



DERBY CITY COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

For more information, contact Democratic Services
via committee@derby.gov.uk



Foreword



Councillor
Martin
Repton

Party: Labour **Ward:** Darley

I am pleased to present the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for the work undertaken during the 2021-22 municipal year. As Derby City continues its recovery from the COVID 19 Pandemic, which presented many challenges to the Council's ways of working and operation, the Scrutiny

Boards have carried on with their important work of reviewing key issues affecting the City and its residents.

The Scrutiny Boards at Derby City Council continued to work through the ever-changing COVID 19 Pandemic. Meetings were held in socially distanced rooms where hand sanitiser was provided and the use of face masks was encouraged, one-way systems were in place in the building and at its entrances and exits.

Whilst we are once again meeting in person, the use of virtual technology has been a useful tool for Scrutiny's evidence gathering work. The Adults and Health Scrutiny Board undertook a topic review on the impact of COVID 19 on Protecting Care Home Residents and Staff and using this technology was able to take evidence from several local organisations in Derby.

This report includes a summary of the roles and responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny, the work undertaken over the past year and the various outcomes that have been achieved. It has been a busy year for the Councillors on Scrutiny Boards, examining a broad range of topics and services, as well as their impact on the city and its residents.

Looking to the future in 2022 – 2023 there are a lot of challenges ahead for the Council and

the work programmes of all our Scrutiny Boards will continue to be full and varied but, we hope, targeted on areas where the most impact can be made. One of the most pressing issues for consideration are the changes to Health Governance and Leadership within the NHS in a move to an Integrated Care System (ICS).

There is also a severe cost of living crisis which is affecting the whole community in Derby and especially the most vulnerable. We need to meet the challenge of supporting our communities and residents through the tough times ahead. Scrutiny has a role to play in helping good policy making and ensuring the voices of the community are heard and that they are responded to.

Meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Boards are open to the public and I would encourage as many partners and residents as possible to get involved in any upcoming scrutiny reviews. I would also like to thank all the Scrutiny Chairs, Councillors, Officers, and external partners who have contributed to the scrutiny process and our co-optees for their hard work and dedication.

Cllr Martin Repton
Chair of the Executive Scrutiny Board 2021-22

Introduction to Scrutiny

KEY PRINCIPLES OF SCRUTINY

PROVIDES A CHALLENGE AND FEEDBACK TO EXECUTIVE POLICYMAKERS 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

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

Executive Scrutiny

Executive Decisions & the Forward Plan
Statutory reports and performance issues

Adults and Health

Public Health
Preparing for Adulthood,
Ordinary Lives and Deaf
Service
Community Support
Mental Health and LAC
Safeguarding & Professional
Services
Home First
Direct Services
Business Intelligence
Commissioning and Market
Management

Children and Young People

Adult Education
Education and Skills
Employability (part of
Economic Development)
Inclusion and Intervention
Fostering and Adoption
Childrens Q&A
Specialist Services
CYP Residential
Care Leavers
Early Help
Social Care Fieldwork
Commissioning
School Organisation and
Provision

Communities

Community Recovery
Partnership engagement
including city centre & VCS
Community Safety and
Integration
Neighbourhoods
Environmental Protection
Housing Standards,
Licensing and Emergency
Planning
Street Cleaning, Waste and
Fleet Management
Highways Maintenance,
Grounds Maintenance,
Land drainage
Streetpride (including parks
/ city centre bins)
Parks & Open Spaces
Trading Standards,
Bereavement Services &
Food Safety and Building
Consultancy
Leisure & Business
Development (including
Derby Live, libraries and
events)
Active Living and Wellbeing
Tourism
Culture & Arts
Development
Markets & Market Place

Corporate Services

Overall strategic lead on all
Council services
Strategic partnerships
Derby Plan/Council Plan
Medium Term Financial
Strategy
National and regional
profile
International development
Communications &
Marketing
Audit/CMAP
Human Resources
Organisational
Development
Legal
Democracy
Elections & Land charges
Procurement & Contracting
Health & Safety
Counter Terrorism /
Migration/Finance
Revenues and Benefits
Business Support
Business Systems
Customer Management
Digital & IT
Strategic Asset
Management & Estates
Facilities Management
Property Design
Connect Derby
Policy & Insight
Strategy & Performance
Change Derby

Regeneration and Housing

Economic Development
Regeneration and Major
Projects
Traffic and Transport
Highways & Engineering
Planning

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 Derbyshire



Co-optees

We continue 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.

