

Time Commenced – 5.00pm
Time Finished – 6.00pm

Executive Scrutiny Board

12 January 2021

Present: Councillor Repton (Chair)
Councillors Care, Hudson, Hussain, Pattison, P Pegg, Testro,
Willoughby

In attendance: Emily Feenan – Director of Legal, Procurement and
Democratic Services
Bernard Fenton – Head of Customer Service
Steven Mason – Democratic Services Officer
Gurmail Nizzer – Director of Children's Integrated
Commissioning
Simon Riley – Strategic Director of Corporate Resources

48/20 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

49/20 Late Items

There were none.

50/20 Declarations of Interest

In relation to 54/20 – Council Cabinet Agenda – Housing Revenue Account
Business Plan 2021 to 2051, Councillor Care wished it to be noted that she
had been appointed to the Derby Homes Board by Council.

51/20 Minutes of the meetings held on 8 December 2020 and 15 December 2020

The minutes of the meetings held on 8 December 2020 and 15 December
2020 were agreed as a correct record.

52/20 Forward Plan

The Board considered the contents of the Forward Plans published on 15
December 2020 and 12 January 2021.

No items were added to the future work programme.

Resolved to note the Forward Plans.

53/20 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 meetings held on 8 December 2020 and 15 December 2020.

The Board resolved to note the report.

54/20 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 13 January 2021.

Key Decisions

Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School – New School Project

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School – New School Project.

Members noted that it was necessary to seek approval to place orders, and award contracts, for further design work needed to advance proposals and secure planning permission for a new Ravensdale Infant School building, following the recent major fire.

The report sought approval for two elements of the proposed recovery plans currently being developed, as follows:

- Complete the next phase of the design works for a capital scheme for a permanent new replacement school building - estimated cost of £601,194;
- Placing orders and payments to secure key components of the new building, including steel work for the modular units – estimated cost of £442,519.

It was noted that it was necessary to seek approval for the works, to ensure the new build could be completed as soon as was reasonably practical.

Members noted that it was proposed that each element would be funded from the insurance settlement, currently undergoing review with the insurance loss adjuster and that the loss adjuster had confirmed agreement to the proposals, subject to final actual costs being provided by the Council.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:

- 1. to welcome the inclusion of sprinklers in the new school; and**
- 2. to recommend to Council Cabinet that the new school should be designed to be carbon zero in operation from the start, or at least that the design allows for the buildings to be made carbon zero in an efficient manner in the near future.**

Council Tax Base for 2021/22

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources on Council Tax Base for 2021/22.

It was reported that the Council had a legal requirement to calculate a Council Tax base for each financial year and to notify its Council Tax base to both The Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire and Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority. It was also reported that the Council Tax base must be calculated between 1 December and 31 January in the preceding financial year and notified to The Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire and Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority by 31 January of the preceding financial year.

Members noted that the Council Tax base was an estimated figure of the number of domestic properties expressed in terms of 'band D' equivalents in the Council's area during the financial year concerned. It was also noted that it was used to determine a headline charge for band D properties in the city and that charges for other bands were calculated as defined fractions of the headline charge.

It was reported that the proposed Council Tax base for 2021/22 was 69,545.77 band D equivalent properties compared with the 2020/21 Council Tax base of 69,592.06.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

Financial Support for Families During School Holidays

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Financial Support for Families During School Holidays.

The report detailed the programmes of support currently in place to help support children and families in poverty across Derby, utilising the community assets that had been put in place in the last nine months.

The report proposed a short and medium term approach that detailed a co-ordinated short and medium response to children at risk of food poverty in the city which would be taken forward by the newly established Poverty Commission.

The report outlined options for financial support to families during school holidays in direct response to the Free School Meals motion passed at the Council meeting on 25 November 2020. Members noted that the approach

outlined in the paper responded to the Council's motion but was designed around wider desired outcomes for disadvantaged children in receipt of free school meals and developing family resilience.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:

- 1. to recommend to Council Cabinet that it implements in full the motion agreed at full council to provide children and families with support ,via vouchers, for all school holidays in 2021 and beyond;**
- 2. to recommend to Council Cabinet that the poverty commission consider the outputs of the work of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board 2018/19 topic review on child poverty in the city as part of its deliberations; and**
- 3. to recommend to Council Cabinet that these items on additional financial support for families during the School holidays to be included in the MTFP presented to Council in February**

Budget and Policy Framework

Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2021 to 2051

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources on Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2021 to 2051.

The report sought approval for the updated Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan, its associated rent increases and capital programme. It was reported that the HRA Business Plan set out the 30 year investment strategy for the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock together with investment proposals for additional homes.

Members noted that despite increasing pressures in recent years, the HRA remained in a relatively strong position and that it could meet the immediate management and maintenance requirements of the Council's housing stock, together with the investment ambitions for additional homes, and the modelled business case requirements over the 30 years of the business plan.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

MINUTES END