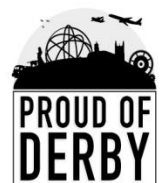


Overview and Scrutiny

Annual Report 2015-16



Derby City Council



Contents

	Page
Introduction and Foreword	2
What do Overview and Scrutiny Boards do?	3
Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board	4
Inspiring Young People	6
Integrating Communities	7
Protecting Vulnerable Adults	8
Regenerating Our City	9
Supporting Derby's Workforce	11
Overview and Scrutiny Membership 2015-2016	13

Introduction and Foreword

Welcome to the Annual Report for Overview and Scrutiny which sets out the work undertaken during the 2015-2016 municipal year. Scrutiny plays an important role in Derby City Council's decision making process by holding the Council Cabinet to account for its policies, decisions and actions, whilst also supporting policy making by conducting in-depth reviews and monitoring performance.

This report highlights the important work carried out by the Boards throughout the 2015-2016 Municipal Year. This work has involved scrutinising a wide range of topics and conducting a number of reviews to drive service improvement and challenge decision-making, performance and the use of Council funds to deliver services to the people of Derby.

During the last municipal year the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board examined the detail of every single key decision made by Council Cabinet. The topic specific scrutiny boards also took a detailed look into a number of specific projects, service areas and areas of underperformance for development and improvement. These boards also responded to consultation and calls for endorsement across the Council and our partner organisations.

Delivering effective scrutiny requires a great deal of time and commitment from appointed Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members of all of the scrutiny boards. These elected members have a vital role to play in scrutinising existing and developing council policies and making informed recommendations to drive improvement and the development of services within their remits.

Council officers also help make scrutiny a success through their invaluable support, input and co-operation. As the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board I would therefore like to thank all those involved in the scrutiny process for their hard work and commitment over the last year.



Cllr Jack Stanton
Chair Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board

What do Overview and Scrutiny Boards do?

Each Overview and Scrutiny Board has a range of areas they are responsible for examining. These often span both Cabinet Member portfolios and service directorates within the Council.

The boards scrutinise decisions and policies that the Cabinet Members are making, that relate to the issues in their remit. Their role is to hold the decision makers to account by challenging these decisions, ensuring that they have been taken in the best interest of Derby residents as well as improving the quality and delivery of local services.



The scrutiny of decisions is carried out in public in an impartial manner, mainly through scheduled meetings held throughout the year.

These meetings can involve thorough questioning of Cabinet Members, council officers and representatives of partner organisations about their decisions and policies.

The main role of the scrutiny boards is to look at policies and proposals before decisions are taken. This enables members to influence the development of service improvements and ensure that the decisions being made are done transparently and in accordance with the council's decision making procedures.

Cabinet Members, council officers, representatives of external organisations or experts on a particular subject may be asked to attend meetings to give information and respond to questions. Board members can also speak to local people who will be affected by the decisions being taken.

The aim of scrutiny is to make sure that decision makers are held accountable and local services are fit for purpose. To increase their understanding of a particular issue, boards may ask for presentations and written reports, or they may request surveys to be carried out or go on fact finding visits.

Scrutiny has legal powers to ask representatives from some other public organisations to attend. These are called 'responsible authorities' and include:

- Police
- Police Authority
- Fire and Rescue Service
- Local Authority
- Probation
- Health Authority

This report provides information on what each of the Boards has looked at over the period of the May 2015 to April 2016 Municipal Year.

Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board

The Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board is responsible for scrutinising Executive decisions and the Forward Plan as well as statutory reports and performance issues. It also has an annual responsibility to scrutinise the Council's Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board has an opportunity to examine every decision executive, or 'key decision' that the Council takes, before it is taken, and can make recommendations on these to Council Cabinet. These recommendations are wide-ranging and can include suggestions to look elements of decisions in further detail, provide endorsements or issue challenges to the implementation of decisions.

A 'key decision' is any decision resulting in a financial cost or saving of £250,000 or more, or involving a grant to a voluntary organisation of £25,000 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 communities in two or more wards in the city.



In addition to the key decisions scrutinised by the Board in 2015-16, the Board also looked in detail at the following areas:

- Reconfiguration of Specialist Rehabilitation Services
- Care Quality Commission General Practice Inspection Update
- Annual Report on Complaints relating to Children and Young People's Social Care Services
- Homelessness Acceptances
- Libraries Strategic Review and Needs Assessment
- School Place Planning and Admissions
- Adult Learning Service Annual Self-Assessment 2015 - 2015
- Derby Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014 – 2015
- Derby Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy: Annual Report 2014 - 2015
- Annual Report on Private Fostering 2014 –2015
- Managing and Monitoring IT Contracts
- Annual Education Performance Outcomes 2015
- Joint Minerals Local Plan Consultation – Hydraulic Fracturing

Call-In of Council Key Decisions

In addition to scheduled scrutiny meetings, the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board has a responsibility for meeting to consider key decisions that have been called in, where three or more members are questioning that a particular decision has been made in line with the Council's Decision-Making Principles.