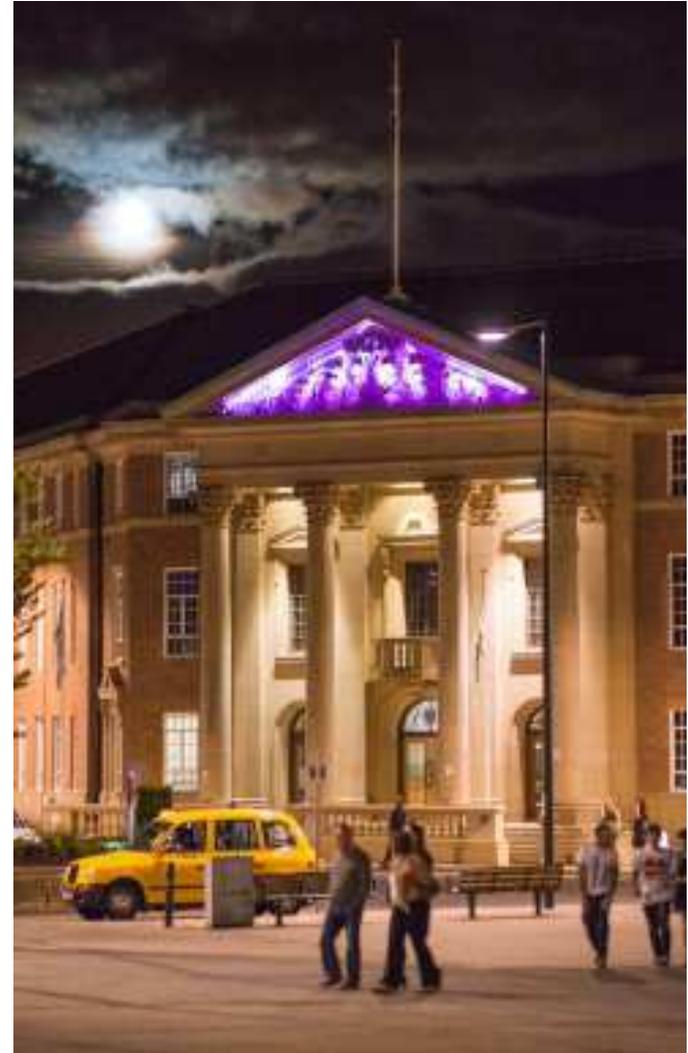
CO-OPTees:

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 THEY ARE APPOINTED.

ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND CO-OPTees.



Executive Scrutiny Board



Councillor Martin Repton - Chair



Board Members



Councillors Care, Carr, Cooper, Dhindsa, Evans, Eyre, Grimadell, Martin, Pattison, Pegg and Prosser

