

Time Commenced – 6:00pm
Time Finished – 7.40pm

Corporate Services Scrutiny Review Board

29 September 2022

Present: Councillor Naitta (Chair)
Councillors Cooper, Pandey, T Pearce and Rawson

In Attendance Councillor M Holmes

07/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Khan and West (Members of the Regeneration and Housing Board)

08/22 Late Items

There were no late items

09/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

10/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

11/22 Our City Our River

The Board received a presentation which gave an update on the Our City Our River Projects. The packages were being delivered in phases. Phase 1 – upstream of the Silk Mill had been completed. Phase 2 'Munio' – River Gardens and the Mill Fleam Pump Station on Bass' Rec was in delivery. Phase 3 – Derby Riverside was due to be delivered by 2026. Phase 4 – downstream from the city centre (Chaddesden and Alvaston) was not yet funded.

The key funders were flood defence – grant in aid from the Environment Agency, growth funding from DEFRA, European funding (ERDF) and Local Growth Funding – D2N2 LEP. The total funding to date was approximately £80m.

The presentation detailed the work done to date, the additional benefits arising from the works, details of works completed, those in delivery and the next phases.

Members of the Board asked about the numbers of trees that would be planted to replace those removed. It was reported that it would be a minimum of the same number as those removed but hopefully more, the target was at least 1,000.

A Member of the Board asked about the number of landowners involved in the north riverside regeneration project. It was reported that there were between 10 and 15 landowners. It was noted that this part of the project did not currently have funding but the Council would be working with the private sector, development partners and Homes England to secure funding.

A Member of the Board asked about a piece of land on Beaufort Street which was a flood risk. It was reported that even when works were completed there would be benefits but it did not take away the flood risk entirely.

A Member of the Board asked about the funding of the projects. It was reported that phase 1 was completed under budget, phase 2 was on budget. For phase 3, the costs had been forecast and would be monitored once a contractor was procured. Phase 4 was not currently funded.

A Member of the Board asked if works would push flooding problems into the areas which had not yet had works done. It was reported that works were delivered without negative impact on other areas. The Our City Our River projects were designed to mitigate issues from the River Derwent rather than surface water.

Resolved to note the presentation.

12/22 Overview of Digital Enablement and Foundations

The Board received a presentation on the digital transformation. There were two programmes, digital foundations programme and digital enablement programme.

The presentation included the digital enablement of the Council Plan. The digital enablers programme included the financial management system, adults social care reform – charging, revenues and benefits digitisation, smart city service leverage, collaborative solutions and digital by default.

The digital foundations programme included, the digital customer, digital community, core infrastructure and cyber defence, service excellence and automation, digital workforce phase 2 and smart cities.

A Member of the Board asked about the costs of the programmes. It was reported that it was a rolling 5 year programme of investment through the capital programme. The costs dipped and rose at various points throughout the programme but would be around £3m at the peaks and £1m in the intervening periods. Digital enablement was costed on a programme by programme basis, with individual business cases each funded differently.

An explanation was given how the digital enablement programme was prioritised. This included projects which made savings and legal compliance, other priorities were decided by Members to benefit the city and the community.

A Member of the Board asked how much the Councillor Portal had cost. It was reported that the cost was nominal to turn on the base technology. Equipment from other Councils was reused and the portal was developed cost effectively and would be rolled out imminently.

A Member of the Board asked if the plan to have city centre wifi would still go ahead and for the people who did not have technology were call waiting times etc monitored. It was reported that the city centre wifi was not on the current programme. The focus was on becoming a gigabyte city and removing the barriers to getting 5G into the city. Wifi was available in key locations and access to digital services was a priority. A large number of services were now digital by default but for those who did not have access to technology, there was also the option of telephone and face to face service.

Resolved to note the presentation.

13/22 Financial Management System (FMS) Upgrade – Implementation Update

The Board received a presentation on the Financial Management System Upgrade. The presentation included the challenge, the approach, the current position and the anticipated benefits and next steps. The challenges with the current system were outlined in that the system had been in operation since 2007 and had minimal development since the last major upgrade in 2012. The challenge was to deliver a modern finance system which would reduce the number of systems and workarounds that needed to be maintained in order to provide key financial information for decision making purposes.

An outline of the approach taken and the timetable to date were given. The anticipated areas to benefit included, procurement to pay, accounts receivable, budget monitoring and forecasting. The new FMS system would be dashboard driven which would provide information required to make informed decisions on an ongoing basis. It would also alert users to the actions they needed to take.

The next steps were to configure the system, user acceptance testing in 3 phases, user training, stakeholder engagement and implementation on 3 April 2023.

The Chair recognised that this was a huge complex piece of work which required all users to be trained to ensure that the Council benefits from the investment.

A Member of the Board asked about the risks in transferring to the new system. It was reported that data migration would ensure that all the data was on the new system. 6 years of historic data would be transferred to the new

system and the old system would not be decommissioned until the Council was happy that the new system was fully working.

Resolved to note the presentation.

14/22 Remit, Work Programme and Topic Reviews

The Board considered a report which allowed the Board to study its Terms of Reference and Remit for the remainder of the 2022/23 Municipal Year. The report also allowed officers to inform the Board of any key work areas, issues or potential topic review subjects within the service areas for discussion or inclusion in the work programme.

The Board also considered the topic review and what evidence the Members would like to gather and who they would like to interview. It was agreed to ask Members of the Board not present who they would like to interview and what evidence they would like to gather. It was suggested that Paul Brookhouse from the Derby Food for Thought Alliance and Bernard Fenton Head of Customer Services be interviewed about their roles in supporting people with hardship in the city.

Resolved

- 1. To note the work programme.**
- 2. To ask Members of the Board not present who they would like to interview and what evidence they would like to gather.**
- 3. To arrange interviews with Paul Brookhouse from the Derby Food for Thought Alliance and Bernard Fenton, Head of Customer Services as part of the topic review.**

MINUTES END