



Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Time and Date

11.00 am on Wednesday, 16th September, 2020

Place

This meeting will be held remotely. The meeting can be viewed live by pasting this link into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaGEP-X9KYg&feature=youtu.be> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaGEP-X9KYg&feature=youtu.be>

Public Business**1. Apologies and Substitutions****2. Declarations of Interest****3. Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)

(a) To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th July 2020

(b) Matters Arising

4. Jobs, Regeneration and Recovery (Pages 9 - 20)

Presentation by the Director of Business, Investment and Culture

Councillors O'Boyle and Welsh, Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration have been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item

5. Draft Scrutiny Annual Report to Council 2019-20 (Pages 21 - 38)

Report of the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, Councillor Brown

6. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2020/2021 and Outstanding Issues (Pages 39 - 42)

Report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator

7. Any Other Items of Public Business

Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

Private Business

Nil

Julie Newman, Director of Law and Governance, Council House Coventry

Tuesday, 8 September 2020

- Notes:1) The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Liz Knight, Democratic Services, Council House, Coventry, telephone 7697 2644, alternatively E-mail: suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk/liz.knight@coventry.gov.uk
- 2) Council Members who are not able to attend the meeting should notify Liz Knight no later than 10.00 a.m. on the day of the meeting, giving their reasons for absence and the name of the Council Member (if any) who will be attending the meeting as their substitute.
- 3) Scrutiny Board Members who have an interest in any report referred to this meeting, but who are not Members of this Committee, have been invited to notify the Chair by 12 noon on the day before the meeting that they wish to speak on a particular item. The Member must indicate to the Chair their reason for wishing to speak and the issue(s) they wish to raise.

Membership: Councillors N Akhtar, A Andrews, R Brown (Chair), J Clifford, L Kelly (Deputy Chair), C Miks, G Ridley, K Sandhu and R Singh

By invitation Councillors J O'Boyle and D Welsh

Suzanne Bennett/Liz Knight, Governance Services - Telephone: 024 7697 2299/2644

E-mail:

suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk/liz.knight@coventry.gov.uk

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee held at 11.00 am on
Wednesday, 29 July 2020

Present:

Members: Councillor R Brown (Chair)

Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor A Andrews
Councillor J Clifford
Councillor L Kelly
Councillor C Miks
Councillor G Ridley
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor R Singh

S Hanson, Co-opted Member of Education and
Children's Services Scrutiny Board

Other Members Present:- Councillor G Duggins, Leader of Coventry City Council
Councillor B Gittins, Deputy Cabinet Member, Children
and Young People
Councillor K Maton, Cabinet Member for Education and
Skills
Councillor P Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and
Young People

Employees: V Castree, Law and Governance
G Holmes, Law and Governance
J Essex, Education and Skills
K Nelson, Director of Education and Skills
P Smith, Children's Services

Apologies: K Jones, Co-opted Member of Education and Children's
Services Scrutiny Board

Public Business

13. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

14. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July, 2020 were agreed as a true record.
There were no matters arising

15. Education and Vulnerable Families

Cllr Brown introduced the item, outlining the effect that the pandemic had had on children, young people and their families, especially with the closure of schools to the majority of children and young people. The concern was that the lockdown situation has put additional pressure on already vulnerable families and that there was hidden harm in the system.

The Committee received a presentation which outlined the following;

- The situation had strengthened partnership working further
- That dynamic reset and recovery plans were in place at the Local Authority, Health and education settings level
- That all partnership schools were prepared to welcome all children back to school in September 2020.
- Support services were ready to resume full 'Covid safe' operations.
- That Children's Services, Police, Education continued to work together to address the presenting city-wide impact of Covid-19
- Circa 260 iterations of guidance have flowed from central government for schools
- To secure the safe opening of schools to Key Workers and Vulnerable Children all LA schools and settings and the vast majority of Academies had completed and submitted to the Local Authority Covid-19 operational risk assessments.
- The process had been repeated for the planned full re-opening of schools in September 2020 to reflect new Government guidance
- The breakdown of attendance of vulnerable student
- Free school meals update including that by mid-April 100% of known eligible children were recorded as accessing FSM, from a starting point in mid-March of just over 20%
- That to date, Coventry maintained schools have reported:
 - Additional costs of £450,000
 - Lost income of £580,000
 - Claiming for £270,000
- 1200 laptops have been reconfigured, updated and delivered to vulnerable children in conjunction with Children's Services, the Virtual School, IT, transport.
- The coordination of on-line resources for schools e.g. Coventry Recovery Curriculum
- Additional funding streams and funding for the sustainability of services
- The challenges ahead including:
 - Expectation of increased demand on front-line services across education and care will need to be absorbed, whilst sustaining Covid-19 responses leading to increased capacity challenges
 - Implementing the Outbreak Control Plan in response to Covid-19 transmission in schools and the community would require secure contingency planning and resource switching and service disruption
 - Home to school transport was an emerging challenge, that may impact on risk management in schools, pupil attendance, sufficiency and costs
 - Resource implications

The presentation also covered the steps being taken to keep children safe in the community by:

- Continuing to deliver ongoing protections, support and intervention to vulnerable children
- Four Family Hubs had remained open continuing to provide a “here to help” function for families
- Schools and education services setting up a contact system for vulnerable children who did not require or take up a school placement – this extended across school holiday periods and complimented social work contacts

It was also highlighted that there is an estimated financial impact of £1.5 million to Children’s Services.