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

KEY DECISIONS

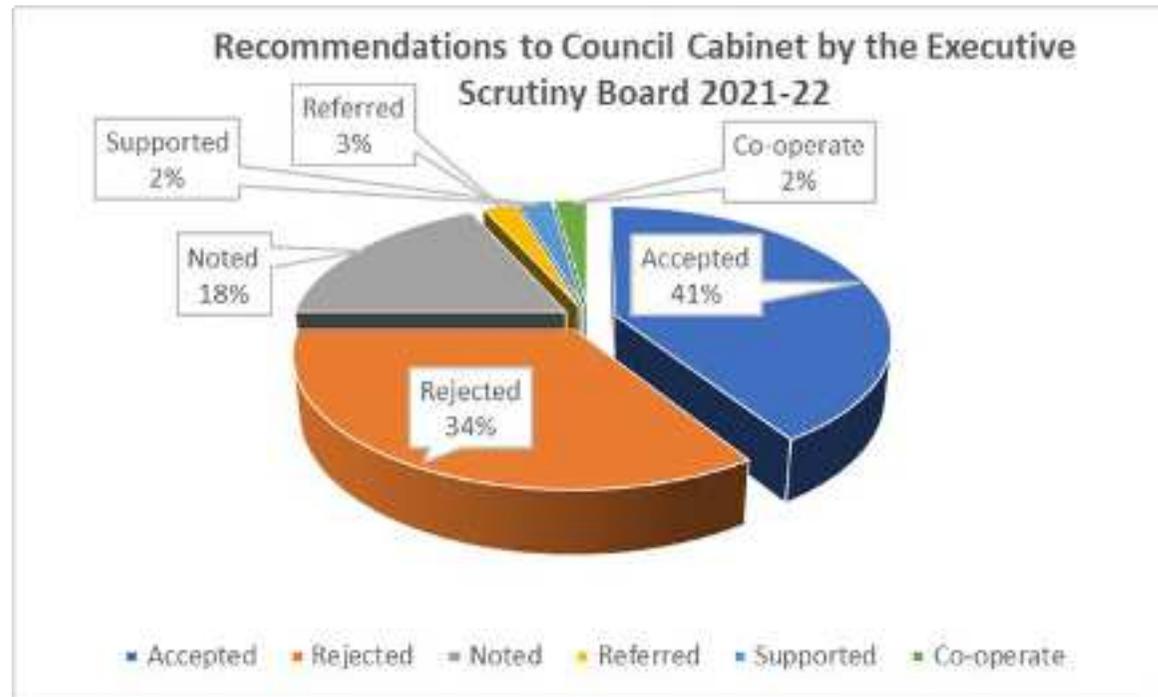
KEY DECISIONS ARE THOSE WHICH RESULT IN A FINANCIAL COST OR SAVING OF £250,000 OR MORE.

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 WARDS IN DERBY.



RECOMMENDATIONS

DURING THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/2022, FROM 93 REPORTS CONSIDERED, THE EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY BOARD MADE 44 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL CABINET OF WHICH 18 WERE ACCEPTED, 15 REJECTED, 8 WERE NOTED, 1 WAS REFERRED TO THE REGENERATION & HOUSING BOARD, 1 IT WAS AGREED TO CO-OPERATE WITH AND 1 THE SPIRIT OF RECOMMENDATION WAS SUPPORTED.



Executive Scrutiny Work Programme

The Work Programme for 2021-2022 included an in-depth scrutiny of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and revenue and capital budget proposals for 2021- 2022, 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 normally set at the start of each Municipal Year to ensure that robust performance monitoring and challenge takes place. The Executive Scrutiny Board agreed the performance items identified for consideration by the Board as part of the Performance Plan for the year 2021-2022.

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 was not taken in accordance with the following principles:

- 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.

Call In

It is one of the Executive Scrutiny Board's responsibilities to meet to consider key decisions that have been "called in". During 2021-2022 there were no call-ins received.



