

POLICY MANAGEMENT

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Since the Coalition Government came to power in 2010, there has been a significant shift in policy direction, supported by legislation, which affects all Council Directorates.
- 1.2 This report explores how Overview and Scrutiny Boards can provide value in systematically reviewing and challenging the Council's response to new legislation and policy across the Council and wider partnerships.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider how Overview and Scrutiny Boards would like to review new policy initiatives and legislation, and challenge and inform the Council's response to these.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To enable the Council to prepare effectively and implement successfully new policy, legislation and initiatives.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council's Scrutiny Boards do not currently address the implications of new policy and legislation in a holistic and systematic way. They also address new policy development on a thematic basis, which can lead to corporate and overarching policy areas under scrutinised.
- 4.2 The major weaknesses of this approach are that:
 - members of Scrutiny Boards do not get the same level of briefing and opportunity to understand and constructively challenge new policy and the Council's response
 - the knowledge and expertise within the Council's Scrutiny Boards is under utilised
 - the opportunity for officers to benefit from constructive support is under utilised.

- 4.3 In addition to the volume of legislative change since 2010, the underpinning philosophy of choice and control requires effective collaboration between community leaders and citizens to ensure that public services become more responsive and accountable. This is articulated clearly through the provisions of Localism Act 2011 and associated regulations and the Health and Social Care Bill, and where scrutiny can play an important role in helping to inform from a community perspective how the Council should manage its response.
- 4.4 The Corporate Scrutiny and Climate Change Board can also be utilised effectively to drive forward cross cutting policy initiatives through the other Boards. This includes areas such as Child Poverty and Ageing Well, which have traditionally been associated with one specific Board when in fact they relate to and are dependent upon all Boards being engaged and active.
- 4.5 The Policy, Research and Engagement Division is currently developing a tool to provide an overview of national government policy, new legislation and the Council's progress in responding to these. This will also detail local initiatives and projects, including for example an Ageing Well Programme. It is proposed that this should be reported quarterly to the Corporate Scrutiny and Climate Change Board, who will then identify key work areas for corporate or thematic policy. In the first instance, it is proposed that the Corporate Scrutiny and Climate Change Board review the requirements of the Localism Act (2011) and the Council's progress in responding and future plans.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Director of Strategic Services and Transformation
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Dr. Gavin Thompson, Head of Policy, Research and Engagement 01332 643477 e-mail gavin.thompson@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Proactively responding to new policy enables the Council to mitigate risk and maximise any opportunities for the Council and the city.

Legal

- 2.1 Systematically reviewing the impact of new policy initiatives, legislation and readiness to respond will enable the Council to be legally compliant.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from the report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None arising from the report.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising from the report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising from the report.

Asset Management

- 7.1 None arising from the report.

Risk Management

- 8.1 Effective policy scrutiny will contribute to ensuring that the Council meets its statutory duties and mitigate the risks associated with failing to do so.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 Effective policy scrutiny contributes to achieving all Council Plan outcomes.