The Committee also heard how Covid-19 had affected priorities and plans and what opportunities there were to do things differently in the long term. This included:

- Increased pressure on the system has resulted in an increased risk for children and young people, services continue to do all they can, when they can, to ensure children and families in Coventry are safeguarded
- The impact of COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the progress with the Children’s Services Strategic Plan resulting in timescales for actions to be revised.
- The Transformation Programme will be reconfigured as a result of COVID-19
- Some Local Authority education systems and processes have been delivered virtually leading to increased engagement, improved efficiency and productivity and improved outcomes – these benefits will be retained as part of a hybrid offer to families and schools
- The school partnership has strengthened – working together the ‘One Coventry’ approach needs to be sustained as the benefits driven by crisis management, have been strongly evidenced in practice
- Opportunities for more flexible working to be offered to staff going forward
- Opportunities to explore more virtual training/learning options/including foster carers
- Technology could be used to compliment rather than replace physical visits (hybrid offer)
- Technology provides a stronger and broader reach – proved invaluable as a communication and training tool

Following the presentation, Members raised a number of questions and issues, and received the following responses;

- The definition of vulnerable with regard to children and young people hadn’t changed throughout the pandemic period
- Recovery curriculum has a shift in emphasis to social, emotional and mental health
- Monitoring progress of children while not in school would be done on a national level, but with support locally through the partnership, who would collect data and prioritise funding to those schools where it was needed most
- Educational Psychology team had pulled together an approach to offer support for staff in schools which had gone Council wide, in terms of their well-being and mental health. There were strategies in place to make sure staff are not feeling isolated at home.
- The reliance on technology has been both a positive and a barrier to learning. It had highlighted the costs of access to technology and wifi, as well as

identifying inequalities. Digital literacy was key to access. There was a need to re-prioritise to improve the digital literacy offer for parents and carers

- The Council won't know the true financial position for schools until the end of the financial year. Schools were already in a tight position financially with most schools in Coventry already losing money under the new funding model.
- The funding for tutoring would not be going directly to schools, but to a national tutoring programme. Full details of this programme were not currently available.

The Committee noted their concerns that the two funding streams available to schools from the catch up premium and the National Tutoring Programme could be double counted if one was needed to subsidise the other.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the positive impact of the partnership approach, in minimising the potential impact of Covid-19 on all children and young people within the education system; including those from vulnerable families be noted and that the implementation of the Outbreak control plan be supported**
- 2) That the potential consequences that the loss of 4 months formal education will have on all children is considered and noted, which is likely to include: low attendance rates and disengagement; mental health and well-being concerns; increase in exclusions; exposure of hidden harm; transport barriers; ongoing disruption in the event of Covid-19 transmission episodes and increased poverty as the economic consequences are felt.**
- 3) That the financial and physical resource implications and limitations to respond to the anticipated increase in demand for statutory support services (including early help, social care and SEND) as all children return to nursery, schools or colleges and the full impact of Covid-19 and the extended lockdown is exposed be noted.**
- 4) That the Committee note the Outbreak Control Plan, which is pivotal to Coventry's recovery strategy across both social care and education**

16. Scrutiny Management

Councillor R Brown, Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, attended the meeting of Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration held on 14 July 2020 for consideration of an item relating to "Whitley Depot Rebuild – Additional Capital Allocation"

Councillor R Brown agreed that the decision was urgent and that call in should not apply. In accordance with the Constitution, this matter is reported to inform the Committee of the reason for urgency which is that the tender deadline expired on 17 July, 2020. To delay contract award risked the project having to be retendered and the capital costs increasing.

17. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2020/2021 and Outstanding Issues

The Committee considered and noted their Work Programme for 2020/21.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That the meeting scheduled for 19th August is not required**
- 2) That a programme of dates for all Scrutiny Boards from September onwards be circulated**
- 3) That Digital Inclusion and Skills be added to the Work Programme**
- 4) That Vulnerability and Disadvantaged Young People as a result of Covid be referred to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)**

18. Any Other Items of Public Business

The Committee noted it was the 20th anniversary of the Local Government Act 2000, which introduced the Cabinet and Scrutiny model of local government.

