



Derby City Council



Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/2015

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Introduction and Foreword

Welcome to the Annual Report for Overview and Scrutiny which sets out the work undertaken during 2014-15. Scrutiny plays an important role in local government 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.



This report highlights the important work carried out by the Boards throughout the previous year, scrutinising a wide range of topics and conducting a number of policy reviews. The Boards not only held decision makers to account, by scrutinising their decisions and actions, but also contributed to policy development.

During the last municipal year scrutiny conducted a number of high profile reviews. These included taking a detailed look into the provision and delivery of affordable housing in the city and an in-depth review into how services can be better integrated to provide improved mental health support for children in the city. The Adults and Public Health Board looked in to problems being faced by patients accessing their GP services and made recommendations for improvement.

A review focussing on voter turnout was also undertaken at a particularly pertinent time when figures show turnout in Derby to be lagging behind those of our neighbouring cities. Following the completion of this review it is anticipated that turnout in Derby could start to improve and come in line with other authorities if review recommendations are adopted and implemented in a timely manner.

Conducting scrutiny requires hard work by scrutiny members, particularly Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Scrutiny Boards. Conducting budget scrutiny for the first time during one meeting was particularly intense, but enabled scrutiny to look at the budget proposals in a much more holistic way. I therefore wish to thank all Chairs and vice chairs for all their help and support during the year and making scrutiny a success. All the boards and their members have an important 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.

Cllr Lisa Eldret,
Chair Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board

Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board

The Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board was responsible for scrutinising services that fall within the remit of the Leader of the Council. These include Policy and Strategic Services and Governance and Transformation including Human Resources, Legal and Democratic Services and Performance Improvement.

Review of Voter Turnout

Turnout at Derby's local elections is below that some of the neighbouring authorities. There are also considerable variations within local wards in the city. The Board resolved to review voter turnout and identify possible actions that could be taken to bring Derby's turnout in line with some of the highest turnout authorities. The Board received evidence from a range of sources including young people and older people's groups, local residents and by conducting a comprehensive survey which ask people why they vote or don't vote at local elections. The Board also looked at actions taken by countries whose turnout is higher than in the UK.



Young people made some interesting suggestions for increasing voter turnout. They said they wanted politicians to use less jargon, raise awareness of the political process amongst young people and make more relevant for young people. They also wanted the Government to consider lowering the voting age to 16. The review found that people vote because they want to exercise their right to vote and that in doing so they can influence local decisions. However, the review also found that many non-voters believe their views are not listened to or taken into account.

Based on the evidence the Board made a series of recommendations which if adopted, should help to increase voter turnout in the city.

Other items scrutinised by the Board included:

- The 'Big Conversation'
- Demand Management
- Revenue and Budget Proposals
- 2020 Vision Future of Local Government Finance and Policy Report
- Demand Management Programme
- Council Cabinet Plan 2015-18
- Report of Inspection of Rotherham MBC
- Electoral Cycle Scoping Report

Adults and Public Health Board

The Adults and Public Health Board was 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. 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

Patients in Derby are experiencing problems in accessing their GP. Many people are complain that they are unable to book an appointment with their GP as either the lines are engaged when they ring between 8-8.30 am or all the engagements are often already gone by the time they get through. The Board invited NHS England to explain why this was a big problem in Derby and what was being done to address it. Following a presentation and discussions, the Board made a number of recommendations which it is awaiting a response from SDCCG, the NHS body responsible for GP services from 1 April.



Other items scrutinised by the Board included:

- Quality Assurance in Care Homes
- Supporting timely hospital discharge
- Review of Screening and Immunisation Programme
- East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) key strategies
- EMAS performance in the Southern Derbyshire CCG area
- Provision of seven day adult social care services in the city
- Modernisation of Learning Disability Day Care Opportunities
- Whole system transformation of health and adult social care
- Re-commissioning of Derby Walk-In Services
- Implications of the Care Act 2014 for the Council
- Your Life Your Choice –Building care and support in Derby – (retrospective review)
- Health Inequalities gap between affluent and deprived areas of the city

Regular briefings were also provided on the Engagement Project for Derbyshire mental health service receivers and carers. This project reviews the way in which engagement activities with mental health service receivers and carers take place and how these are sustainably funded within Derbyshire.

Neighbourhoods Board

The Neighbourhoods Board was responsible for scrutiny of services that cover highways, traffic and transportation, waste management and city and neighbourhood partnerships. It also has the statutory crime and disorder scrutiny committee responsibilities.

