Executive Scrutiny Board

Recommendations from the meeting held on 20 June 2017

Council Cabinet Agenda – 21 June 2017

Item 8 | Regionalisation of Adoption

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Safeguardingand Strategic Director for People asking Cabinet to endorse the commencement of a D2N2 pilot of a permanency team from July 2017 and programme an update report for early 2018 with outcomes from the pilot and next steps for regionalisation and the implications for Derby's adoption services.

It was reported that the benefits of the pilot would be to:

- Address performance and practice inconsistencies
- To have a bigger regional pool of adopters and children
- Enable the strategic development of adoption services, including in adoption support
- Create a powerful regional voice for adoption and adopters to shape policy at a national level
- Ensure a culture of excellence in adoption practice through strong Local Authority and Voluntary Adoption Agency partnership

Members expressed concern that the current reputation for taking it's time to achieve good quality stable placements could be at risk. Members were reassured that all partners were committed to making the pilot work and that the Council would have a larger pool of appropriate placements available and it would be more likely that performance would improve than deteriorate. The Board also expressed concerns about the lack of Ofsted powers and that an appropriate inspections framework should be in place.

The Executive Scrutiny Board made no recommendations to Council Cabinet but requested that:

- 1) Officers ensure that taking part in the Pilot does not damage the Council's good reputation for adoption placements;
- The Board's concerns are noted in relation to the lack of an inspection framework for the pilot and hopes that appropriate mechanisms are in place for inspections when the time arrives; and
- 3) Request an update report on progress of the pilot in early 2018.

Item 9 Secondary School Place Planning: Schools Capital Programme

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Strategic Director for People Services to approve the Secondary school

expansion schemes to be added to the Council's capital programme; to approve consultation on the proposal to expand Murray Park School by 550 places from September 2019; and to amend the 2017/18-2020/21 approved Capital Programme.

Members queried what would happen is schools outside of the Council's administration did not agree with expansion proposals. The Board was reassured by officers that the Council has good partnerships in place with these schools and negotiates with individual partners to agree proposals. It was reported that if negotiations failed the Council would need to raise the issue formally with the DFE to achieve expansions necessary.

Members queried where growth had come from in the absence of the completion of large housing developments and were informed that this has come from growth within the city due to increased birth rates and the city's population growth.

Members also queried if the works would be carried out under one single capital project and was reassured that this is the case.

The ExecutiveScrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

Item 10

Our City Our River (OCOR) Masterplan - Project Munio Phases & further funding opportunities

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economyand Strategic Director of Communities and Place seeking a number of approvals to enable further delivery of elements of the Our City, Our River (OCOR) Masterplan.

Members queried where additional funding could come from to support the project and were informed that the Council is trying to seek funding from a number of Government pots, including one from Highways England. It was reported that Highways England is offering funds for projects to ensure protection of parts of the Highways network, including Raynesway, and that package 2 would assist with this objective.

Members queried if it is possible to get part way through implementation of phase 2 and then not have enough funds to complete the scheme. The Board was reassured that no work would commence on phase 2 until this is fully funded. Members were also informed that there is a possibility that the Council could go back to Defra and apply for additional funds to help complete the scheme due to a change in economic circumstances.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

Item 11

Use of Section 106 Funding For Improvements To Leisure Facilities in Littleover and Blagreaves

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy and the Strategic Director for Communities and Place to approve the recommended schemes and amend the 2017/18 – 2019/20 Capital Programme to include the budget required for the S106 schemes.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

Item 12 | Council House - Ground Floor Redevelopment

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance and report of the Chief Executive which sets out the Business Case for the redevelopment of the Ground Floor of the Council House and seeks Cabinet approval for the capital expenditure required to fund the project.

The Executive Scrutiny Board was generally happy with the redevelopment plans, however raised concerns over the current location of the Registration Service at the Council House and felt that this service should be relocated back at Royal Oak House. Members of the Board had experienced complaints from members of the public over its current location and felt that Royal Oak House was purposefully designed for this service and was therefore fit for this purpose. The Board felt that this was therefore an opportune time to consider the relocation of the Registration Service back to Royal Oak House and give the Council an opportunity to redesign/use the Ground Floor of the Council House to accommodate Unison or for other purposes.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that:

- 1) The effectiveness of the location of the Registration Service at the Council House should be reviewed to determine:
 - a) whether efficiency savings have been realised in relation to the relocation of the Registration Service; and
 - b) the impact on customers of the relocation the service to Council House and review what customer feedback has been received.
- 2) The reconfiguration of the Ground Floor of the Council House Reception/Atrium area is paused to consider the need to relocate the Registration Service back to Royal Oak House and give the Council an opportunity to redesign/use the Ground Floor of the Council House to accommodate Unison or for other purposes.

Item 13 | Council Scorecard 2017/18

This item was considered under the Executive Scrutiny Board Agenda item on Performance.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

Item 14 The Future Of Derby – Cabinet Pledges And Council Delivery Plan 2016-19

Members considered a report of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive topresent the Council Delivery Plan 2016-19, incorporating the Cabinet Member Pledges.

The Executive Scrutiny Boardnoted the report andrequested further information be presented by the Performance Team to the topic specific Scrutiny Board Meetings in relation to pledges relevant to their individual remits to inform their work programmes and identify areas for performance review.

Item 15 | Contract and Financial Procedure Matters Report

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive outlining a number of items that require reporting to and approval by Council Cabinet under Contract and Financial Procedure rules.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.