There were no other items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 1.00 pm)

This page is intentionally left blank

Jobs, Regeneration and Economy

CCC Scrutiny Committee – 16th September 2020

Contraction of UK Economy

- UK in deepest recession on record
 - GDP fell 2.2% in Q1 2020, 20.4% in Q2 2020
 - Decreasing consumer spending
 - Reduced production capacity of firms (25% stopped trading)
 - Domestic and international sales falling – cashflow challenges
- 12.4% contraction forecast for 2020 overall
 - West Midlands will see biggest contraction, with sector composition
- Economy not expected to recover to 2019 levels until late 2022
 - Assumes free trade deal with EU & vaccine/treatment within a year
 - Worst scenario suggests recovery will be late 2024



The Growing Jobs Problem

- Rise in unemployment following GDP contraction
- Since March, unemployment has more than doubled
 - Rise from 7,825 to 16,310 in Coventry
- 49,200 Coventry & 89,000 Warwickshire jobs furloughed
 - OBR forecasts 15% of these to be lost permanently
- UK unemployment expected to rise to 12% in Q4 2020
 - Would mean 4.1m people nationally, 23k in Coventry
- Youngest and oldest workers worst affected



CCC Actively Supporting Economy

- Award of Government COVID-19 grants
 - Small businesses and retail & hospitality firms
 - Business rate relief for 2020/21
 - Discretionary grants to SMEs
- Support with accessing other Government schemes
 - Loan schemes, Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- Negotiation of Getting Building Fund for priority capital projects
- Webinars for CCC's SME support programmes and green recovery
- Job Shop continued operations



Impacts of Support

- 4,500 Coventry businesses have accessed £50m of grants
 - Saved jobs & provided cashflow
- 5,000 Coventry businesses offered £185m of Government loans
 - Spread across Coventry's three constituencies
- £12m of Getting Building Fund – above per capita share
 - UK City of Culture, Commonwealth Games, Very Light Rail
- Attendance at webinars over triple previous physical workshops
- Gaps in support and impacts of slow economic recovery
 - Firms above grant thresholds (tourism, manufacturing)
 - Self-employed/freelancers (creatives)
 - More support needed on innovation/new practices



Continued Regeneration of Coventry

- £82m enhancements to Coventry Station continuing
 - On track for completion by Spring 2021
- Development of second Friargate office building approved
- New plans for £350m City Centre South announced
 - Mixed-use residential, retail and leisure scheme
- Coventry University city centre expansion approved
- Restoration of heritage sites – Burges, Charterhouse
- UKBIC on track for completion in 2020
 - Expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure



Changes to Ways of Working

- Engagement with wider range of businesses
 - Retail & hospitality
 - Work with other CCC teams (Business Rates & Property)
- External partnerships further enhanced - support & intelligence
 - CWLEP Growth Hub, Chamber, FSB, CWRT
- Webinars/digital support to remain alongside physical events
 - Job Shop also hybrid of digital & physical support
- Wider range of themes covered by future support
 - Innovation, digitisation, international trade, climate change
 - Account management model facilitated by CRM
 - Closer integration of business & employment support



Future Economic Opportunities

- Green-led recovery
 - Realise benefits of UKBIC for EV/battery supply chains
 - Secure Gigafactory & power supply enhancements
 - Support development of new green products (e.g. VLR) & digitisation
 - Support businesses to access new international markets
- Visitor economy & inward investment
 - City centre enhancements, UK CoC 2021, CWG 2022
- CCC SME & employment support programmes extended to 2023
- Partnership approach
 - Programme delivery (Growth Hub, Chamber, universities, third sector)
 - Lobbying for funds – WMCA, Government directly



Need for Inclusive Growth

- Ensure our residents benefit from economic recovery
 - Employer Hub & JCP identifying businesses planning redundancies
 - Job Shop work with Coventry BID supporting hospitality workers
 - Implementing Social Value Policy – commissioning/procurement
- Employment & skills support schemes now running to 2023
 - Strong focus on young people
 - Publicising transfer of Apprenticeship Levy
- Integrate employment & skills and SME support offers
 - Address “digital divide” – both businesses and residents



Delivering the Recovery

Page 18

Continuing with our successful delivery of European funded business programmes to June 2023

- ...and making the case for successor funds from UK Govt.

Safeguard Coventry's businesses – protect jobs

- Get finance & support to businesses to help them change/adjust
- Deliver skills support to residents losing jobs
- Making the most of CWRT loans and Duplex Fund

City centre regeneration & investment in cultural assets

Invest in transport & digital infrastructure

Opportunities - renewable energy & climate change



Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee are recommended to:

- 1) Consider the content of the presentation**
- 2) Identify any further recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member**

This page is intentionally left blank

**SCRUTINY ANNUAL
REPORT TO COUNCIL
2019/20**

DRAFT

To be considered at the City Council Meeting xx xxxxxx 2020

**Introduction by Cllr Richard Brown – Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination
Committee 2019-20**

To be added prior to publication for Council.