The Neighbourhoods Board conducted two reviews during 2014-15. The Board conducted a detailed review on Domestic Violence and Abuse in response to a request by Council. This growing national problem affects many individuals and families in the city. The review included gathering evidence from a range of organisations dealing with domestic abuse. The Board makes a series of recommendations to address this growing crime.



The Board also looked at litter and fly tipping as this is a major problem in certain parts of the city. The review looked at causes as well as possible actions that could be taken to address fly tipping and litter problems. The timing of the review coincided with the Department of Communities and Local Government Litter Inquiry. This enabled the Board to submit its findings to the CLG Inquiry which published its final report on 14 March 2015 {LIT 037}.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmcomloc/607/60713.html#_idTOCAncor-2

Other items scrutinised by the Board included:

- Review of Domestic Abuse- scene setting
- Review of litter and fly tipping
- Update on Council's long term Waste Management Contract
- Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LST)
- CCTV Camera Enforcement Vehicle
- Derby Cohesion and Integration Charter
- Winter Preparedness 2014-15
- Impact of charging for Brown Bins
- Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2014-15
- Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Police Act 2014
- Community Trigger Report
- Outcomes of the Police and Crime Plan
- Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project

Children and Young People Board

The Children and Young People (CYP) Board was the Board responsible for scrutiny of services relevant to young people including education and safeguarding. The Board routinely invited young people to attend and participate in Board meetings.

The CYP Board conducted a Review of Children's Mental Health Services with an aim to consider how we can provide a more integrated mental health support for children in the city. The objectives were to understand the process in responding to the emotional health and well-being needs of the children in the city and identify recommendations for improvement in line with national and local policies and strategies. In order to gather their evidence the review team conduct interviews with Clinical Psychologists, Children and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Team members and Paediatricians. The Board remade a number of recommendations where improvements could be made and what would assist them to improve services.

The Board's work this year has gone from strength to strength. The Board has a much deeper understanding of issues facing children looked after by Derby City Council and has worked hard with officers to drive up standards and develop working relationships where challenge is accepted and welcomed.



Other items scrutinised by the Board included:

- Recommissioning of Children's Health Services
- Special Educational Needs (SEN) Reforms
- Darley Barn – future delivery of Outdoor Education in Derby City
- Summary Report of the delivery of Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) from February 2013 to July 2014
- Priority Families (PF) – Expanded Programme 2015 – 2020

- Derby Child and Poverty Strategy
- Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers – self-assessment and improvement plan
- Annual Complaints Report
- Infant Free School Meals – impact on school budgets
- Access to education – ensuring all children receive an appropriate education
- Derby Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2013 - 2014
- School Place Planning and Admissions
- Derby Winners Education Improvement Report
- Consultation on the Future Viability of Castle Nursery School
- Home to School Transport
- Youth Justice Issues
- OfSTED thematic review in to overcoming barriers and ensuring that Roma children are fully engaged and achieving in education
- School Improvement – Assessment Update
- Raising the participation age/NEET
- Learning and Improvement Framework
- Tackling Growing Child Poverty: Child Poverty, family welfare and financial inclusion
- Core Strategies and School Place Planning
- Outcomes of Serious Case Reviews and Lessons Learnt
- Call-in of Council Cabinet decision 206/14 – Closure of Castle Nursery

Corporate Parenting Sub Board

There are around 460 children looked after by the Council in a range of settings which include in-house and independent foster care, residential care homes and other settings. Scrutiny of this service area was carried out by the Corporate Parenting Sub Board whose membership was the same as the Children and Young People Board.



Children in Care Council

The Sub-Board has developed good links with the Children in Care Council and is now a vital part of the Board's work. The Board is keen to hear the concerns and issues that are important to them. The Chair has attended one of their meetings whilst a member of the Children in Care Council has attended a CYP Board meeting. Having a young person at the Board was extremely useful and the Board would strongly recommend continuing with this arrangement into the future.

Children's Home Visits

A programme of children's home visits continued across the year with all homes receiving at least two Councillor visits. The Sub-Board Members have monitored the feedback from these visits and ensured any recommended actions are followed up on appropriately.

The Sub-Board is extremely keen to develop strong relationships with the managers in the homes and to support them in driving up the quality of care they provide.

During the year the Board scrutinised a wide range of items as detailed below.

