

Time commenced – 6.04pm  
Time finished – 19.21pm

## **Communities Scrutiny Review Board**

26 November 2018

Present: Councillor Hudson (Vice Chair)  
Councillors Afzal, Cooper, A Holmes, Peatfield and Nawaz.

In Attendance: Simon Aitken – Head of Street Cleansing, Waste and Fleet Management  
Claire Davenport – Director of Leisure, Culture and Tourism  
Ben Clawson-Chan – Head of Leisure and Business Development  
Mark Elliott – Deputy Head of Libraries  
Peter Ireson – Head of Culture and Business Development  
Alex Hough – Democratic Services Manager

### **16/18 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Naitta.

### **17/18 Late items introduced by the Chair**

There were none.

### **18/18 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

### **19/18 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2018 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

In relation to the A52 Wyvern Transport Improvements Scheme as discussed under minute 13/18, it was noted that members reiterated their calls for an external rather than internal investigation.

In relation to Tree Management (minute 14/18), members requested that the re-wording of the tree policy to reflect the wider impacts of light blocking was noted as an additional recommendation of the Board.

### **20/18 Garden (including Food) Waste Recycling Scheme**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place in relation to the Garden Waste Recycling Scheme. It was noted that a revised scheme had been agreed following a decision by Council Cabinet on 14 November 2018.

It was reported that a free of charge 52 week garden and food waste recycling scheme would be introduced from 1 April 2019 in three phases. Initially, existing customers of the paid-for scheme would be automatically transferred, while any households that had retained a brown bin would be required to register by 1 March 2019. Any remaining households who required a new bin would be required to register by 1 March for implementation by 1 August 2019.

The Board queried how the new scheme would be promoted to residents. It was stated that a communications strategy had been developed, which included online promotion and the distribution of bin tags.

It was noted that the proposed scheme anticipated diversion rates from general household waste of 65 per cent in year one and 80 per cent or more in subsequent years; it was stated that the communications strategy sought to encourage residents to divert waste to their brown bins where possible. Members queried the cost to residents of purchasing brown bins; it was confirmed that residents would only be charged should they require an additional brown bin.

The Board questioned whether brown bin waste would be composted; it was stated that brown bin waste was currently taken to a site in Ashbourne for composting and that the council was under contract until April 2020. Members asked whether the diversion of brown bin waste would affect the tonnage intended to be processed by the Sinfyn Waste Treatment Plant. It was reported that there was approximately 300,000 tonnes of black bin waste produced in Derby and Derbyshire annually, 190,000 of which would be processed by the Waste Treatment Plant. The terms of the inter-authority agreement were discussed and it was noted that officers had been in formal contact with colleagues in Derbyshire to discuss the proposals.

**The Communities Scrutiny Review Board resolved to note the report.**

## 21/18 New Swimming Pool Complex at Moorways - update

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place providing an update on the latest position with regards to the proposed new swimming pool complex at Moorways.

It was reported that the project had an approved capital budget of £33 million, within a maximum budget envelope of £35 million. The proposed facilities mix was detailed to the Board and included a 50 metre pool, leisure water, learner pool and various supplementary amenities. It was noted that the 50 metre tank contained two moveable booms, which allowed the pool to be subdivided into three 25 metre spaces.

It was stated that planning permission had been granted for the facility and that a construction contractor had been procured; the demolition of the former pool and sports centre had been completed.

It was reported that value-engineering was currently on-going on the original

scheme. Alongside this process, a feasibility study was being conducted to assess the possibility of providing enhanced leisure water, following a commitment made by the current administration in May 2018. It was stated that this study would be complete by the end of 2018 and that a decision on the preferred direction of the project was anticipated in the New Year.

The Board sought clarification on the cost of the feasibility study. It was stated that the study had cost £95,000 and had been funded from within the current budget envelope; the budget for the project would be reviewed once the outcome of the feasibility study was known.

Members sought reassurance that the necessary resources were in place to take the project forward. Moreover, the Board enquired when it was anticipated that the project would be completed and to what extent the proposal for enhanced leisure water had caused delays. It was stated that the feasibility study was taking place concurrently with value engineering of the original designs; a completion date would not be known until this process was finalised.

**The Communities Scrutiny Review Board resolved to note the report.**

## 22/18 Riverside Library Update

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place providing an update on the performance of the Riverside Library during its first four months of operation.

It was reported that plans for a new library located in the Council House were first developed as part of the Libraries Strategic Review in September 2015. Following public consultation, it was noted that a small majority of respondents favoured a move from the Central Library to the new location.

The Board were provided with a range of statistics comparing the performance of the new Riverside Library to Mickleover Library between July and October 2018. It was reported that 10,354 people visited Riverside Library in its first month of operation; 7,962 in August 2018; 12,523 in September 2018; and, 19,463 in October 2018, although it was noted that this figure may have been artificially increased by a faulty gate counter.

Figures for the number of adult and children's book issues were also detailed to the Board for this period. Computer usage in the Riverside Library was reported as being significantly higher than in other libraries, owing to its city centre location and proximity to partner organisations such as Job Centre Plus.