DRAFT

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Chair: Cllr Richard Brown

Deputy Chair: Cllr Lynnette Kelly

Remit

In 2019-20 the Committee was responsible for overseeing the Scrutiny function (including call-ins), considering cross-cutting issues and for the portfolios of the Cabinet Member - Policy and Leadership and the Cabinet Member - Policing and Equalities. It was also designated the Board for oversight of crime and community safety.

Membership

Councillors N Akhtar, Andrews, Brown (Chair), Clifford, Dr Kelly (Deputy Chair), McNicholas, Ridley, Dr Sandhu and R Singh

Activities and outcomes

At the start of the municipal year, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee (SCRUCO) held a meeting for all Scrutiny Members to hear about the priority issues for the organisation, including presentations from the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Chief Executives (People) and (Place). This then enabled Members to identify the priorities for work programmes across all six scrutiny Boards. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee reviewed the suggestions received to ensure a balanced scrutiny work programme.

The Committee scrutinised and sought assurance on a range of issues under its remit including the following. Papers from their meetings are available via the weblink below.

City of Culture

The City of Culture is an exciting opportunity for Coventry, and SCRUCO have received updates throughout the year on the preparations for the UK City of Culture 2021, with a particular reference to community engagement and governance and risk management arrangements.

Members scrutinised the preparations and raised a number of issues including: the financial implications for the City Council including the legacy spend; capacity to deliver within the Trust as well as for Partners providing support; the mechanisms for engaging local communities; how the economic impact would be measured; ensuring the city's industrial and social heritage was highlighted as part of the City of Culture programme; the importance of public health and public safety and use of social media for promotion whilst being mindful of digital exclusion.

Outcomes of the meeting included SCRUCO supporting the establishment of a City of Culture 2021 Members Advisory Board; requesting information on security arrangements and emergency planning for 2021 and improvements be made in communications between the Trust and City Councillors.

Bus Provision and Innovation

Over two meetings, Scrucro considered items on Bus Provision in Coventry and Bus Innovation. Members received information from Council officers, as well as representatives from Travel for the West Midlands and National Express Coventry, the biggest bus operator in the city.

Members wanted to understand the current position with regard to bus services in the city, what steps were being taken to increase bus transport and what innovation was in place to improve bus provision, with a particular emphasis on green travel. The Committee questioned the Council's representatives on the Transport Delivery Committee of TfWM, as well as Council officers and partners present. Members raised a number of issues, including franchising options, comparisons with Transport for London, as well as improving the passenger experience on buses, information availability, and green travel. Members also asked questions about the preparations for bus provision during the City of Culture.

The Committee supported the development of apps to encourage bus usage, as well as other innovations, including funding bids to create an all-electric bus fleet in the city. The Committee also requested that scrutiny feed into the discussions on a Strategic Outline Business Case for bus franchising, as well as supporting the creation of a Coventry Bus Performance Board, recommending strong lines of accountability to the Lead Member for Transport and the opportunity for scrutiny to have an overview of the work of the Board.

Climate Change

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee committed to scrutinise Climate Change throughout the municipal year and to consider it as a cross-cutting item. An example of this can be seen above in the outline of the item on bus provision and innovation.

There had been significant progress on the Climate Change agreement between July 2019 and March 2020 when the item was reconsidered. Work had taken place by Officers to positively tackle climate change, including recruitment, investment, stakeholder engagement and the development of a strategy and programme of actions.

The Committee welcomed all of the work which was being undertaken and resolved that Climate Change would continue to be a key priority for the Committee in the new Municipal Year.

Weblink to papers: <http://moderngov.coventry.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=151>

Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1)

Chair: Cllr Rupinder Singh

Remit

In 2019-20, the Scrutiny Board was responsible for the scrutiny of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member - Strategic Finance and Resources.

Membership

Councillors Abbott, Dr Auluck, Bains, Blundell, Brown, Gittins, Lakha, Sawdon, R Singh (Chair)

Activities and outcomes

The Board scrutinised and sought assurance on a range of issues under its remit including the following examples. Papers from their meetings are available via the weblink below.

Finance

The Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board considered a number of items on finance throughout the year. The items have addressed strategic financial issues, including the 2020-2023 Medium Term Financial Strategy, Council Reserves and the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

The Board recognised that Councils were still working in a time of unprecedented financial pressure, and uncertainty, leading to further significant reductions in spending levels. Throughout the year SB1 robustly questioned officers to seek assurance that the Council was using its revenue and capital funding effectively, managing contracts effectively and generating income in a way which provided the financial foundations required to ensure that Council services are fit for purpose to protect the most vulnerable as well as providing the appropriate level and quality of core services for every citizen in the city.

