



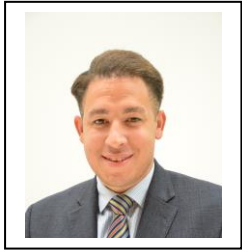
DERBY CITY COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2019 -2020

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for the work undertaken between May 2019 and June 2020.

Democratic Services

Foreword



Councillor Dom Anderson

Party: Conservative (was Independent)

Ward: Boulton

I am pleased to present the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for the work undertaken between May 2019 and June 2020. Unfortunately, because of the National Health Emergency relating to Coronavirus, all Council meetings including Scrutiny Boards were cancelled during the months of March and April 2020. Nevertheless, Overview and Scrutiny was still able to make a valuable contribution

to our local democracy throughout the municipal year.

The report includes a brief summary of the role and responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny, the work undertaken over the past year and the various outcomes achieved. It has been a busy year for the Councillors on the six Scrutiny Boards, whose chosen topics cover a broad range of services and their impact on local people and the City. Some of the topics scrutinised were looked at in depth and the outcomes are highlighted in this report.

It was a challenging year for Councillors, and I would like to thank them for their involvement and the contribution they made to the meetings. During my time as the Chair of the Executive Scrutiny Board, Councillors and Officers have enjoyed robust discussion about a variety of issues, and I hope this healthy debate will continue over the following year.

I would also like to thank the Council Officers and partner organisations for their support and hard work facilitating the Scrutiny process. A programme of

work is in the process of being created for the next twelve months. I am sure that members on Scrutiny Boards will show the same dedication in scrutinising the work of the Council and external partners during the year ahead.

Sincerely

Councillor Dom Anderson

dom.anderson@derby.gov.uk

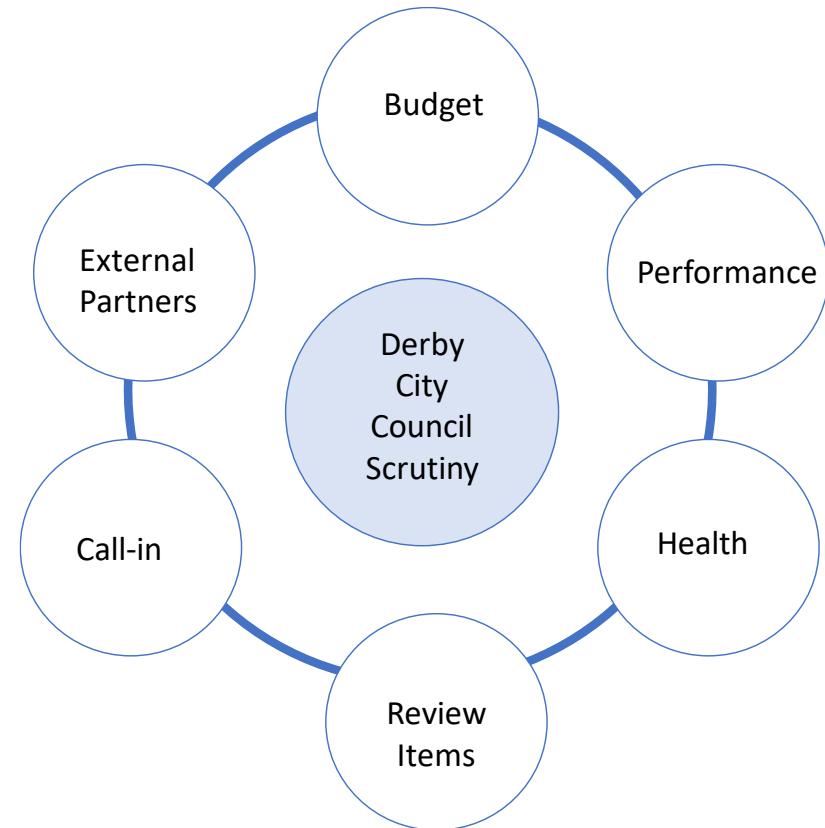
Introduction to Scrutiny

Key principles of scrutiny

- Provides a **challenge and feedback** to executive policy-makers and decision makers
- **Enables the voices and concerns of the public** to be heard
- Is carried out by **independent minded people** who take responsibility for their role
- It **drives improvement** in public services

Overview and Scrutiny Committees were introduced under the Local Government Act 2000 as part of new executive governance arrangements to ensure that members of an authority who were not part of the executive (Cabinet) could hold the executive to account for the decisions and actions that affect their communities.

