

Time Commenced – 18:00
Time Finished – 20:35

Executive Scrutiny Board

16 July 2019

Present: Councillor Anderson (Chair)
Councillors Care, Cooper, Eldret, Evans, Hudson, Peatfield and Shanker.

In attendance: Don McLure - Strategic Director of Corporate Resources,
Andy Smith – Strategic Director of People
Kirsty McMillan – Service Director Integration and Direct Services
Pauline Anderson – Interim Director of Learning and Skills
Richard Antcliff – Director of Public Protection and Streetpride
Ian Fullagar – Head of Strategic Housing
Jayne Sowerby Warrington - Head of Strategic Asset Management and Estates
Heather Greenan - Service Director for Policy, Insight, and Communications.

08/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stanton and Willoughby.

09/19 Late Items

There were no late items.

10/19 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

11/19 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

12/19 Forward Plan

The Board considered the contents of the Forward Plan published on 9 July 2019.

No items were added to the future work programme.

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

13/19 Executive Scrutiny Board Performance Plan 2019/20

The Board considered a report which set out the Boards annual performance plan.

Resolved to approve the performance items identified for consideration by the Board as part of the Performance Plan for 2019/20 set out at appendix 1 to the report.

14/19 Council Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Recommendations

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director or Corporate Resources which allowed the Scrutiny Board to receive responses from Council Cabinet on recommendations made at the previous Board meeting held on 11 June 2019.

The Board resolved to note the report.

15/19 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 17 July 2019 and made a number of comments and recommendations to Council Cabinet.

Contract and Financial Procedure Matter

Item 2 – D2N2 Careers and Employability Hub

The Board considered a report which sought approval to jointly bid for a European Social Fund grant to develop a careers and employability hub, with Nottingham Futures. Nottingham Futures would be co-ordinating the bid.

Members of the Board were supportive of the project and requested that additional groups of young people be included.

Members of the Board queried if there was a threat to the project funding in the event of a no deal Brexit.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet

- **That officers be requested to write to East Midlands MEPs to encourage them to support the bid on behalf of Derby and Nottingham City Councils (D2N2).**
- **To ensure that work with young people included young people currently out of school, with special needs and also graduates who had not moved into the workforce.**

- **That enquiries are made to establish the long term viability of the project in the event of a no deal Brexit.**

Key Decisions

Item 8 – Adults Commissioning Transformation Programme Procurement

The Board considered a report which stated that in June 2018, the Adults Commissioning Transformation Programme (ACTP) commenced as one of the People Services strategic priorities in relation to managing demand for services and ensuring there was sustainable and good quality care service in Derby. The report provided details about the procurement activity that was now required as a major activity within this programme to secure wide ranging Approved Provider Lists (APL). This would be used to secure cost effective and quality care services for people with Care Act 2014 eligible social care needs in Derby.

The Adults Commissioning Transformation Programme aimed to change commissioning practice and transform the way the Council purchased care services for Adults. The programme aimed to ensure that the Council effectively managed the local “market” of care organisations, ensuring that services were available, affordable and of sufficient quality to meet the needs of local people. This task became a new statutory duty for Councils when the Care Act 2014 came into effect.

The report, which had been written in consultation with Council procurement colleagues, sought approval to commence the procurement activity that was required to establish a range of Approved Provider Lists. These were the lists that would be formed via various procurement processes such as a framework or dynamic purchasing system, under the 'light touch regime' as allowed by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, and that would underpin the new commissioning approach.

Members of the Board asked about opportunities to improve the working conditions of care staff and if artificial intelligence could be used to manage demographic changes. They also queried if the council could audit the companies and if there were any measures to minimise the carbon footprint.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet

- **That Council takes this opportunity to improve the working conditions of care staff, including zero hours contracts, payment for expected hours not only actual hours and supply of parking permits where appropriate.**
- **As these businesses were delivering Council Services to take advise on the level of openness and inspection that we should request for our Internal Audit function.**
- **Ask how the providers can work towards minimising carbon footprints, for example by routing of care staff and encouraging more sustainable travel.**

Item 9 – Reintroduction of Blue Bins to Arboretum, Normanton and Mackworth

The Board considered a report which stated that the Council had reviewed its waste collection in Arboretum, Normanton and Mackworth and was looking to offer additional recycling collections within this area. This would aid in meeting Government targets for reducing the volume of waste sent to landfill as well as positively contributing to the city's Climate Emergency status.

Council Cabinet considered a report on 15 May 2013 which covered a number of waste related items. One part of the report was to remove the dry recyclable service (blue bins) from a number of properties within the inner city wards (Arboretum, Normanton and Mackworth) due to high levels of contamination and bins on streets issues.

To review the current situation regarding the collection of dry recyclables and recommend provision of a collection service in the city that complies with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA).

Members of the Board asked why there had been no consultation with ward Councillors and recommended that the process be paused until a full consultation had taken place with local Councillors and residents to determine the specific barriers to recycling in these areas and develop strategies to overcome them. This recommendation was not accepted by the Board.