ICT and Digital Strategy

The Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board has taken a detailed look into ICT and Digital again this year, including an in-depth look at the Digital First programme. They have discussed a number of topics to seek assurance that ICT is as resilient and fit for purpose as possible.

Questions have also been asked about working in partnership across the region to share ideas and economies of scale, as well as linking up with existing apps, to avoid reinventing the wheel and about support to the workforce to help them maximise the opportunities ICT provides for improving digital skills and therefore efficiencies and customer service.

The Board discussed the Digital Strategy and the Local Digital Declaration which committed the City Council to designing a service to best meet the needs of the citizens, challenging the technology market, protecting citizens' privacy and security and delivering value for money. Digital successes to date were also scrutinised including data on the take-up of online digital service by residents and details of the internal infrastructure for supporting the workforce. The Board sought assurance that every effort was being made with Housing Partners to ensure

there was maximum opportunities for all homes to benefit from the roll out of fibre broadband across the City and that digital programmes continue to highlight and consider the importance of digital inclusion.

The Board are continuing to endeavour to ensure that ICT is at the heart of the Council's services to improve experiences for citizen's and efficiencies for the Authority.

Social Value Policy

The Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board considered Social Value Policy twice during the course of the year.

At the first meeting in July, Members noted there had been progress in several areas against the Social Value Policy since previous update in April 2018. This included; the inclusion of clauses in local authority standard contracts which were intended to ensure that contractors were operating in a way that impacted favorably on society; Consideration of additional Social Value requirements within the specifications and/or weighting the contract award criteria, which was now standard in City Council tender activity and support of the Social Value Portal in the use of online solutions that allowed organisation to measure and manage the contribution that the organisation and supply chain makes to society.

However, Members were concerned that it had been five years since the adoption of the Social Value Policy and recommended the Cabinet Member reviewed the Policy. The Cabinet Member accepted the recommendation and the revised policy was brought back to scrutiny in March 2020 en route to Cabinet. It had been reviewed by the Social Value Working Group who were proposing a new and extended policy, including an increased focus on Sustainability. It was proposed that the policy was also renamed as the Social Value & Sustainability Policy. Members raised the possible opportunity of developing Community Wealth Building in the City and it was agreed an established task and finish group would continue to look at this.

Weblink to papers: <http://modern.gov.coventry.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=568>

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Chair: Cllr Kindy Sandhu

Remit

In 2019-20, the Scrutiny Board was responsible for the scrutiny of the portfolios of the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) and the Cabinet Member, (Education and Skills).

Membership

Councillors P Akhtar, Blundell (part year) Kaur, Dr Kelly, Lepoidevin, Lloyd, Male (part year), Thay, Thomas

Co-opted members sat on the Board for education matters. : Mrs. S. Hanson (Church of England), Ms. Kelly Jones (School Governor) and 3 vacancies (Primary Parent Governors, Roman Catholic Church and Other Faiths).

Activities and outcomes

At their first meeting of the year, the Board had introductory presentations on the work of both Education and Children's Services. The Board were then able to identify areas to scrutinise over the year. The Board scrutinised and sought assurance on a range of issues under its remit including the examples below. The Board continued to receive regular progress reports from the Children's Services Continuous Improvement Board.

Papers from their meetings are available via the weblink.

Improving Children's Services

This year the Board received four update reports from the Children's Services Improvement Board. The reports focussed on the comprehensive Strategic Plan 2019-22, workforce, training for staff, Family Drug and Alcohol Courts and performance data. The Director and Cabinet Member were able to respond to Members questions on areas of concern.

The Board raised concerns that the Chair of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board was no longer a member of the Continuous Improvement Board. SB2 recommend that this was amended and the Chair is now a members of that Board.

Members agreed to continue receiving reports and monitoring implementation of the strategic plan and the progress towards a "Good" Children's Services.

Post 16 transition and NEETS – Coventry College

On the 28th November the Board met at Coventry College. The Members were able to hear from some of the students at the college about their route into post 16 education and what the college offered them that their schools' 6th forms couldn't. They were also able to offer advice for other young people leaving school. The Chief Executive gave a presentation with the strategic plans, priorities and purpose of the college.

Members were given an opportunity to hear about the work of Prospects which provides support to NEETS (not in Education, Employment or Training) in the city. The Board were able to ask questions about tracking young people who were NEET, strategies to encourage engagement, concerns about exploitation, activity unknown and homeless young people and work experiences.

The young people who attended the meeting were also invited to ask questions on the other items on the agenda which provided a useful opportunity for the Board to hear young people's issues and concerns on safeguarding, SEN and children's services generally.