Adults and Health Scrutiny Review Board



Councillor Alison Martin - **Chair**



Councillor Emily Lonsdale - **Vice Chair**



Board Members

Councillors Cooper Froggatt,
Grimadell, Hussain and Pegg

**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**

ADULTS & HEALTH SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021 - 22

- Improving mental health inpatient facilities in Derby
- London Road Wards 1 & 2 and cancer services update
- London Road Community Hospital Transformation Project – Wards 4, 5 & 6
- Learning from COVID - Briefing covering the initial period when the first COVID cases were identified in Derby, and perhaps comment on Derby's readiness.
- Hyper Acute element of the Stroke Service
- London Road Community Hospital Transformation Project – Wards 4, 5 & 6 Update
- GP Appointments Face to Face and Online appointments
- Scrutiny of Home Care Services (Care Sector Monitoring)
- Florence Nightingale Community Hospital wider development with partners
- NHS Waiting Lists
- Older Peoples Mental Health Consultation
- Sinfyn Health Centre Development
- Item for Information - St Thomas Road Surgery Re-procurement
- Mental Health Post COVID Response
- Primary Care Estate Developments in Mickleover and Mackworth
- Mackworth Health Centre Update
- Urgent Treatment Centre Reviews
- Mental Health Post COVID Response
- Provision for people with chronic conditions such as ME, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), Long COVID
- Review of Services for Adults with Learning Difficulties
- Healthwatch Report on Dentistry
- GP Access – long term planning

In the past twelve months the Adults & Health Scrutiny Board's work focused mainly on the COVID pandemic and the effect it had on the people of Derby. There were two additional meetings of the Board during the municipal year 2021 – 2022. A regular **update item on COVID 19 and how it has affected the community** by the Director of Public Health was brought to most of the meetings of the Board during 2021/22, highlighting the rolling seven-day COVID numbers of cases, the rates by age group, figures for reinfection and vaccination information.

The Board undertook a **Topic Review on the impact of COVID 19 on Protecting Care Home Residents and Staff**. Eight evidence gathering sessions were undertaken from September to April 2022. Key issues arising from the Topic Review included: national coordination; lack of testing within the community; early ending of contact tracing; lack of data sharing with local areas; the significant impact on city communities; and national lockdown measures. There were 11 recommendations agreed at the meeting in April 2022 and the final report was approved at the meeting in July 2022. The report and recommendations will progress to Council Cabinet later in 2022.

GP Appointments (Face to Face and Online) - The Board received a presentation which gave an overview of GP Appointments undertaken either face to face, via telephone or online. Details of activity in General Practice in Derby and Derbyshire were given: approximately half a million appointments were offered every month, which were at similar levels, or more, compared to before the pandemic. The number of face-to-face appointments has fallen

to 60% from 85% before the Pandemic. However, overall, Derby and Derbyshire's appointments are in line with, or more than, other counties in the Midlands. The demand for appointments was currently surging and was approximately 12% higher than normal at this time of year. **The Board recognised that most GP Practices were working to improve access and they urged the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to work systematically to urgently improve GP access and in accordance with its plan improve access to face to face appointments**

Scrutiny of Home Care Services - The Board received a report which provided an update on the Scrutiny of Home Care Services. The Board noted that providers in Derby had reported severe difficulties in the recruitment and retention of care staff and that other employment sectors were more attractive to jobseekers (retail, hospitality, logistics). It was reported that experienced staff were leaving the profession due to issues of burn out and lack of appreciation of the role and that providers were unable to take on new packages of care or were handing back packages to the Council.

The Board recommended that the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health, and Housing should write to the Government to support a review of how care work is structured with a view to improving terms and conditions and to recommend that care workers are added to the national workforce shortage list.

The Board also received reports on Mental Health post COVID 19 and NHS waiting lists as well as a further report on GP access – long term planning.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board



Councillor Danielle Lind - **Chair**



Councillor Kirk Kus - **Vice Chair**



Board Members

Councillors Bonser, Hezelgrave, Pandey, T Pearce and Roulstone

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

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021 - 22

- Impact of COVID on SEND Recovery Plan
- Draft Topic Review Report Early Intervention Youth Outreach Support
- Update on CAMHS and Mental Health of Young People demand and response and draft plan
- Review of the Holidays Activities and Food (HAF) Programme over Summer
- COVID Remote Learning – Delivery of IT Support for children & young people
- Demand in Social Care and Placement Sufficiency
- Monitoring Safeguarding Practice – plus an analysis and insight around demand and activity at the “Front Door” and developments in Children’s Social Care
- HAF Update
- Special Needs Provision Recommendation to Audit & Governance Committee
- Short Breaks for CYP. What are the numbers using the service
- Feedback on DfE national catch-up provision from Derby Schools
- SEND Funding Capital Consultation – report going to Cabinet on the consultation around provision for SEND
- Strategic School Place Planning and School Admission
- Outcome of SEND Inspection
- Monitoring Safeguarding Practice
- Report on the work of the Virtual School for Looked After Children (LAC)
- Update report on CAMHS and Mental Health of Young People demand and response and Draft Plan
- Childhood Obesity
- COVID Remote Learning Update – Delivery of IT Support for children & young people
- SEND Funding Capital Consultation – Update
- Self-Assessment Evaluation Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS)