If councillors wish to call-in a decision, a notice must be submitted within five working days of the publication of the minutes of the Council Cabinet meeting, stating which of the principles has been breached. The call-in suspends the implementation of the decision until it has been considered by the relevant board, which must meet within ten working days to consider it. The views of the board are then referred back to Council Cabinet or in certain circumstances to Council.

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

- Proportionality - the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome
- Due consultation - 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 options were considered, the reasons for that decision and if relevant issues do not appear to have been taken into consideration.

Decisions in relation to Council Funding for Services in the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector and Changes to Neighbourhood Working, Community Safety and Cohesion and Integration were called in by Members during the 2015-2016 Municipal Year but were found by the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board not to be in breach of the Council's Decision-Making Principles.

Inspiring Young People

The Inspiring Young People Board was the Board responsible for scrutiny of services relevant to young people including education, learning and skills safeguarding, early help, youth offending and quality assurance.

The Board routinely invited young people to attend and participate in Board meetings.

The CYP Board started to conduct an in-depth review on the recruitment and retention of Foster Carers following a number of possible lines of enquiry, including:

- Why foster carers left the service and is there a theme.
- Reviewing the results of the iMPower foster carer consultation.
- What stops initial enquires about becoming a foster carer from proceeding.
- Reviewing the fee setting process.



Following a number visits and interviews with staff and external organisations the Board decided that further work was required and agreed to carry the review into the 2016-2017 Municipal Year. Members were keen to ensure a thorough evaluation of the issues so they could develop a series of recommendations to help improve the recruitment and retention of foster carers. It is anticipated that the recruitment of more in-house foster carers for Derby City Council would have a positive impact on the Council's budget, specifically the spend for external independent sector fostering placements. An increase in in-house foster carers would also allow more children in care to be placed locally to Derby.

Other items scrutinised by the Board included:

- Integrated Commissioning Update
- Monitoring Safeguarding Practice
- Transforming Children's Health Services
- School Improvement – Inspection Update
- Early Help Annual Report
- Youth Justice Issues
- Progress of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- Monitoring Safeguarding Practice

Integrating Communities



The Integrating Communities Board is responsible for scrutiny of services under the remit of the Cabinet Members for Cohesion and Integration and Regulated Services, and covers services such as Streetpride, City and Neighbourhood Partnerships and Environment and Regulatory Services. The Board also acts as the Council's Statutory Crime and Disorder Committee.

During the period from June 2015 to April 2016 the Board looked at a number of issues of particular importance to the residents of Derby. One of the main issues was around the use of CCTV monitoring in the city and public safety of people in Derby City Centre and crime, especially as night time. Following discussions by Members the Board recommended the Council should continue to support the continued use of CCTV monitoring and seek additional funding support from external business and other organisations in the city for the maintenance of CCTV monitoring equipment to allow the pilot active monitoring service to continue.

Other items scrutinised by the Board included:

- Use of Section 61 Powers in Relation to Unauthorised Encampments
- Highways Maintenance Programme – 2016/17
- Public Area CCTV – Implications of Budget Reductions 2015/16
- Costs and Benefits of Marketing the Brown Bin Scheme
- East Midlands Devolution Agreement
- Section 106 Funding and Supplementary Planning Document
- North Midlands Devolution Agreement
- Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2016-17 and Modern Slavery

Protecting Vulnerable Adults Board

The Protecting Vulnerable Adults Board is responsible for scrutinising adult social care and public health services. It is also the statutory health scrutiny committee, which gives it the power to review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the city.



This includes services delivered by external organisations such as the Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the East Midlands Ambulance Service. The Board is diligent in discharging its scrutiny responsibilities and selects items for health and social care in its work programme at the start of each municipal year.

Review of Access to GP services

The Protecting Vulnerable Adults Board is conducting an ongoing review on Access to GP Services. This is an issue which affects a huge proportion of Derby's residents and is one of the biggest issues facing Derby residents in relation to accessing health services in a timely and convenient manner. During the 2015-2016 Municipal Year the Board received updates from the Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SDCCG) to consider the progress made to improve the GP access situation.

Other items scrutinised by the Board included:

- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- Social Isolation and Loneliness
- Cancer Care Waiting Times
- Service Update
- Joined up Care
- Health Economy
- East Midlands Ambulance Service – Draft Quality Account 2015/16
- Tackling Social isolation and loneliness faced in Older People
- Local Area Coordination in Derby

Regular briefings were also provided by the Southern Derby Clinical Commissioning Group, Derby Healthwatch and the Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust to keep members up to date on their projects and services and highlight any areas for future scrutiny.

Regenerating Our City



The remit of this board covered areas that fall within the portfolios of the Cabinet Member for Communities and City Centre Regeneration (Deputy Leader of the Council) and the Cabinet Member for Urban Renewal.

