

Time Commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.02pm

Communities Scrutiny Review Board 14 September 2020

Present: Councillor P Pegg (Chair)
Councillors Atwal, Nawaz, Hudson, Pearce Marshall Testro and Smale

In Attendance: Andy Thomas – Head of Partnerships and Communities
Tracey Blackwell – Interim Director of Public Protection and Streetpride
Sarah Banks – Principal Project Co-ordinator

07/20 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

08/20 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

09/20 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

10/20 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

11/20 Our City Our River – Flood Defence Effectiveness

The Board received a report from the Head of City Development and Growth on Our City Our River – Flood Defence Effectiveness. The report was presented by the Principal Project Co-ordinator.

The Board noted that the Lower Derwent Flood Risk Management Strategy had been developed by the Environment Agency (EA) and was adopted in January 2011. It was reported that the preferred approach to managing flood risk included:

- maintaining the existing defences and continuing to provide flood warnings
- promoting improved upstream land management practices to reduce surface run-off (taken forward as the Derwent Land Management project)
- providing new defences to reduce flood risk and improve conveyance around structures which obstruct flow.

It was reported that in Derby the defences were set back from the river's edge in order to make space for flood water and to improve conveyance through the city.

The Board noted that the "Our City Our River" Derby Flood Risk and Regeneration Scheme was a project developed from the Environment Agency's Lower Derwent Flood Risk Management Strategy and Derby City Council's (DCC) 2012 adopted Masterplan for the redevelopment of Derby City. It was reported that the Lead Authority for the delivery of the scheme was Derby City Council.

It was noted that the EA had commissioned the design of flood defences through Derby and that this had been produced by their technical consultants Black and Veatch. It was reported that in order to design the height of the defences, the Derwent river catchment had been hydraulically modelled. It was noted that this model was then used to simulate various storms up to the required 1 in 100 year design storm.

The Board noted that the defence lines in the model were represented as a 'glass wall' which contained the flood water, and that the maximum height of the water was predicted. It was reported that on top of this peak level, a 5% freeboard allowance was added which was typically 400-500mm. It was noted that this allowance was to account for climate change and that although 5% had been the standard allowance at the time this scheme was produced, the standard allowance was now 30%. It was reported that the structures went 9 meters deep below ground and were designed to support the loading from the flood water and impact loading from debris.

The Board noted that the whole project had been split into three work packages stretching a total of 13.2km along the River Derwent, with an optimum sequence of delivering the sites within each package. It was reported that the sequence had been derived on the basis that benefits from the scheme should be delivered at the earliest opportunity and that the delivery of each site should not increase flood risk to other sites.

It was noted that Package 1 of the scheme had been completed and that this delivered enhanced flood protection to over 800 homes and 400 businesses within this package area. It was reported that work had commenced on Package 2 with work on the west bank of the river between Full Street and Pride Park. The Board noted that the alignment of the defences on the east bank of the river were being reviewed to offer more regeneration opportunity, better urban open space and to produce a more resilient highway infrastructure. It was reported that these proposals would be subject to a new planning application. It was noted that these next steps were the subject of a report which had gone to Cabinet on 12 February 2020.

The Board noted that new flood defences consisted of passive defences (walls and embankments) and active defences (flood gates, pump stations). It was reported that the new defences would be operated and maintained by the City Council for their design life of 100 years.

Councillors questioned whether Derby was now prepared for future extreme events in relation to flooding. The Principal Project Co-ordinator informed the Board that Derby was now much better prepared than it had been in 2019 when flooding had hit during the construction of flood defences.

Councillors asked what the next stage of flood defences for Derby would be and were informed that 'Derby Riverside' was the next big piece of work. A councillor questioned whether funding had been secured for Derby Riverside and was informed that there was a £10-16m shortfall in funding for this project. A councillor asked whether this estimate included the cost of compulsory purchases and was informed that this had been included. The Principal Project Co-ordinator informed the Board that the Environmental Agency had estimate that Package 1 of the Our City Our River scheme would cost £36m and that this work had been completed for around £30m.