Partnership Working T&F and visit to the Children's Services

As part of their task and finish group on the effectiveness of Partnership working across Children's Services, focusing on referrals into the MASH, Members visited the Children's Services offices at Broadgate House. This gave Members the opportunity to talk to staff in the Social Work Academy and congratulate them in person for their Guardian Public Service Award for Workforce Learning and Development.

Members were also able to visit the MASH and speak to the Edge of Care team. Members reported it was really beneficial to be able to ask questions to front line staff

The task and finish group (T&F) looked at external agencies use of the Right Help Right Time guidance for identifying the support that a child, young person or family might need and how best to provide that support. It had been suggested that some partners were referring families to the MASH inappropriately. The T&F group interviewed partners from the Safeguarding Partnership, health, police, education, voluntary sector and the MASH. The T&F group used their findings to identify recommendations which will be presented to the Cabinet Member during the next municipal year.

Weblink to papers: <http://moderngov.coventry.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=569>

Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)

Chair: Cllr John McNicholas

Remit

In 2019-20, the Scrutiny Board was responsible for the scrutiny of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member - Jobs and Regeneration and the Cabinet Member - Public Health and Sport.

Membership

Councillors Birdi (part year), Crookes (part year), Heaven (part year), Male (part year), Jandu, Lancaster, Lucas, Miks, Ruane, B Singh

Activities and outcomes

The Board scrutinised and sought assurance on a range of issues under its remit including the examples below. Papers from their meetings are available via the weblink below.

Trees and the Urban Forest

The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board considered several items on trees this year. They invited the Chair of the Coventry Tree Wardens to talk about the work they do across this city. Members received a presentation which covered the objectives and activities of the wardens. Members questioned them on the relationship they have with Council officers which was reported to be positive.

Members also took part in the consultation on the draft Urban Forestry Strategy. Members wanted more opportunities for Elected Members to be involved in local tree planting projects as well as recommending that other tree planting projects such as through Severn Trent and the Woodlands Trust were included in the strategy. The Board also wanted the recommendation they had made on the Green Space Strategy about planting a tree for every citizen to be delivered through the Urban Forestry Strategy. Members recommendations will be considered as part of the consultation and progress on the implementation of the action plan will be reported to the Board.

Members were also able to feed into the consultation on the draft Developer and Trees Supplementary Planning Guidance. Members made several recommendations as part of the consultation process which focussed on firmed enforcement and protection for existing trees from developers as well as prescribed tree planting requirements for developers. The Board also recommended to the Leader that responsibility for trees comes under a single Cabinet portfolio, rather than split across several as it is now.

Air Quality

The Board received two reports on the Local Air Quality Action Plan throughout the year, however due to the Covid-19 closure were only able to consider the item at one meeting. Members made several comments on the draft action plan and contributed to the consultation

process throughout. The Board asked questions of the Cabinet Member about encouraging use of public transport, cycling and electric vehicles, as well as tree planting to improve air quality. The Board were generally supportive of the proposals in the action plans and supported the Cabinet Members direction of travel including opposition to a Clean Air Zone in the city. Members have requested that the item remain on the work programme for 2020/21

Very Light Rail and visit to WMG

Members of the Board requested an update on progress on the Very Light Rail (VLR) programme being delivered in partnership with WMG at Warwick University following a very informative item in January 2018. The meeting was held at WMG which enabled Members to experience the 3D visualisation of the VLR in development. Members then received a presentation from partners and Council officers involved in the project. The Board were able to ask questions of the Cabinet Member as well as representatives from WMG. Members asked questions about progress including the environmental benefits, legislative context, business case and timescales, as well as potential routes and impact of 5G on delivery of the project. The Board noted the progress made and supported further work to deliver the project in Coventry.

Weblink to papers: <https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=570>

Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board 4

Chair: Cllr Naeem Akhtar

Remit

In 2019-20, the Scrutiny Board was responsible for the scrutiny of the portfolios of the Cabinet Member - Community Development and the Cabinet Member – City Services including issues relating to energy, the environment, street services, waste management, highways and lighting.

Membership

Councillors N Akhtar (Chair), Abbott, M Ali, R Ali, Bailey, Mayer, Miks, Thay, Walsh.

Activities and outcomes

The Board scrutinised and sought assurance on a range of issues under its remit including the following examples. Papers from their meetings are available via the weblink below.

Housing and Homelessness

Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board have considered a number of items over the past year on the topic of housing and homelessness. These included an item on a 12 Month Review of the Implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA); Adoption of Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024; Coventry Homefinder Review; Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy; Housing Development in the City and a housing and homelessness update in March 2020.

Following these meetings, a number of recommendations were made and a couple of examples are listed below.

With regards to the Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy, the Board supported the proposals and asked for consideration be given to options other than pre-payment meters for utilities payments and a further report back following implementation on the impacts of the policy. With regards to Housing Development in the City, a recommendation was made that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods undertake the necessary research (using local resources if possible/appropriate) to ascertain the impact of the new student accommodation on the housing market in the City.