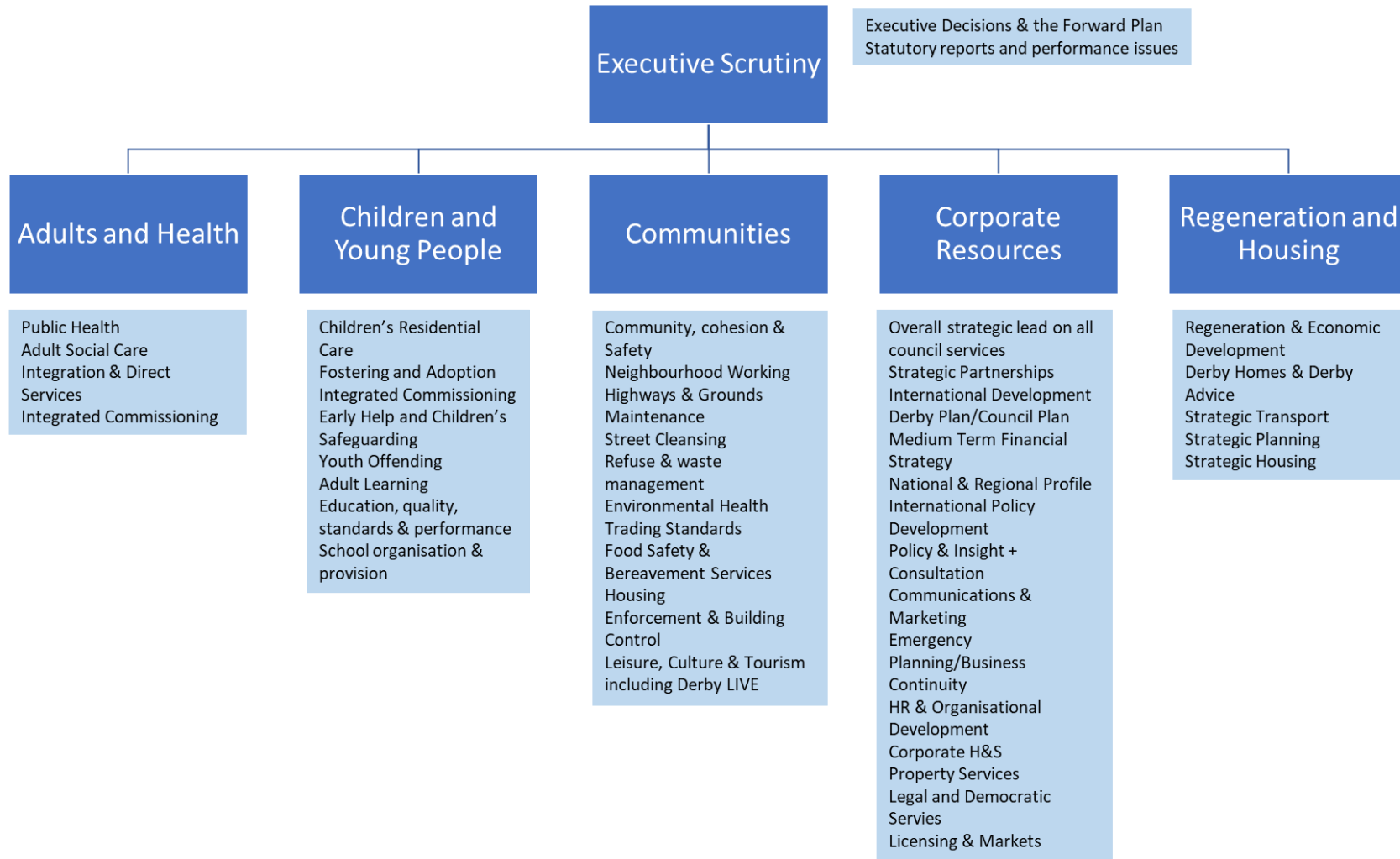
Overview and Scrutiny Committees have statutory powers to scrutinise decisions the executive is planning to take, those it plans to implement, and those that have already been taken or implemented. Recommendations following scrutiny enable improvements to be made to policies and how they are implemented. Overview and Scrutiny Committees can also play a valuable role in developing policies before they are agreed.



What Scrutiny does not deal with

Scrutiny is not able to deal with legal proceedings, individual complaints, or regulatory decisions such as planning or licensing applications. It also does not consider any issues where there are recognised complaints/other procedures such as The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman or The Information Commissioner

General Remit of each Scrutiny Board



There are six Overview and Scrutiny Boards at Derby City Council. The Executive Scrutiny Board reviews decisions made by Council Cabinet. The membership of Executive Scrutiny consists of some of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the other Scrutiny Review Boards.

Each Overview and Scrutiny Board is made up of councillors from different political groups. The number of councillors from each party reflects the political balance of the Council.



The five Scrutiny Boards come under the Executive Scrutiny Board and each focus on a different area of the Council, and broadly relate to individual Cabinet portfolios. Their remit includes:

- reviewing services and putting forward recommendations for their improvement or development
- participating in the early stages of consultation for any changes to services and any new proposals
- contributing to policy development
- monitoring the performance and progress of specific projects

The Aim of Scrutiny

Scrutiny Boards aim to make sure that decision makers are held accountable and local services are fit for purpose. Scrutiny of decisions is carried out in public in an impartial manner through scheduled meetings throughout the municipal year. The meetings can involve questioning of Cabinet Members, Council Officers and representatives of partner organisations about their decisions and policies. Board members can also speak to local people who could be affected by the decisions being taken. Scrutiny Boards also have legal powers to ask representatives from some other public organisations to attend. These are called “responsible authorities” and include:

- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- National Probation Service
- NHS
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Derby



Co-optees

Following a successful recruitment process for new co-optees in early 2018, we have continued to bring external voices into scrutiny to enhance our work and offer different perspectives and challenge. The co-opted members ensure a strong external representation and help scrutiny to engage with the public.