The Children and Young People Board met six times during the last 12 months. Their work was focused on aspects of the Pandemic and how it has affected children and young people in terms of School attendance, Learning during Lockdown, Mental Health and Obesity.

The Board heard about the **Impact of COVID on the SEND Recovery Plan**. During the Pandemic Derby City Council focused on children supported by social care. From the start of the Pandemic the Council monitored their most vulnerable children, children in need, and children with a social worker had been monitored for attendance during the lockdown periods. Schools and social workers, plus education teams, worked together to support families, helped attendance, and get access to holiday events and general support. The Education Welfare service focused on the attendance of children with SEND. Schools have had a greater focus on supporting families. School staff went the extra mile by taking food parcels to the home, supporting children online, even singing bedtime stories to maintain relationships with young children who could forget what it's like to go to school. The Board heard that recently St Giles School had won the Beacon of Hope Award for just such activity. **The Board noted with pleasure the work done by all to support Derby City's young people during the COVID 19 crisis and beyond.**

The Board received a report on **COVID 19 Remote Learning and delivery of IT Support for children and young people**. The Board heard about the pressures and concerns across the Pandemic, about the quality of remote learning and particularly the resources

available for families to access learning at home. The digital divide was a terminology used nationally: it was an issue pre-covid and the pandemic had made people aware that some children and young people were unable to complete homework at home, as they could not access the internet for general research and learning.

The Board received a report on **Feedback on DfE national catch-up provision from Derby Schools – Derby's Children and Young People Deserve Better**, following a resolution from Council in July 2021. In June 2020 the government had announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to catch up on missed learning caused by coronavirus. This was especially important for the most vulnerable pupils and pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds who had been most affected. **The Chair of the Board was asked to write to the government to request that they look at how this issue would be addressed following the current school year.** The Board saw this as a long-term issue that needed funding over a considerable period alongside a new approach from schools and partners to fill current gaps.

The Board received a report on the **Children's and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and Mental Health for Young People**. They heard that the surge in demand for eating disorder support and treatment had been nationally well documented, and that local services had the experienced the same pressures.

A report on **Childhood Obesity** was received by the Board. The Childhood Obesity Strategy 2020-2030 had final approval at the Joined-Up Care Derbyshire Board in January 2021.

Communities Scrutiny Review Board



Councillor Hardy Dhindsa - **Chair**



Councillor Tim Prosser- **Vice Chair**



Board Members

Councillors Atwal, Eyre, Jennings,
Pandey and Sandhu

THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD SCRUTINISES STREETPRIDE, NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING, LEISURE CULTURE AND TOURISM. THE BOARD IS ALSO THE COUNCIL'S STATUTORY CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE.

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22

- Financing of the Public Protection Officers Team
- Grounds maintenance update
- Vibrancy of the City Centre (Cultural Heart, Market Hall)
- Streetpride Development
- Highway Maintenance – Progress on £9million Investment
- Locality working – Better Together vision
- Future Libraries vision
- Pear Tree Library update
- Waste Services Update
- Poverty Commission
- Equalities strategy
- Allestree Golf Course
- Bus partnership and routes
- Community Safety strategy
- Grounds Team litter bin audit report
- Bereavement services plan

The Communities Scrutiny Review Board held four meetings during 2021- 2022. The terms of reference for this board cover the service areas of Community Recovery, Safety and Integration, Highways Maintenance, Leisure & Business Development amongst others. Several reports were received in these areas some of which are highlighted below.