The seven priority outcomes for public libraries set by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) were considered. These were: cultural and creative enrichment; increased reading and literacy; improved digital access and literacy; helping everyone achieve their full potential; healthier and happier lives; greater prosperity; and, stronger, more resilient communities.

In this context, it was reported that the Riverside Library was hosting a series of

events linked to these objectives. These included holding three poetry events; author talks; 'Rhymetimes' sessions for young children; adult reading groups; and, coding sessions. It was noted that many of these initiatives were targeted at socially isolated groups. Moreover, the library hosted a weekly Job Club, which provided assistance with CV writing, using email and identifying appropriate roles.

The Board heard the importance of libraries as community hubs; it was stated that the Riverside Library aimed to provide a meeting place and activity space for residents in a neutral environment. The benefits to health and wellbeing of the library service were also emphasised. It was reported that the library hosted 'Keep Fit for the Brain' and 'Knit and Natter' sessions, which provided mental health and dementia support.

The Board sought clarification on the opening hours of the Riverside Library. It was confirmed that these coincided with those of the Council House, in order to minimise additional security costs. The extent of anti-social behaviour experienced by staff was considered; it was emphasised that this had significantly reduced following the relocation from the Central Library building.

Members noted the significant demand for computer access. It was stated that there were a greater number of PCs available at the Riverside Library and that demand was being managed carefully, particularly with regards to referrals from the adjacent job centre.

The Board encouraged the library service to work closely with Local Area Coordinators, in order to identify socially isolated individuals who may benefit from the activities offered within libraries. It was noted that the service would always encourage signposting from other areas of the authority.

Members requested that figures were provided comparing footfall in the Riverside Library to a similar period in previous years at the Central Library. It was noted that there were 20 per cent fewer issues at the Riverside Library since opening, but also 50 per cent less floor-space. As a result, it was noted that comparatively more customers were browsing the collection before deciding whether to request a book from the repository or from other libraries.

**The Communities Scrutiny Review Board resolved to note the report.**

## 23/18 Libraries Strategic Review Update

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place providing the latest position on the Libraries Strategic Review.

It was reported that Council Cabinet had approved a future model for the delivery of the library service on 12 July 2017. As part of this decision, it was agreed that five libraries would remain as part of the council's statutory service, with a further ten to be run as Community Managed Libraries (CMLs). The proposal also included increased opening hours, investment in increased shelving space and the utilisation of the Central Library building by the Derby Museums Trust.

It was stated that a management agreement had been reached with Direct Help and Advice (DHA) to run the ten CMLs, with Sinfin, Spondon and Allestree libraries successfully transferred in July 2018. As part of the agreement, the council has continued to provide grant funding, induction training and property maintenance as part of a minimum standard resource. Moreover, as part of an enhanced support package, DHA had access to the library service catalogue and database, as well as a number of additional services.

Further to the initial implementation period, it was reported that a pause in the project over the summer had allowed for the implementation to be reviewed and feedback to be collated.

A recent decision by Council Cabinet to relocate Pear Tree Library to St Augustine's Community Centre was noted. It was reported that this followed the discovery of an estimated £1.4 million of structural damage to the roof of the building.

The Board queried the duration of the review of the project; it was confirmed that this would be known once internal discussions had concluded. Members also questioned what was likely to happen to the Pear Tree Library building; it was reported that the building would pass to the Estates team to determine its future use, details of which were contained in a report considered by Council Cabinet on 13 November 2018.

The Board heard that the extent of structural damage to the roof of the locally-listed building was not fully known. Furthermore, it was stated that St Augustine's was more suitable for a library and would allow development into a community hub.

Members raised concerns with regards to data protection issues associated with the Libraries Review, particularly in relation to volunteers accessing the details of existing customers in CMLs. It was reported that a solution had been identified that specifically addressed the requirements of DHA.

The Board questioned whether the savings identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan were realistic. It was stated that the service were working hard to achieve targets, but that they were ambitious.

Members queried whether any libraries were likely to close as a result of the review. It was stated that the outcome of the review was not known at the current stage, but it was felt that this was unlikely.

**The Communities Scrutiny Review Board resolved to note the report.**

## 24/18 Work Programme for the 2018/19 Municipal Year

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources presenting the proposed work programme of the Board for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year.

It was requested that a report on the Neighbourhood Agenda, originally scheduled for November 2018, was to be considered at the February meeting. In addition, an update on the City Centre Deep Clean was to be included as part of a wider review of street cleansing. It was also requested that a review of Emergency Planning was included on the agenda for discussion.

Further to an initial report on Tree Management received at the September meeting, it was requested that an additional meeting of the Board was arranged in order to review the Tree Management Policy in greater detail, to which the Cabinet Member and all relevant officers were invited.

**The Communities Scrutiny Board resolved:**

- **To request reports on the Neighbourhood Agenda and Emergency Planning were considered at the meeting of 11 February 2019**
- **To request that an update on the City Centre Deep Clean was provided as part of a wider review of street cleansing at the meeting of 11 February 2019**
- **To schedule an additional daytime meeting in January 2019 to conduct an in-depth review of the council's Tree Management Policy.**

MINUTES END