Fly-tipping

At their meeting on the 19th September 2019, the Board considered an item on tackling fly-tipping in the city. Officers reported that there had been a 47% increase in the number of fly-tips reported which was in context with an increase nationally

The Board heard that an online reporting form was making it easier for the public to check if the fly-tipping had already been reported. Despite the marked increase in fly-tipping, the Council had slightly increased the proportion of fly-tips attended to and had developed metrics to identify, determine and address the levels of cleanliness across the City.

Fly tipping had reduced in the first quarter of 2019/20 when compared with the same period last year. The Scrutiny Board noted that it was too early to determine if this is part of a long-term trend but indicated that the progress was encouraging.

The Board were informed of measures the Council are using to address the increase in fly tipping including focus on “hot spots” and surveillance. These include a pilot surveillance project which the Board requested a report back on next municipal year.

The Board questioned officers particularly in relation to work with partners including social and private landlords, the fire service, educating residents about how to get rid of bulky waste and the “Your Rubbish” app.

Christmas Waste Collection

The Board wanted to focus on plans for Christmas Waste collections so they considered an item on preparations at their meeting in September which was followed by a meeting in January to consider how plans had been implemented. At the second meeting the Board considered a presentation on the Outcomes of the Christmas Waste Collection, which covered Performance, Challenges, Communication and Considerations for 2020

Members discovered that contact they had with residents was not included in the data on numbers of complaints. Only complaints made via customer services were included in the data.

Members questioned officers about staffing arrangements covering Christmas collections, as well as how neighbouring authorities provide a service. Members also discussed the risk of reputational damage by not providing an effective service. Members also discussed plans for Christmas 2020 and how the service could address the staffing issues which had led to a delay in collections over the Christmas period.

Members requested that the Cabinet Member for City Services, as part of the planned review into the Christmas waste collection and for planning for 2020, consider a range of options including:

- no refuse collection for that week and providing extra bags,
- using agency staff entirely to deliver the service over that week,
- a review of contractual requirements for staff over the closure week

They also requested that the Cabinet Member identify a new process to understand the full extent of the complaints/compliments about waste collections all year round which would

include contacts from residents to councillors and officers directly, not just the formal complaint process through customer services.

Weblink to papers: <http://moderngov.coventry.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=652>

DRAFT

Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board 5

Chair: Cllr Joe Clifford

Remit

In 2019-20, the Scrutiny Board was responsible for the scrutiny of health, adult social care and health inequalities, including the portfolio of the Cabinet Member - Adult Services and a significant part of Cabinet Member – Public Health and Sport’s portfolio. The Board was also the designated committee under the Health and Social Care Act 2001 for scrutiny of local NHS services.

Membership

Councillors M Ali, Blundell (part year), Birdi (part year), Clifford, Harvard, Innes, Lancaster, Ruane, Skinner, Sweet.

Co-opted Member: Mr. D Spurgeon (Healthwatch)

Activities and outcomes

The Board scrutinised and sought assurance on a range of issues under its remit including the following examples. Papers from their meetings are available via the weblink below.

Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) Pathway and Support to Children and Young People in Coventry

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board met with Members of the Education and Children’s Scrutiny Board to consider the Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) pathway. Representatives from Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council, the three Clinical Commissioning Groups for Coventry and Warwickshire and Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT) were present at the meeting.

The meeting heard an explanation of autism and the requirements of legislation on Local Authorities and CCGs for supporting children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities including autism. Members heard about the wide range of services available in Coventry for parents and carers, children and young people, and schools to support children and young people who are on the waiting list or have received a diagnosis of autism. This was important as there were significant waits for assessments – in some cases up to 2 years.

The meeting highlighted the increased demand for autism assessments which were anticipated to rise to by 33% by the end of 2019/20.

Members questioned the representatives and officers on a number of issues including; Concerns about the length of the waiting lists and waiting times and the work being undertaken to reduce them; Concerns about the gap in provision when moving from childhood to adulthood while waiting for a diagnosis for autism, with a request to strengthen support in this area; staff shortages and resources; Clarification about autism and the need to support

people's differences; The importance of raising awareness of autism; why numbers significantly higher in Coventry compared to other areas and the implications for families of the long wait for a diagnosis.

Members gave their support to Coventry becoming an Autism Friendly City and for having an Autism Awareness Day/ Week later in the year and suggested that autism awareness training be provided for both Members and officers. Members requested that the City's 3 MPs be contacted to request more resources for Coventry and Warwickshire to support the ongoing work with autism. This letter has been sent and agreement received that this will be picked up by the MPs once the Covid-19 Crisis is over. It was also agreed that the draft All Age Autism Strategy be submitted to a future meeting of the Board along with further information on the Autistic Spectrum Condition pathway and the waiting lists for initial assessment.