Co-optees:

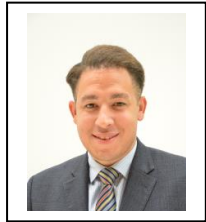
Act as an independent voice for those who live or work in Derby.

Bring specialist knowledge, skills and an element of external challenge to the overview and scrutiny process.

Take an interest in, attend and contribute to the committees and working groups to which appointed.

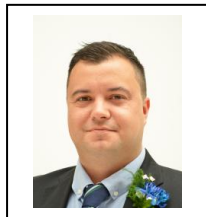
Establish good relations with other members, officers and co-optees.

Executive Scrutiny Board



Councillor Anderson
Chair

Councillors Cooper, Hudson and Evans
Vice Chairs



The Board comprises 12 elected members who reflect the Council's overall political balance. They meet monthly to examine every Cabinet decision and in particular "Key Decisions" that the Council takes, the Board makes recommendations on these prior to the Cabinet meeting the following evening

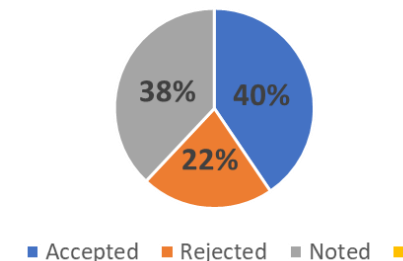
Key Decisions

- Key Decisions are those which result in a financial cost or saving of £250,000 or more.
- A decision would also be key if it is likely to have a significant environmental, physical, social or economic impact on people living or working in two or more communities in the City

Recommendations

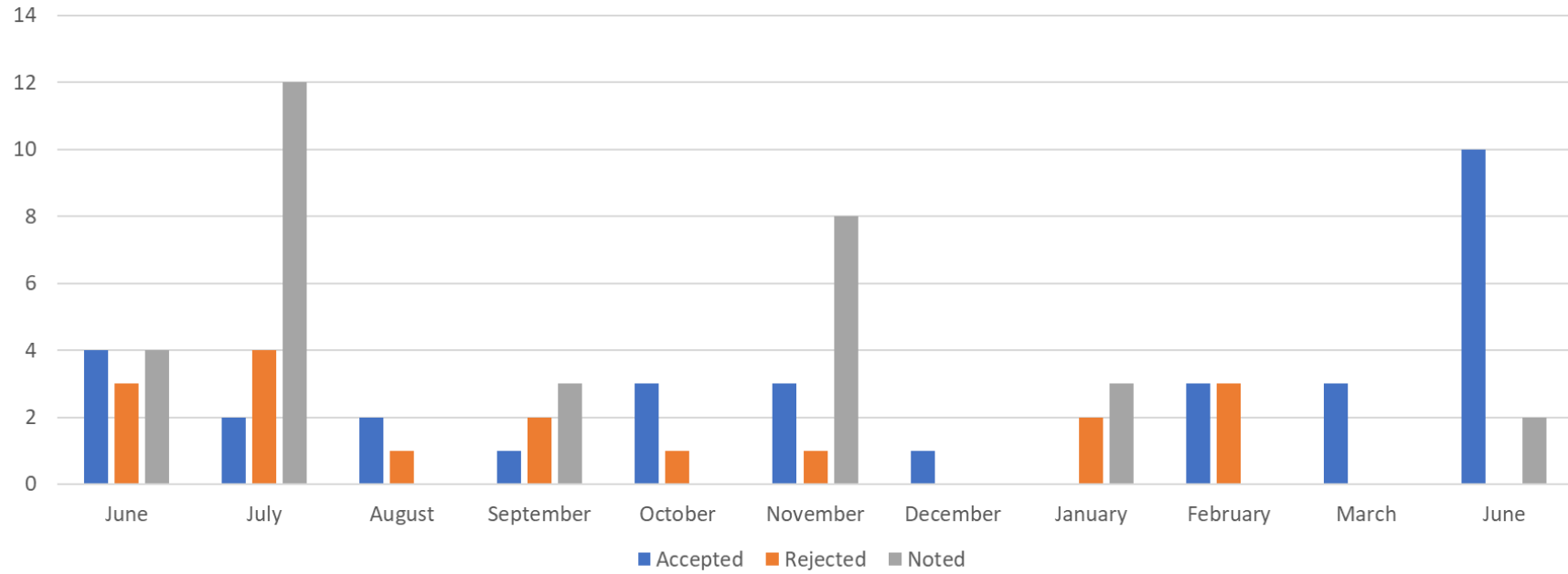
During the Municipal Year 2019/2020 the Executive Scrutiny Board made 81 Recommendations to Council Cabinet of which 32 were accepted, 17 rejected and 32 were noted.

