

Time Commenced – 5.00pm
Time Finished – 6.05pm

Executive Scrutiny Board

13 July 2021

Present: Councillor Repton (Chair)
Councillors Care, Carr, Dhindsa, Evans, Eyre, Grimadell,
Pattison, A Pegg, Prosser

In attendance: Ian Fullagar – Head of Strategic Housing
Heather Greenan - Director of Policy, Insight &
Communications
Steven Mason – Democratic Services Officer
Rachel North - Strategic Director of Communities and Place
Alison Parkin – Director of Financial Services
Sarah Walker – Head of Strategy and Performance

08/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Cooper and Martin.

09/21 Late Items

There were none.

10/21 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

11/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2021 were agreed.

12/21 Forward Plan

The Board considered the contents of the Forward Plans published on 15 June 2021 and 6 July 2021.

No items were added to the future work programme.

Resolved to note the Forward Plans.

13/21 Council Cabinet Responses to Scrutiny Recommendations

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources which allowed the Scrutiny Board to receive responses from

Council Cabinet on recommendations made at the previous Board meeting on 8 June 2021.

The Board resolved to note the report.

14/21 Council Cabinet Agenda

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources on the Council Cabinet Agenda. Members considered the Council Cabinet agenda in its entirety for the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 14 July 2021.

Matters Referred

Topic Review Early Intervention and Youth Outreach Support Engagement – Draft Report

The Board received a minute extract and draft report of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board on Topic Review Early Intervention and Youth Outreach Support Engagement. The report contained the following draft recommendations for Council Cabinet consideration:

1. Derby City Council to work in co-production with services, stakeholders and children and young people to produce a youth offer which promotes the availability and accessibility of services in Derby. This offer to be initially hosted by Derby City Council alongside and linked with the local offer and linked to school websites. It is important that this does not become just a static directory of services available, but that it is clearly communicated to and regularly reviewed by children, young people, parents/carers and stakeholders to ensure it is kept up to date and that any gaps are easily identified. Derby City Council will begin the work as soon as possible and it will be fully in place within six months from the date of the scrutiny meeting held on 21 June 2021
2. Derby City Council to seek ways of enhancing the involvement of our looked after children within a co-produced youth strategy for the city.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

Key Decisions

Enforced Sale of Empty Properties and Land

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources on Enforced Sale of Empty Properties and Land.

The report sought Council Cabinet approval to establish delegated authorities for the expedient recovery of outstanding, qualifying debts owed to the Council by use of enforced sale powers, where owners of currently long-term empty properties had repeatedly failed to repay such debts and/or bring the property into beneficial use.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that the details of the process of delegation includes a mechanism to enable ward councillors to know what is happening in their ward and that there should be a report coming at least annually to a public committee giving a summary of the activity under this delegation.

Budget and Policy Framework

Final Accounts – 2020/21 Outturn Report for General Fund, Capital Programme, Treasury Management, Housing Revenue Account, Dedicated Schools Grant and Collection Fund

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources on Final Accounts – 2020/21 Outturn Report for General Fund, Capital Programme, Treasury Management, Housing Revenue Account, Dedicated Schools Grant and Collection Fund.

The report summarised the overall Councils final outturn position, subject to external audit opinion, for the 2020/21 financial year. The report also described the final year end positions and the main variances from Quarter 3 and set out issues to note and those requiring Council Cabinet approval.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

Contract and Financial Procedure Matters

Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources on Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules.

Members noted that the report sought Council Cabinet approval for the following:

- Treasury Management Strategy - update for approved source of borrowing.
- Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation - acceptance of grant of £0.601m to commission support to survivors of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation.
- Homes England Funding - approval to bid to Homes England, for up to £0.500m of Garden Communities Capacity Funding.
- Ascend Loan - approve sub delegation for loans below £0.250m made under the Ascend Capital and Revenue Loan Schemes and the treatment of loan principal and interest repayments.
- Safer Streets 3 funding - approval to make a formal bid to the Home Office Safer Streets 3 Fund and accept funding if successful.
- Acceptance of Grant of £0.847m for extension of support of the COVID Local Support Grant (CLSG).
- Delegated approval to allocate the CLSG grant in line with eligible criteria.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that the purpose of the Homes England Capacity Funding bid includes spending on work to help achieve zero carbon homes, including carbon sequestration, following on work done by Derby Homes and to seek to make this applicable to all housing developers and to feed into Local Plan policies.

Performance

Council Plan Monitoring – Quarter 4

The Board received a report of the Director of Policy, Insight and Communications on Council Plan Monitoring – Quarter 4.

The report presented a consolidated overview of performance, bringing together priority performance measures, projects, and strategic risks, in line with the current Council Plan themes.

A summary of notable performance, as at the end of March 2021, was set out in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4, with a full assessment of performance by Council Plan theme at Appendix 1. In addition to this, key timescales, and achievements to date, in the context of the Council's COVID-19 response and recovery, were set out in paragraph 4.5.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

Annual Report and Review of Performance 2020/21

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive on Annual Report and Review of Performance 2020/21.

Members noted that every year the Council produced a short Annual Report, which was published alongside its Annual Review of Performance that presented a summary of its progress against agreed priorities from the last year.

It was also noted that these documents were important in communicating the work that the Council delivered, its achievements and the challenges it had encountered and that they also complemented the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement that, by necessity, were technical in nature and published separately.

The Board wished to thank Council officers for all their work to get to this position.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:

- 1. to note the report; and**
- 2. to agree that the thanks of the Board to Council officers for all their work to get to this position, be noted.**

Other

UK City of Culture 2025 Expression of Interest

The Board received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Communities and Place) on UK City of Culture 2025 Expression of Interest.

The purpose of the report was to provide information on the UK City of Culture Competition and for Council Cabinet to note the intention to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for Derby to bid for the 2025 competition.

The Executive Scrutiny Board is fully supportive of this cross party united bid for the city as a whole and resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that if long-listed for City of Culture, we ensure that activity and legacy elements are included that will bring new cultural angles to all parts of the city and not just the city centre.

MINUTES END