The Board received a report on **Financing of the Public Protection Officers Team**. At Council Cabinet on 13 March 2019, it was agreed to approve a 'new model for Neighbourhood working' and that there would be an increase in the number of officers from nine to 20 to provide services across all 17 wards of the city. The Board noted that the PPO team was designed to deal with anti-social behaviour, nuisance parking and environmental crime, together with other enforcement and community related demands.

A report on the **Vibrancy of the City Centre (Cultural Heart, Market Hall)** was brought to a Board meeting. They heard that the pandemic had "turbo-charged" changes already happening in city centres such as Derby. The Board noted that this included a shift towards online retail and that Derby was focusing on maximising investment opportunities, with 'tactical' work taking place to repurpose buildings and create vibrancy. The Assisted Recovery Grant was being used for this tactical work and that an early example of success had been BamBoom Cloud. The Council's City Centre Plan had been developed to tackle these changes. The Board noted that the City Centre Plan would establish a long-term vision for the city. The key themes of the City Centre Plan were noted.

The Board received a report on **Locality working – Better Together vision**. They heard that Better Together was an organisation wide transformation of Derby City Council's working culture that would see the biggest organisational change in the history of the Council. Better Together would change the way the Council worked with communities, members, and partners to enable cultural change within the organisation, which in turn would enable social change and improved outcomes for Derby's communities.

It was noted that this was not a standalone project, and that it impacted on the whole organisation and the way the Council did things in Derby, regardless of specialisms.

Highway Maintenance – Progress on £9million Investment - The Board noted that there was a current maintenance need of £64.1m for Derby's roads and footways. It was noted that there was an annual depreciation of £5.5m for roads and £1.5m for footways. It was noted that the proposed allocation for 2022/23 was £3.197m along with any available pothole grant funding.

It was reported that based on data driven decision making, Council Cabinet had awarded an additional £9m to provide improvements to the city's road and footway assets and to help reduce the maintenance need. It was noted that the Highways Team were delivering best value by implementing change, including a greater focus on 'in-house' delivery based on better informed forward planning and co-ordination. **The Board recommended that Council Cabinet write to the government requesting that funding for highway maintenance is increased to at least £7m per-annum rather than the proposed £3.197m.**

Corporate Services Scrutiny Review Board



Councillor Joe Naitta - **Chair**



Councillor Gulfraz Nawaz- **Vice
Chair**



Board Members
Councillors Ingall, J Khan, Pandey
and T Pearce



CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021- 2022

- Update on the new Partnership Model and how councillors are going to work within the new structure
- How Council Tax and Business Rates and Collection Rates have been affected by Covid-19
- Health and Safety Update – Work the Health and Safety Team have done for the Council, its services, and its assets
- Digital Transformation
- Financial Management System Replacement
- Corporate Services Scrutiny Review Board Topic Review

The Corporate Scrutiny remit includes Strategic Partnerships and Digital & IT service areas, amongst many others. There were three meetings of the Board during 2021/22, at which the following items were considered.

An **Update on the new Partnership Model** - The Board noted that the partnership Board had been established in June 2020 and had only met virtually. The Partnership Board was a platform for:

- Galvanising partners, citizens, and other stakeholders to enable Derby to become the best it can be through positive collaboration
- Setting the vision and ambition for Derby
- Establishing common goals / shared outcomes that all partners can work towards
- Acting as steward for Derby and advocate positively for the city
- Celebrating success and taking stock of progress made

The Board heard that the Council had recently submitted an expression of interest in becoming the UK City of Culture 2025 and that the Council had received 100 letters of support from partners within 10 days. The Board felt this was an example of the success of the Partnership Board in bringing organisations within the city together.

Digital Transformation – The Board heard that the Digital by Default / Digital Citizen project continued to take the Council’s Digital Services offer to citizens forward, delivering the anticipated improvements discussed at previous Scrutiny Board meetings, together with several additional outcomes, including:

- Website redesign and launch
- Councillor Account – proof of concept
- Integration of Revenues and Benefits services in MyAccount
- Revenues and benefits electronic billing
- Flu vaccination booking

- Adult Social Care referrals
- Children’s Social Care referrals
- Foster Carer recruitment
- Accessibility improvements

During 2020 and 2021 the priority of the programme switched to the rapid enablement of emerging citizen, business and community needs in response to COVID 19.