Executive Scrutiny Recommendations 2019 - 2020



Month	Item	Title	No. of Recommendations	Accepted	Rejected	Noted
June	11	Property Design and Maintenance Capital Programme	3	0	1	2
	13	Final Accounts – 2018/19	3	0	2	1
	14	Council Plan 2019-2023	2	1	0	1
	15	Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules	3	3	0	0
July	2	D2N2 Career and Employability Hub	3	2	0	1
	8	Adult Commissioning Transformation Programme Procurement	3	0	0	3
	9	Reintroduction of Blue Bins to Arboretum, Normanton and Mackworth	2	0	0	2
	10	Older Persons' Housing Strategy 2019 - 2029	3	0	2	1
	12	Allenton Market – Future Proposals	4	0	2	2
August	13	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23	3	0	0	3
	8	Statements of Common Ground	1	1	0	0
	11	D2N2 (Local Enterprise Partnership) Project Call for Bids	1	0	1	0
September	12	Annual Report and Review of Performance 2018/19	1	1	0	0
	9	Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership	1	1	0	0
	11	Derby City Road Skid Resistance Policy	1	0	1	0
	14	Castleward Urban Village – Future Phases	2	0	1	1
October	15	Becketwell Regeneration	2	0	0	2
	8	Adult Social Care 'Your Life Your Choice' Strategy Refresh for 2019 and Beyond	1	1	0	0
	9	RAM Energy Fuel Poverty Fund	1	1	0	0
November	11	Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules	2	1	1	0
	2	Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules: Transforming Cities Fund	2	0	0	2
	9	Creation of a Single Early Years Inclusion Fund	2	0	0	2
	10	Purchase of a Residential Development to Provide 13 New Affordable Homes	1	0	0	1
	11	Compulsory Purchase Scheme – Compulsory Purchase of Properties in Castleward	2	0	0	2
	12	Investment in High Quality Office Development	1	0	0	1
December	15	Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 – Consultation Report	4	3	1	0
	9	Derby Cleaner Fleet Policy	1	1	0	0
January	10	Draft Air Quality Action Plan	4	0	2	2
	12	Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules	1	0	0	1
February	10	New Primary School Provision at Snelsmoor Grange and Castleward	1	1	0	0
	11	Our City Our River Update and Next Steps	1	1	0	0
	13	Derby Destination Management Plan	2	0	2	0
	14	Derby Culture Strategy 2020-2030	2	1	1	0
March	9	Schools Capital Programme 2020/21 – Phase 1 – Mickleover Primary	2	2	0	0
	15	Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules - Skip Hire and Waste Disposal Contract	1	1	0	0
June	2	Late item - Implications and proposed process for implementation of the Children's Social Care Flexibilities	1	1	0	0
	8	Housing Strategy	3	1	0	2
	9	Derby Recovery Plan	5	5	0	0
	10	Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules	1	1	0	0
	11	Council Response to Covid 19 Pandemic	2	2	0	0
Total			81	32	17	32

Executive Scrutiny Recommendations 2019 - 2020



Executive Scrutiny Work Programme

The Work Programme for 2019/20 included an in-depth scrutiny of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2020-2021 2022-2023 and revenue and capital budget proposals for 2019/20, to make sure that the council's resources are used effectively and efficiently.

Comments from the Executive Scrutiny Board when scrutinising the proposed financial plans were fed back to Council Cabinet as part of the consultation process in setting the budget.

Performance Monitoring

A Performance Work Programme is also set at the start of each Municipal Year to ensure that robust performance monitoring and challenge takes place. During the year 2019 – 2020 the Board received presentations and reports from a variety of service areas which included:

- Sickness Absence
- Inspections Update – Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
- Change Derby Programme
- Neighbourhood Working

Call In

It is one of the Executive Scrutiny Board's responsibilities to meet to consider key decisions that have been "called in". During 2019-2020 there were no call ins considered.

Call in of Cabinet Key Decisions

This is a process used by three or more councillors to question if a Cabinet decision has been made in line with the Council's Decision-Making principles.

Councillors who ask for a "call in" have to prove that the decision is wrong on one of the following grounds:

- Proportionality – the action must be proportionate to the declared outcome
- Due consideration – professional advice must have been taken from officers
- A presumption in favour of openness – all relevant information in the public interest must have been disclosed
- Clarity of aims and desired outcomes
- Respect for human rights

Call in also applies

- if a record has not been provided of what other options were considered
- if the reasons for the decision are not available
- if any relevant issues do not appear to have been taken into consideration.

Adults and Health Scrutiny Review Board



Councillor Cooper
Chair



Councillor A J Graves
Vice Chair

The Adults and Health Scrutiny Review Board has a statutory role under the Health and Social Care Act 2001, as amended, to scrutinise local health services. Given the wide remit of the Board, members chose not to carry out a single topic review and instead focused on a number of relevant issues over the course of the municipal year.