It was reported that a street by street analysis had not been undertaken to establish the specific barriers to recycling but previously there had been a lot of contamination. There was also an issue with bin storage in some areas due to the types of properties. It was hoped that by having an opt in provision, that people would be more likely to recycle and this would prevent contamination. Additional public protection officers would be available to help with compliance. Four waste minimisation officers would help to promote the opt in service in the 70 streets affected.

It was suggested that the Council develop a plan for a full return of these street to the standard black bin/recycling pattern of collection.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet

- **That a plan be developed for a full return of these streets to the standard 2 weekly black bin and 2 weekly recycling pattern of collection.**
- **That the Executive Scrutiny Board commend the relevant Cabinet Member for the reintroduction of the blue bins to the areas of the city that currently did not have the means to recycle.**

Item 10 – Older Persons' Housing Strategy 2019 - 2029

The Board considered a report which sought approval for the adoption of the new Older Persons' Housing Strategy.

Members of the Board asked if there was a way of enabling a chain of movement within social housing, by using empty homes, to enable more moves to be made to better meet peoples' needs. It was reported that there was a mutual exchange scheme available and that the Housing allocations process prioritised those wanting to downsize to make more family homes available.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet to

- **That the strategy be referred to Council for approval.**
- **That options be explored to find more ways to reduce under occupancy of social housing including, enabling chains of swaps and the use of vacant properties.**
- **Priority 4 be reworded to read 'help people move to more appropriate housing 'before' their current housing becomes unsuitable or unmanageable' rather than 'when'.**

Item 11 – Sale of Property to Derby Homes

The Board considered a report which sought approval to implement an efficient process for the sale of vacant properties from the Council to Derby Homes.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 12 – Allenton Market – Future Proposals

The Board considered a report which sought to establish the Council's Strategy for Allenton Market.

Members of the Board asked if the Allenton Traders Association had been consulted with a view to encouraging them to establish a consortium to run the market. It was reported that if expressions of interest were submitted, consideration would be given to community asset transfer, but there would be an expectation that this would include responsibility for management and maintenance of the site.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet

- **That Allenton Traders Association is fully consulted before the sale proceeds in order to avoid direct trade competition.**
- **That the delegation at 2.6 (vi) of the report be removed so that it would need to go back to Council Cabinet for approval.**

- **That a covenant be included in the sale to ensure that whatever replaces the market has an element of community use and is in keeping with the Allenton District Centre.**
- **For Markets and Neighbourhood officers to work with the local community and Councillors from the three local wards to help generate and consolidate possible plans for the market.**

Budget and Policy Framework

Item 13 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23

The Board considered a report which outlined the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the Council's revenue and capital budget over the next three year period 2020/21 to 2022/23.

Robust financial planning and financial management alongside our budget preparation, performance management and stakeholder reporting was an integral part of our corporate governance and gave us the ability to look strategically and align our priorities beyond the current budget period. This was crucial to support and ensure our resilience and long-term financial sustainability.

Given the currently level of national economic uncertainty, fluctuating currency values, and the widespread pressures on public spending, it was more important than ever that we had an understanding of our financial outlook and continue to plan effectively for the future, and this planning be aligned to our Council Plan vision and priorities.

The MTFS sets out the Council's approach to the prudent management of our finances against a reducing reliance on central government funding and more of a reliance of local funding sources from council tax, business rates and fees and charges income.

The report commented on the risks that were facing the Council in the next three years and outlined concerns including the timings and outcomes including the Government's Spending Review, 'Fair Funding' proposals and its 'Business Rates Retention' proposals and the increasing demands and cost pressures in our social care services for both children and adults. The report also outlined potential mitigation of some of these risks.

Resource projections for the next three years were included and outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan (sets out our forecasts and the £ numbers), together with the financial challenges that we face and the approach planned to meet the Council's priorities over this period.

Members of the Board discussed the budget position in relation to Children's services. They also considered the position with the garden waste project. There was also a discussion about housing developments on the city boundary where the Council Tax went to the neighbouring authority but they often used the City Council services.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet

- **That the revenue budget for 2019/20 be revised to ensure that sufficient money is allocated to Children's Services to ensure that the service does not overspend as it did last year**
- **To include in year savings from other areas / services of the Council if necessary as there was a legal requirement to have a balanced budget.**
- **As part of the work this autumn to share the financial situation with staff and council tax payers / Derby residents and to welcome suggestions for possible savings and different ways of doing things from staff at all levels and the public including consideration of incentive schemes.**

Item 14 – Council Delivery Plan 2019/2023

The Board considered a report which stated that on 12 June 2019, Council Cabinet considered the Council Plan 2019 - 2023, and resolved to recommend that Council approve the document. The Council Delivery Plan (CDP) for 2019/20 sets out the actions that would put the priorities and themes of the Council Plan into practice (subject to Council's approval) and deliver the outcomes.

The CDP was a non-statutory document, but was an essential piece of our performance management framework, forming part of the 'golden thread' that linked high level priorities to practical delivery. It reflected our commitment to transparency and accountability in our use of resources.

Members of the Board discussed climate change and whether the focus should be on stopping climate change rather than mitigating it. It was noted that the Council Plan would be considered at Council on 24 July 2019.

The Executive Scrutiny Board noted the report.

MINUTES END