- Health of Children Looked After in Derby
- Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report
- Children in Care Profile Report
- Adoption Agency Report
- Adoption Statement of Purpose
- Children Missing From Care
- Children's Homes Development Project: Phase Two
- Fostering Service Report
- Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers and Adopters
- Children in Care Participation and Engagement
- Inspection and Monitoring of Children's Homes
- Annual Report – Private Fostering 2013-14
- Children in Care – Performance Update
- Quarterly Fostering Agency Report
- Child Sexual Exploitation Annual Report
- Foster Carer Recruitment
- Looked After Children (LAC) in temporary accommodation (including B&B)
- Review of Regional Framework for External placements
- Inspection and Monitoring of Children's Homes
- Annual Report of the Head of the Virtual School for Looked After Children for the academic year 2013 – 2014
- Safeguarding Children: Summary of Roles and Responsibilities
- Derby's Response to Child Sexual Exploitation
- Monitoring Safeguarding Practice

Cost of Living Board

The Cost of Living Board was responsible for the scrutiny of services covering the Housing, Finance and Welfare Cabinet Member Portfolio including procurement, revenues and benefits, Derby Homes and housing strategy and development, as well as any aspect relating to poverty or financial hardship.

Following the completion of the Homelessness Topic Review in the previous municipal year, the Cost of Living Board monitored progress in this area through early involvement in the development of Derby's new Homelessness Strategy and later in the year by scrutinising the draft strategy prior to its adoption and implementation by Council Cabinet in January 2015.

Affordable Housing Review

The Cost of Living Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting carried out a topic review on affordable housing to investigate if there were additional means by which affordable housing provision could be maximised in the city. The review concluded that the Council could offer more flexibility in the ways in which it works with developers to provide affordable housing as it is critical for the development to be attractive in commercial terms in order to proceed. It also concluded that there are issues with regards to Government funding that need to be addressed.

The Board made a number of recommendations in response to the evidence heard and collected on the delivery of affordable housing. These recommendations were considered by Council Cabinet in April 2015 as part of the final Affordable Housing Topic Review Report. The Regenerating Our City Board which takes the place of this Board in 2015-16 will monitor the Council's responses to these recommendations during its term.



Other items scrutinised by the Cost of Living Board included:

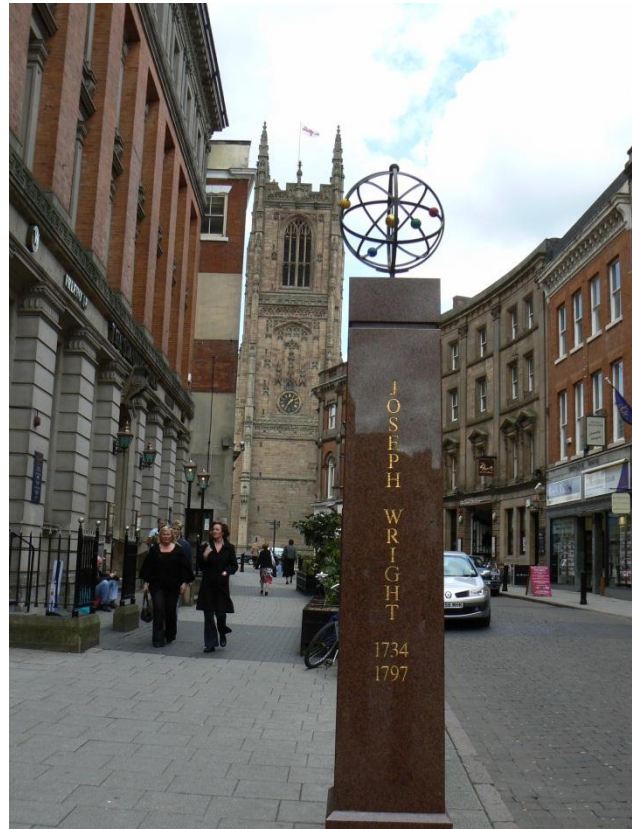
- Homelessness Strategy and Delivery Plan
- Empty Property Charges
- The Local Agenda
- Local Authority Mortgage Scheme Update
- Supporting SMEs
- Procurement Collaboration with other LAs and Public Sector Bodies
- Interim Report on the Older Persons' Accommodation and Support Strategy
- Review of the Housing Allocations Policy
- Housing and Good Public Health Outcomes
- Apprentice Strategy Update
- Compulsory Acquisition of Long Term Empty Properties
- Tackling Growing Child Poverty: Child Poverty, family welfare and financial inclusion
- Housing Benefit Fraud Service – Financial implications of transfer of services to DWP

Regeneration and Culture Board

The remit of this Board covered two portfolio areas of Leisure and Culture and Planning, Environment and Regeneration. The Board's remit as detailed below covered a wide range of varied services and therefore a heavy work programme of items throughout the year.