The Adults & Health Scrutiny Board reviewed annual reports and performance information in respect of Derby HealthWatch. It received information on NHS service reviews and, where appropriate as statutory consultees, commented on the proposals and associated communications and engagement plans. These included:

Review of Derby and Derbyshire NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). The new system would involve joint planning for the health and social care needs of the population and would move from an NHS focus on illness to enabling wellness. Delivery of services will be through Place Alliances rather than organisations and would be supported by strong Primary Care Networks. The Chair wrote to each Derby City Neighbourhood Board Chair about the STP Review and suggest that if they wished they could consider the STP Review at their next Neighbourhood Board meeting.

The Product of the review of Derby and Derbyshire NHS STP. The delivery model was considered by the Board. The model included integrated care teams in each of the Place Alliances, better cancer screening uptake and more people with dementia and delirium being supported in their own home or in a place they call home.

Proposals to relocate the functional mental health care for older adults from the London Road Community Hospital to Kingsway Hospital. The Board were informed of the proposals outlined in the draft consultation document. The Board supported the proposal in terms of access and suitability but were concerned that ward 1 on the London Road site would fall into disuse. The main concern of the Derby & Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group was that people with mental health needs should be placed in the best facilities available for those needs. The Board resolved to note and support the proposed report and draft consultation document.

GP Access to Surgeries. The Board considered the number of appointments available for patients to book in the extended access period March – July 2019 and the number of appointments actually booked, in the period. They also considered the utilisation of appointments across the three hubs in Derby and noted the large differences area to area. The difficulties that can be experienced when trying to book an appointment by telephone were discussed and the Board agreed that demand should be monitored.

Winter Pressures Update. The Board were updated on Derby City Council and partners seasonal operational planning. There was now a 12 month operational plan which was reviewed quarterly. The plan was led by the Derbyshire Operational Resilience Group (health and social care operational managers) reporting to the Derbyshire A&E Delivery Board. The plan included capacity modelling, flu planning and escalation processes. The Board stressed the importance of staff getting themselves vaccinated and the different ways of promoting this.

Public Health Vaccination Programme. The Board considered a report which provided an overview of vaccination and the current NHS life course vaccination schedule. It also described the delivery of the national vaccination programme in Derby. Assurance was given that the Derby City vaccination programmes are delivering positive outcomes for eligible residents, including groups where uptake has been low in the past. The report also raised awareness of the performance, achievements and challenges associated with the vaccination programmes.

Update on Pharmacy Services. An update on the Pharmacy Services on discharge from hospital, the current schemes and services relating to the use of medicines that support reducing General Practitioner (GP) Pressures, and greater integration and utilisation of the Community Pharmacy. The Board requested an update report, with key performance indicators, be provided to assure them that there was no deterioration in dispensing services for patients using the new Pride Park Pharmacy, and the Royal Mail tracked medicines delivery service compared to the Boots store. The Board also requested a further update report on Pharmacy Services with evidence to indicate referral pressures are being removed from GPs.

Update from East Midlands Ambulance Services NHS Foundation Trust. The Board considered the reduction in various response times in March 2019, compared to March 2018. It was reported that EMAS was making widespread improvements in its response times to patients by having a large increase in its workforce.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board



Councillor Lind
Chair



Councillor Kus
Vice Chair

The work of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board contributes to the Council's ambitions to give people in Derby an inspiring start in life, particularly by improving educational attainment.

The Children and Young People Board considered the following overview reports and presentations:

Derby City Virtual School – the report gave an update on the academic outcomes of pupils in the Virtual School, for the school year 2018-19. The report outlined the key education performance measures for Looked After Children (LAC), the key successes and areas for development for the Virtual School and celebrated the

notable progress and achievements of the young people. The reportable cohort are those youngsters in care for twelve months or more on 31st March 2019.

Derby City Council Educational Outcomes. The Board asked that an Inclusion Report, which gives greater depth about attainment and achievement in SEND, be brought to a future Board meeting in the summer of 2020.

The Board has received regular updates on Monitoring Safeguarding Practice and noted that, after the Joint Targeted Agency Inspection (JTAI) in March 2019, the main workforce development continued to be the strategic review of the "Front Door" multi agency safeguarding hub arrangements. The implementation of the Derby Derbyshire Children Safeguarding Partnership on 29 September 2019, which replaced the Derby Safeguarding Children Board, was also noted.

Strategic School Place Planning. The Council has a legal duty to ensure that sufficient school places exist for all children and young people living within their boundary. It monitors pupil numbers and developments that will affect the places requirement. A separate fund is available for additional provision for pupils with special needs. The Council considers these aspects separately in relation to school provision. Decisions on SEND provision are reported to this Committee. The Board were concerned that planning provision should be in place for children with SEND. They recommended that Council Cabinet ensure the Council was reviewing school place planning for SEND provision alongside school place planning for mainstream provision to meet the needs of the local area.

An initial review of the new arrangements of the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership which highlighted the strengths of the new partnership, including increased efficiency and effective working practices to safeguard children and families, comprehensive discussions with Strategic and Chief Officers in decision making and a more joined up approach to address challenges such as child exploitation.

A report on Contextual Safeguarding, which outlined the headline principles of Contextual Safeguarding as a strategic response by partners in Derby, and the current progress of Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (DDSCP) in developing a defined, holistic model of practice.