A councillor questioned whether the flooding event in Derby in 2019 was considered a 1 in 20 year event. The Principal Project Co-ordinator confirmed that the flooding in 2019 had been a 1 in 20 year event.

The Board Resolved:

- 1. That the Our City Our River Team would keep the Communities Scrutiny Review Board informed of the progress of the Our City Our River scheme.**

12/20 Public Protection Officers Update

The Board received an update from the Head of Partnerships and Communities on the Council's Public Protection Officers (PPOs).

The Board noted that the PPOs had been introduced in 2017 to tackle inner city environmental crime. It was noted that the PPO service had been extended into the city centre and had received further investment in 2019 to develop and expand the service. It was reported that the focus of the PPO service was on safer, stronger and cleaner Neighbourhoods.

It was reported that the PPO service had key priorities, including but not limited to:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Environmental crime
- Problem parking issues
- Visibility and re-assurance
- Eyes and ears for council and partners

- Approach: Engage-Educate-Enforce

It was reported that the PPOs carried out a diverse range of work, including but not limited to:

- ASB and Enviro-Crime.
- Problem solving with Neighbourhood Teams and Police SNT.
- Abandoned vehicles/Fires.
- Community engagement.
- City Centre disorder and ASB.
- Problem locations.
- Vulnerable people and communities

The Board noted the following figures for PPO service activity:

- Fly Tipping - 220
- Depositing Litter - 393
- Dog Fouling - 13
- Graffiti - 5
- Failure to comply with a Community Protection Notice (CPN) - 3
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) - 61

It was reported that the PPOs had played a significant role in the Council's response to Covid-19 including:

- Crucial element of the city's response to COVID during lockdown.
- ASB in City Centre and business liaison.
- Safe and well checks.
- Food distribution and prescription collection for those shielding.
- Protecting vulnerable people and working within community hub.
- Managing open spaces and social distancing.

It was noted that the PPO service was being refocused to deliver against pre-Covid priorities. It was reported that the service was also continuing Covid-19 related work and that this was likely to increase again with any second spike.

It was noted that the future direction of the PPO service included:

- Review of management structures within Neighbourhoods/PPOs to enhance front-line delivery.
- Greater integration with DCC services and partners.
- Balancing needs of Neighbourhoods and city-wide priorities.
- Commitment to allocated resources for each neighbourhood
- Engage-Educate-Enforce

The Chair questioned whether all fines issued by PPOs were being chased up. The Head of Partnerships and Communities informed the Board that the PPO service worked with the Legal Team to chase up fines and that figures would be passed on to Democratic Services to share with the Board.

Councillors questioned how many vacancies the PPO service currently had and were informed that there were currently four vacancies.

Councillors questioned how the PPO service was being funded. The Interim Director of Public Protection and Streetpride informed the Board that Derby Homes had made a significant contribution to the PPOs budget and that funding also came from the core budget. The Board noted that due to Covid-19 it was difficult to estimate how much the PPO service would normally bring in from enforcement/fines.

Councillors expressed their gratitude to the Council's PPOs for carrying out the work they did. The Cabinet Member for Communities, Neighbourhoods and Streetpride invited Board members to attend PPO Tasking Briefings at Stores Road.

The Cabinet Member for Communities, Neighbourhoods and Streetpride informed the Board that he would provide them with information on the legal/enforcement powers of the Council's Public Protection Officers.

The Board Resolved:

- 1. That the Board would review the financial side of the Public Protection Officers Team at a meeting in 2021.**

The Board considered a report setting out the Terms of Reference and Remit of the Board.

The report provided Members of the Board with the opportunity to consider its terms of reference and remit for the forthcoming municipal year, its work programme for 2020/21 and any topic reviews.

Resolved to note the information provided within the report.

Minutes End.