Remit of the Board

- Inward Investment and Regeneration
- Environmental Health and Licensing
- Trading Standards
- Crematorium and Cemeteries
- Climate Change
- Development Control
- Spatial Planning
- Maintenance and Energy
- Facilities Management
- Derby Live
- Museums and Libraries
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Livewell
- Leisure facilities



'Fracking' Review

As part of the work programme the Board was asked by Council to investigate and report back to Council on the likely environmental impact of 'fracking' (shale gas extraction) within the city. The Regeneration and Culture Board received information from the council's legal and planning teams clarifying the Council's position with regards to companies wishing to undertake exploratory works within the Derby City area. Detailed information on fracking, Derbyshire's geology and issues around fracking and its environmental implications was provided to the Board by Derbyshire County Council officers working on the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Minerals Plan and from the organisation Feasta (the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability). The Board were also advised on work being done nationally by both UK and Scottish Governments with regards to shale gas extraction or "fracking" which was still outstanding.

It was agreed by the Board that the best approach for the Council to input into policy relating to fracking would be through the Joint Minerals Plan and consultation papers being prepared as part of the development of the Plan. The Board also decided that the Council should consider the outcomes of work being done nationally by both UK and Scottish Governments with regards to shale gas extraction or "fracking", prior to considering this issue in more detail.

Items scrutinised by the Regeneration and Culture Board included:

- Local Sustainable Transport Fund Programme
- Osmaston Regeneration Partnership
- Core Strategy Transport Mitigation
- Residential Travel Planning
- Vibrant City Centre Strategy
- Brand Identity for the Leisure and Culture Department
- Our City Our River Update
- Coaching for Success
- City Centre Living Initiative
- To Let Boards - Update
- Derby Museums - Annual Review of Derby Museums Trust
- Festive lights – review of provision and funding
- Derby After Dark – Lighting Strategy
- Trading Standards Enforcement Strategy for Illicit Tobacco and Alcohol Update Report
- Draft City Centre Masterplan
- Festive lights – review of provision and funding
- Our City Our River - Project Update and Community Engagement Strategy
- Draft City Centre Masterplan

Budget Scrutiny

Overview and scrutiny has an important role in relation to the development of the Council's budget and policy framework. In relation to budget setting, Council Cabinet's initial proposals are referred to overview and scrutiny for advice and consideration. This has been done various ways in the past, but for the first time in 2014-15, budget scrutiny was undertaken during one large meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board which was attended by all Cabinet Members, Directors and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs. All scrutiny board members were also invited to attend. The meeting was held specifically to look at the entire revenue and capital budget proposals, taking into account the full context of the budget, instead of each scrutiny board looking only at elements of the budget falling within their portfolio areas. Following a long and intense meeting of in-depth scrutiny, the board made a series of informed recommendations on the budget which were considered by the Council Cabinet as part of its budget setting process.

Overview and Scrutiny Membership 2014-2015

Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board

Chair – Councillor Eldret, Vice Chair – Councillor Davis
Councillors Carr, Dhindsa, Ingall, Pegg, Stanton and Whitby

Adults and Public Health Board

Chair – Councillor Pegg, Vice Chair – Councillor Webb
Councillors Hillier, Jennings, J Khan, Skelton

Regeneration and Culture Board

Chair – Councillor Stanton, Vice Chair – Councillor Wood
Councillors Dhindsa, M Holmes, Jackson, Macdonald, Troup and Turner

Neighbourhoods Board

Chair – Councillor Bayliss, Vice Chair – Councillor Poulter
Councillors Barker, Bolton, J Khan, Naitta and Nawaz

Cost of Living Board

Chair – Councillor Dhindsa, Vice Chair – Councillor Harwood
Councillors Ashburner, Bayliss, A Holmes, Stanton and Tittley

Children and Young People Board

Chair – Councillor Whitby, Vice Chair – Councillor Williams
Councillors Care, Eldret, Hazelgrave, Keith and Nawaz
Co-opted Members Eleanor Berry, Steve Grundy and Beverly Stewart

Corporate Parenting Sub Board

Chair – Councillor Williams, Vice Chair – Councillor Whitby
Councillors Campbell, Care, Eldret, Hazelgrave and Keith