Derby Safeguarding Children Board Children at Risk of Exploitation (CRE) The Board were informed of recent developments including the creation of a joint Children at Risk of Exploitation (CRE) Strategy with Derbyshire County Council.

The Special Educational Needs Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Review. The Board were informed that the Council has hosted engagement and feedback events to ensure the Written Statement of Action addresses the key areas of weakness, can be delivered, and drives a culture of inclusion and co-production in the local area as a whole.

The Board considered a report which gave an update on **Inspection of services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.** Councillors had received feedback from local residents regarding communications and the need to

understand what was happening. It was confirmed that work was being undertaken, with communications leads in the CCG and Council, to develop a Communications Strategy and there would be regular communication going forward. The agreed Strategy would work through different levels with messages to Parents and Carers, Headteachers. A series of Bulletins was also planned.

Off Rolling in Derby Schools. The Board recommended that the information contained in the presentation on off rolling be circulated to all Derby City School Governing Bodies, in order to hold Headteachers and their senior management team to account and take steps to change the culture of approach to off-rolling in schools. Governors need to have the fullest information available on off-rolling in the context of the school and City as a whole. An update report on off-rolling should be brought back to a future CYP Scrutiny meeting.

Extended Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds. The Board considered an update on the outcome of a further extended entitlement parental survey undertaken in February 2019. The report highlighted the good performance the Council has had with the take up of the extended entitlement. This had exceeded the achievements of other Local Authorities both regionally and nationally. It was good news that there were 2,127 children currently accessing the offer in Derby compared with Department for Education (DfE) expectations of 2,050.

The Lighthouse and Integrated Disabled Children's Service. The Board considered a joint report of the Strategic Director of Peoples Services and Derby & Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group

(CCG), which gave an update on the current position of the Integrated Disabled Children's Service (IDCS), with a focus and re-emphasis on the work currently being undertaken in relation to re-modelling the residential short breaks element of the service. The Board requested that they were made aware of current services being delivered by the IDCS along with the current workload, pressures and developments in the service, including ongoing work in regards to re-modelling the residential short breaks element of the service.

With regard to the Residential Short Breaks Service to assure the Board of the importance of involving parents, stakeholders, partners and others with an interest in the re-modelling of this service, and to update on progress with the 90 day consultation process currently underway in line with our statutory obligations.

Communities Scrutiny Review Board



Councillor Hudson
Chair



Councillor Testro
Vice Chair

The Communities Scrutiny Review Board scrutinises Streetpride and Neighbourhood working, Leisure Culture and Tourism. The Board is also the Council's statutory Crime and Disorder Committee.

The Communities Scrutiny Board considered the following overview reports and presentations:

An overview report and presentation of the Derby City Playing Pitches Strategy (PPS) and the vision and strategy action plan that formed part of the Council's evidence base for physical activity and sport in the city.

The Implementation of Community Managed Libraries - In July 2017, the Council agreed a new strategy for the Library Service in

Derby. The Council considered a number of options and approved a community managed model. The Board were concerned about how the different operational approaches would work in relation to customer data protection, and who was liable if there was a data breach. An explanation was given of how the system worked to provide compliance for the council regarding the Data Protection Act 2018.

Derby Live, overview, function and partnership working. The Board were interested in how Derby LIVE would be commercially refocused. It was explained that there would be a change in some of the job roles to become more commercially focused rather than the emphasis being on producing theatre shows.

Garden and Food Recycling Project Update. The introduction of a free brown bin service was based on an estimated uptake of 75% of households in Derby. In order to reduce the current projected additional costs of this project, the service and project team were working on several possible methods of increasing household participation in the scheme such as targeted door knocking, targeted social media, business and community engagement or community events. Members of the board asked whether sign up rates had varied significantly by household type, and whether a digital map could be produced giving sign-up rates in each ward on a street by street basis.

Traffic Lights – network management. The Board were concerned whether consideration had been given to the impact on traffic flow once work had finished on the A52, and whether any data modelling has been conducted for this scenario. It was suggested

that as 25,000 vehicles use the A52 to commute to Derby daily this would have an impact.

Commercial Waste an update on the disposal of trade waste from Derby City Council (DCC) operated sites, such as Derby Arena, was provided. The Chair informed the Board that he had received reports that The Arena in Derby were not separating their general waste and recycling and that staff at the arena had confirmed this. It was The Arena's responsibility to ensure that they were recycling where possible. The Board recommended that the Arena be contacted regarding issues with their lack of recycling.

Street Cleansing Bins the report provided an update on the City Centre rubbish bin emptying collection programme and associated costs.

Neighbourhood Agenda update. A report and presentation provided an update on Neighbourhood working, including information on Public Protection Officers. The Council had originally recruited six Community Protection Officers from Nottingham City Council through secondment. This trial had gone well and that core funding for the Council to provide its own permanent Public Protection Officers (PPOs) had been approved. The Board requested an update on the Council's new PPOs be brought to the Communities Scrutiny Review Board in six months' time.