This included:

- Regeneration
- Planning and Property Services
- Combined Authority / LEP
- Leisure and Culture
- Derby Live
- Museums and Libraries
- Tourism
- Derby Homes
- Strategic Housing

Because the Board has such a wide remit for scrutiny, it was decided that an in-depth review for 2015-16 would not be carried out. Instead a full work programme of complex and often high profile services and projects was developed and an 'in-meeting review' of Normanton Regeneration Proposals were programmed over a number of meetings.

Normanton Regeneration Proposal

The Board looked in detail at proposals from the Regeneration Team in relation to the Normanton and Cavendish district centres which also highlighted connections to the Inner Ring Road, Normanton Road and parks in the area. Members held discussions on these plans and made a number of recommendations to Council Cabinet including repairs to footpaths and carriageways to be undertaken urgently the following year and the investigation into whether bus routes could be re-routed and taken off the main route through Normanton to ease congestion.

At a further meeting the Board also made recommendations to ask for further information from Highways on traffic flow on Normanton Road through to Stanhope Street and data on the usage of car parks in Normanton to be undertaken to inform further regeneration proposals. The Board also requested a feasibility study into the setting up of Business Improvement District Board for the area. Updates on the recommendations put forward by the Board will be programmed and reported during the next Municipal Year.

Additional items scrutinised by the Regeneration and Culture Board included:

- Regeneration of Normanton
- Leisure Facilities Strategy – Update and forward plan
- Markets Strategy
- Report on the Draft Housing Strategy 2015-2019
- Review of Affordable Housing – Cabinet response
- Update from Property Rationalisation Strategy
- Cultural Offer and Assembly Rooms Update
- Derbyshire Cycling Plan
- Derby Museums Trust – Annual Report Summary



Supporting Derby's Workforce



The remit of this board covers service areas that fall within the portfolios of the Cabinet Member for Strategy and Policy (Leader of the Council) and Cabinet Member for Job and Fair Employment.

This includes:

- Legal and Democratic Services
- Finance and Procurement
- ICT and Business Systems
- Strategic Services and Transformation
- Customer Management
- HR Operations
- HR Strategy and Policy

Agency Workers and Consultants

The Board conducted an in-depth Review into the Use of Agency Workers and Consultants, which aimed to investigate the reasons for the use of consultants and agency workers by Derby City Council and consider the alternatives. The review also considered the procurement arrangements associated with employing staff through agencies and consultants and the costs involved with employing staff through these means with a view to establishing alternatives to make savings where possible.

After considering and analysing evidence gathered by a working group, the Board came up with a number of recommendations to Council Cabinet and the Audit and Accounts Committee to:

- Ensure that workforce planning is a priority within the OD framework supporting the implementation of the Delivering Differently programme.
- Recommend that Finance and HR Operations to establish a way to identify consultants engaged through various means for audit and reporting purposes.
- Request that procurement complete a review of invoices/payments in line with contract management procedures, to ensure consultancy services are value for money.
- Request that Finance benchmark the Council's spend on consultants in comparison with other local authorities to seek best practice.
- Recommend that Management consider all workforce options prior to engaging consultants.
- Recommend that a 'Working Party' is formed consider recommendations from the report in the review of the neutral vendor contract to seek cost savings.
- Request that the Zero Hours Project Team consider the contents of the report to avoid negative impact on the recommendations.
- Recommend that HR completes a strategic review of the policies and procedures relating to agency workers.
- Recommend that the Employee Commission Working Group review the report recommendations in line with the delivery of Refuse & Waste Management services.
- Request that the Audit and Accounts Committee review the procurement process in relation to the recruitment of consultants.

In 2015-16, the Board also looked in detail at the Council's Employee Commission Employment Charter and at Volunteering Opportunities Across the City.

Overview and Scrutiny Membership 2015 - 2016

Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board

Chair – Councillor Stanton

Vice Chairs –Councillors Whitby, Bayliss, Dhindsa, Jackson and J Khan

Councillors Carr, Poulter, Webb, Williams

Inspiring Young People Board

Chair – Councillor Whitby

Vice Chair – Councillor Williams

Councillors Care, Hezelgrave, Nawaz, Roulstone, Winter

Integrating Communities Board

Chair – Councillor Bayliss

Vice Chair – Councillor Poulter

Councillors Froggatt, Hassall, J Khan, Sandhu, Skelton

Regenerating Our City Board

Chair – Councillor Dhindsa

Vice Chair – Councillor Naitta

Councillors A Holmes, MacDonald, Keith, Martin, West

Supporting Derby's Workforce Board

Chair – Councillor Jackson

Vice Chair – Councillor Carr

Councillors Barker, Dhindsa, Grimadell, Whitby, Winter

Protecting Vulnerable Adults Board

Chair – Councillor J Khan

Vice Chair – Councillor Webb

Councillors Ashburner, Froggatt, Ingall, Raju, Turner

Consideration of education related matters on scrutiny boards

Co-optees – Eleanor Berry, Phil Henry, Steve Grundy, Didier Matamba, Chris Reynolds and Bev Stewart (appointed until 31 December 2017).