'Empowering the older citizens of Derby to make informed decisions and choices about their housing and support needs, while working together to ensure that those choices are available.'

An extensive consultation process has been undertaken with a wide range of stakeholders. These include older people, their carers and families, as well as service providers. The consultation process and findings are reported on in the Supporting Information section below.

The strategy had already noted that within Derby there is a projected population increase of older people (65+) of more than 15,000 people by 2030. The Office for National Statistics also predicted that there will be an 80% increase in the 80+ population to 10,300 by 2030. This rise in population would have an inevitable impact and growth in demand on local services. At present the highest concentrations of older people are in Allestree, Spondon and Mickleover where the total 65+ percentage of the population is 20%-35%.

Board Members discussed the Outcomes One, Two, Three and Four listed in the 4.5 of the Supporting Information section of the report and agreed that number One should be discussion at an earlier stage of what people would like to do in later life regarding their choices of accommodation.

The extra care facilities in Greenwich Village, Mackworth, Derby were also discussed by the Members and that Derby City Council are not in a position to insist what type of housing developers build.

The Members questioned the officers regarding figures of the current housing stock and the breakdown of three bedroomed houses but as the Housing Officers present did not have that information to hand, they would relay it back to the Members.

Resolved to:

1. To note the report;
2. Recommend to Council Cabinet that work is done to encourage private housing developers, private landlords and the Homes and Communities Agency to work collaboratively on delivering the right affordable housing options for older people in the right locations.
3. Recommend that the Older Persons' Accommodation and Support Strategy outcomes include a new 'Outcome One' "that people are encouraged to think at an earlier stage about their future choices".

24/14 Review of the Housing Allocations Policy

A report of the Strategic Director of Adults, Health and Housing titled "Review of the Housing Allocations Policy" the policy had been agreed by Cabinet on 23 January 2013. It was reviewed to take account of the implementation of the Localism Act and Welfare Reform Act 2012. The policy was implemented on 7 March 2013.

Cabinet approved the policy with a caveat that a further report be submitted to the Cabinet member for evaluating the impact of the changes, particularly the introduction of additional priority in respect of 'Community Contribution'. This gives additional priority to people who contribute to the community through employment, volunteering or providing unpaid care and support.

Following a review the report recommended that changes were made to the current policy. Appendix 2 shows the detail of these changes with explanatory notes, and detail of the ICT implications involved in implementing the changes.

Resolved to note the report and that the report containing the changes would come back to the Cost of Living Board in September 2015.

25/14 Work programme and topic reviews

The board considered a report detailing the current work programme and making proposals for future topic reviews. The late report on reviewing affordable housing was considered.

Resolved to invite property developers and planning officers and regeneration to a further meeting to discuss issues raised through the topic review.

MINUTES END