Flooding Response Report. An overview of specific flood prevention measures and joined up agency working during extreme weather conditions was provided. the Board requested that the

following question be included as an item at the next Communities Scrutiny Review Board meeting – "What assessment has been carried out to predict the effectiveness of the flood defence system in the event of an extreme event".

Corporate Services Scrutiny Review Board



Councillor Naitta
Chair



Councillor Pattison
Vice Chair

The Corporate Scrutiny Board considered the following overview reports and presentations:

Finance – state of the nation position on the Council’s finances and current budget risks. The report outlined the current "state of the nation" position on Council's finances and the budget risks in the Medium Term over the period 2020-2023. The Board asked what steps or actions could be taken to replenish the reserve and were informed that more savings would be needed. Due to pressures of Adult Social Care and Children and Young People services, it would be helpful to set funding arrangements at a national level. The Board asked for a note of all the commitments against the £230m before August 2019 to be provided.

International Development -Trading internationally and the effect of Brexit on Derby. It was reported that there were options and opportunities available with national changes and developments, which would include trade with different countries. Economic growth would help to boost the business base of the City. Local business growth would lead to larger property requirements for businesses which would in turn lead to more Council Tax for Derby. The Board was certain that local businesses, were already linking up with other countries. They suggested giving local companies help to attend Business Conventions to establish links, or the Council could host Trade Fairs. Officers suggested linking with these local businesses and introducing them to people with experience of working with other countries.

Customer Services and Universal Credit - how are vulnerable families being affected. An update report on the Council's work on Universal Credit and the Welfare Reform Service was provided. Derby City Council has a unique case management service that identifies individuals with expenditure higher than their income. The Council provided personalised support plans, managed by experienced case workers, for customers in financial crisis.

Markets – City Centre Regeneration Plan, update on markets (Allenton and Market Hall). The Board recommended that Council Cabinet agree the proposed new space in the market place should be developed to encourage and attract more young people from all backgrounds and cultures to access the facilities thus ensuring the development of diversity and engagement from all age ranges and demographics in Derby. This would ensure the sustainability of the

market place for future generations. It was also recommended that Council Cabinet should consider including a Technology Hub within the new Market Place space to encourage tech entrepreneurs and startups in Derby.

Derby Plan – City Plan. The Board received an update on the Derby Plan (City Vision). It was felt that the Council couldn't transform the city on its own, but it could create a platform that would allow Derby to be successful. It was reported that there was a disparity in deprivation rates throughout Derby and that it was important for the City Plan to help solve this and to bring the city together. The City Plan would allow the Council to shape and create a strong structure that would allow the city to thrive.

Energy Improvement Plan for Derby City Council. The Board received a report which set out a reinvigorated approach to energy management. The new approach would play a fundamental role and contribution in establishing the direction of travel for the Council's assets, ensuring a fit for purpose, sustainable, future property portfolio. It was noted that this report aligned with the Council's commitment under the Climate Emergency Agenda. The Board noted the approach detailed in the report and endorsed the key principles to ensure energy was managed efficiently, ensuring carbon and cost savings.

Corporate Asset Management - direction of travel for property. A report was received by the Board explaining that the Council's Estates Strategy was about repurposing and reinvesting in assets. Previously the Council had placed much more emphasis upon building compliance, in comparison to building maintenance, but

that the Estates Strategy would change this. Core assets that had been identified for retention would be targeted for investment through the Property Capital Programme, depending on their condition and need. Reviews would be undertaken to establish whether core assets were to be retained or disposed.

Land Charges. The report outlined the current position in relation to turnaround times for official Local Land Charges property search requests. In May 2019 the turnaround time for official search requests was 38 working days and concerns had been raised by The Minister for Housing, Local Estate Agents, Personal Search companies, conveyancers and the press. However Official Search turnaround times had now significantly improved to approximately 9 working days. The Government's expected local authority response time target for search requests to be 10 working days or less.

Digital Transformation – impact and direction. The Board received a presentation which highlighted the four strands of digital transformation

- **'Digital by Default / Digital Citizen'** which would enable all public services to be in one place and to be managed through a single secure account to manage relationships with the Council, giving citizens easy 24/7 access to services from any device or location
- **'Digital Workforce'** which would provide everything the 21st Century Worker needed on a single device, at any location and at any time. The Microsoft technology suite,

alongside Skype for Business, would provide colleagues with secure, modern, flexible and connected devices.

- **'Digital Connectivity'** which included providing secure and compliant connectivity networks for today and the future
- **'Future Infrastructure'** which included flexibly and intelligently right-sourcing the Council's Computing and Storage in a changing world.

Motion on Responsible Tax Conduct -The Board considered a motion on Responsible Tax Conduct that had been referred to the Board by Council. The Board suggested that the task of ensuring responsible tax conduct would be better dealt with by national government. Although the principle of this motion was correct, the detail asked too much of a Local Authority such as Derby City Council. It was concluded that the Council wouldn't have the resources to implement the recommendations within this motion. The Board recommended that the Council wrote to the government, asking them to take action around the issues raised in the Responsible Tax Conduct motion.