The foundations of the previously delivered capabilities dramatically increased the Council’s ability to respond to urgent pandemic response needs. The Board heard that there were now 118,000 registered “MyAccounts” and 98 new or amended Digital Services.



Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Review Board



Councillor John Evans - **Chair**



Councillor Phillip Ingall - **Vice Chair**



Board Members

Councillors Grimadell, S Khan, Pandey, Pattison and West

The remit of the Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Board includes Regeneration and Major Projects and Strategic Housing, amongst other service areas. There were four meetings of the Board during 2021-22 at which they considered the following overview reports and presentations:

Private Sector Empty Homes Strategy 2021 – 2026 – This was referred from Council Cabinet: when considering the report to

REGENERATION & HOUSING SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021 - 22

- Economic Growth – Key Priorities and Service Development
- Private Sector Empty Homes Strategy 2021 - 2026
- A52 Wyvern Transport Improvements Scheme – Lessons Learnt
- City Centre Regeneration Update – including Performance Venue Update, University Quarter Update and Update on Covid Impact on Derby
- Our City Our River Project
- Moorways Update
- Homelessness – risks, future policy and approach
- HS2 Update

the Executive Scrutiny Board recommended to Council Cabinet that the Empty Homes Policy should make clear that Council grants or loans would not routinely be provided to support the creation of more Houses in Multiple Occupation (HIMO). The Council Cabinet approved the adoption of the new Private Sector Empty Homes Strategy at its meeting on 8 September 2021 and referred the recommendation from the Executive Scrutiny Board to the Regeneration and Housing Board for consideration.



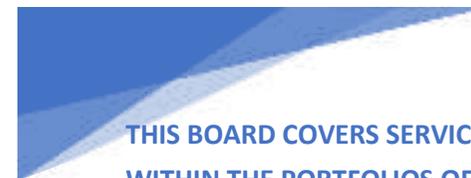
The Board heard how the loans relating to the Empty Homes Strategy were assessed. There was concern that if loans were not given in relation to the creation of houses in multiple occupation, then many homes would not be brought back into use. The owners tended to approach the Council at the design stage when any issues could be flagged up and interventions put in place if necessary. If there was an issue

a loan would not be given. As building industry costs increase it was becoming less viable to bring homes back into use and sometimes the only route was a house in multiple occupation.

The Board was concerned about the distribution of HIMO's across Derby and felt that distribution should be proportionate across the city.

City Centre Regeneration Update - The Board received an update on the regeneration of the city centre which described its reinvention, information about what was already happening and what was planned over the short, medium, and long term. The Board heard that Derby city centre had to adapt if it was to survive. The Derby City Centre Plan provided a long-term vision for the transformation of the city centre but would need to be part of a

suite of interventions. It would be used to draw up statutory planning policies and would carry some weight in determining planning applications. The aim was to instil confidence, competitiveness and civic pride. It needed to be flexible, adaptable, and co-owned with partners. The Board felt that integrated transport was key to success and noted that the city centre had lost vibrancy, following the departure of several well-known retailers. If the circumstances were right, then companies and businesses could be attracted back into Derby. The Board suggested that consideration should be given to car parking and to advertising events on leaflets that could be delivered by the refuse collection staff. The Board agreed that there were some jewels in Derby's crown with buildings and businesses that leave a legacy for the city, these included the Roundhouse, air industry, Joseph Wright and Smiths Clocks etc. The Board noted that Councillors would be given the opportunity to feed into any consultation on regeneration of the city centre.



**THIS BOARD COVERS SERVICE AREAS
WITHIN THE PORTFOLIOS OF THE CABINET
MEMBER FOR REGENERATION,
DECARBONISATION AND STRATEGIC
PLANNING AND TRANSPORT AND THE
CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS, HEALTH
AND HOUSING**