Gender Representation Task Group

The Board considered a set of draft notes from the first meeting of the Gender Representation Task Group. Upon the conclusion of the Gender Representation Task Group's work, the Board would consider a report setting out the task group's findings and recommendations.

Climate Change Working Group

It was noted that on 22 May 2019, Derby City Council had declared a Climate Emergency in the city. The decision had been unanimous across all parties, at the Council's Annual General Meeting.

The Council had been asked to:

- Establish a Derby Climate Change working group to respond to this challenge
 - Consider recommendations from the proposed working group, and set a target for Derby to be carbon neutral
 - Work with other local authorities and public, private and voluntary sector partners on carbon reduction projects to ensure the UK is able to deliver on its climate commitments
 - Ensure the Government provides the necessary resources and powers so that Derby can make its contribution to the UK's Carbon Reduction targets
- Derby was one of 245 UK local authorities (60%) that had declared a climate emergency and that 149 of these had set a target of reaching zero emissions by 2030.

Topic Review – Agency Workers Trend of Spend, Hours and Usage

A report was presented by the Human Resources Shared Services Manager and provided figures on agency use through the Matrix contract covering the period April 2019 to June 2019.

Key Findings of the Review

- In quarter one of 2019/2020 total spend on agency staff at the Council had risen, largely as a result of a national 2% pay rise that agency staff were entitled to.
- The total hours worked by agency staff during this quarter had also risen and that this trend needed to be monitored.
- People's Services directorate accounted for the highest spend in quarter one 2019/2020 at £591,325 followed by Communities and Place at £439,038.
- Agency workers made up around 4-5% of the Council's workforce and that this figure was to be expected for an organisation of Derby City Councils size.
- The Council aimed to lower agency usage by offering permanent contracts to agency workers in instances where this was a viable option.

The Board agreed to continue to monitor the appropriate use of agency staff, the length of agreements and to consider other alternatives whenever possible to ensure that a reduction is achieved

Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Review Board



Councillor Evans
Chair



Councillor Pearce
Vice Chair

The Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Board considered the following overview reports and presentations:

Derby Integrated Infrastructure Plan and the National Infrastructure Commission. The Board considered a report and presentation which gave an overview of the 'case study' project, and the role of the National Infrastructure Commission in working with Derby to develop an Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The Plan would set out Derby's infrastructure vision and strategy with a pipeline of developed priority projects to 2050. The Board suggested that the green agenda be highlighted to help tackle the climate emergency. It was suggested that consideration be given to municipalisation of transport to ensure that people could travel

easily around the city. The Board resolved to support the development of an integrated infrastructure plan for Derby and engage with the development of the plan as part of stakeholder engagement. They requested an update be brought back to a future meeting.

Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) – Development Update. The Board considered a report which gave an update on the development of the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) programme and Derby's joint work with Nottingham City Council. The three elements were mass transit, active travel links and smart bus corridors. The Board were very supportive of the plans particularly in relation to demand - responsive transport.

Impact of Brexit and Support to Business - The Board considered a report and presentation on the impacts on local businesses of the imminent departure of the UK from the European Union, and the support on offer to help businesses during the transition period. The presentation highlighted how confident East Midlands businesses felt about their preparedness if the UK left with a deal or without a deal. It also included what the Council was undertaking, such as officer led readiness groups, working in collaboration with partners, prioritising and mitigating internal risks, and impacts, signposting and reporting to government. The Board resolved to request an update to all Councillors at the earliest opportunity on what the Council was doing in readiness for Brexit, including, decision making, risks and mitigation.

Welfare Reform: Roll Out of Universal Credit, Impact on Rent Collection and Rent Arrears. The Board received a presentation on the impact on rent collection and rent arrears due to the roll out of Universal Credit. The presentation included historic and current information in relation to rent arrears, work to avoid evictions, evictions, the welfare reform team and what the Council and Derby Homes were doing to help people. The Board asked about advice given during the five week transition to Universal Credit, and if tenants were able to catch up arrears that occurred during that time. It was reported that the Council could apply for direct rent payment once the arrears reached eight weeks.

Housing Issues Update - The Board received two presentations,

- **Affordable housing demand.** The Board were interested to know what could be done to allow people to be accommodated in supported housing if there were vacancies and people were waiting, and what the costs were for temporary accommodation. The reduction in housing stock since 1981 was discussed and it was noted that Derby had a higher than average number of sales.
- **Affordable housing provision** - The presentation on new approach to affordable housing provision included: opportunities, financial viability, how to progress and the timescales involved. The Board suggested that consideration should be given to getting developers to look at solar panels, rainwater capture and bus routes to make homes more affordable. The Board noted that Derby

Homes were investigating the use of air source heat pumps for new properties and also the cost for retro fitting them into older properties.

Regeneration and Housing Board Topic Review

The Board undertook a Topic Review on Housing provision in Derby. The Review examined exactly how many homes were needed in Derby. They investigated how many empty homes there were in Derby currently and also how much it would cost to build new homes. They considered whether treasury management could be used to buy more homes, upgrade and renovate them and sell them for a profit. They also looked into whether the requirements of Local Plan policy CP7 could be altered.