Developing Stroke Services in Coventry and Warwickshire

The Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee met formally for the first time in March 2019 to request an update on the Stroke Services review, following delays in implementation due to difficulties in gaining NHS England assurance for the redesigned service. At that time, the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee were told they expected formal consultation would begin in Summer 2019.

The formal consultation was further delayed and finally began in Autumn 2019. The Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee met to hear the final proposals in October. At that meeting they agreed to consider the redesign at their respective health overview and scrutiny meetings and to reconvene in January 2020 to formalise their joint response.

Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group presented the proposals to SB5, with support from Clinicians from UHCW and South Warwickshire Foundation Trust, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust and West Midlands Ambulance Service, who contributed their views to the final submission. The final submission was agreed by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their January meeting and reflected views from across the Coventry and Warwickshire footprint.

The outcome was that Members appreciated the extensive public consultation which had taken place and were assured that concerns raised had been heard and responded to. Members had also had some concerns over the proposed model, but they were reassured by the answers received at the meeting that there was a clear understanding and rationale for the service changes which were being complimented by investment into the service to improve patient outcomes. It was recognised that this review had taken a long time to reach this stage and Members hoped for a swift and successful implementation and regular updates were requested to monitor actual performance against the anticipated outcomes in the business case.

External partners providing evidence and information: Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board, South Warwickshire Foundation Trust, West Midlands Ambulance Service

Weblink to papers: <http://moderngov.coventry.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=573xx>

DRAFT

Thanks to representatives from the following organisations who contributed to, or attended scrutiny board meetings; Citizen; City of Culture 2021 Trust; Coventry College; Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group; Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board; Coventry Tree Wardens; Coventry and Warwickshire LEP; Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust; Future Lets (Coventry University); Midland Heart; National Express; South Warwickshire Foundation Trust; Transport for West Midlands; University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire; Warwick University; West Midlands Ambulance Service; West Midlands Police; WMG

Details of how to find out more about Scrutiny

Agendas, reports and minutes for all Scrutiny meetings are on the Council's website at http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/354/council_meetings

You can suggest a topic for Scrutiny here:

https://myaccount.coventry.gov.uk/service/Suggest_a_topic_for_Scrutiny

More information on Scrutiny at Coventry City Council is available on the Council's website at www.coventry.gov.uk/scrutiny or from:

Scrutiny Team
Coventry City Council
Council House
Earl Street
Coventry City Council
CV1 5RR
scrutiny@coventry.gov.uk

Follow us on twitter @covscrutiny

This page is intentionally left blank

Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

17th June 2020
Covid-19 - Impact, Reset and Recovery
8th July 2020
Sustainability and Climate Change
29th July 2020
Education and Vulnerable Children
19th August 2020
Not required
16th September 2020
Jobs, Regeneration and Economy Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-20
7th October 2020
Health Inequalities Centre for Public Scrutiny – Scrutiny Review outcomes
Future items to be identified according to emerging priorities
4th November 2020
9th December 2020
13th January 2021
10th February 2021
10th March 2021
21st April 2021
Dates to be identified
Climate Change Digital Skills One Coventry Plan

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
17th June 2020	Covid-19 - Impact, Reset and Recovery	To consider the current position, plans for re-set and recovery and identify areas for further scrutiny	Cllr Duggins Gail Quinton
8th July 2020	Sustainability and Climate Change	Scrucoco will consider the interrelationships between air quality, travel, transport, access to education and employment, health and inequalities, etc Scrucoco will want to ensure the new normal maximises benefits to all and makes a positive contribution to climate change and a sustainable future for the city and its residents.	Cllrs O'Boyle, Hetherington, Caan, T Khan Andy Williams Brett Willers Andrew Walster Colin Knight
29th July 2020	Education and Vulnerable Children	Scrucoco will consider the impact of school closures on education and wellbeing of children and young people, especially those from vulnerable families	Cllrs Maton, Seaman Kirston Nelson John Gregg
19th August 2020	Not required		
16th September 2020	Jobs, Regeneration and Economy	To consider the impact of Covid-19 and implications for recovery and re-set on jobs regeneration and the economy. To invite members of SB3 as well	Cllr O'Boyle Andy Williams
	Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-20	To consider the draft annual report before it goes before Council	Cllr Brown Adrian West
7th October 2020	Health Inequalities	To consider the impact of Covid-19 and implications for recovery and re-set on health inequalities. To invite members of SB5 as well	Cllr Kamran Caan Liz Gaulton
	Centre for Public Scrutiny – Scrutiny Review outcomes	The CfPS undertook a scrutiny review during 2019-20. This item will consider the recommendations and next steps.	Cllr Brown Adrian West
Future items to be identified			

SCRUCO Work Programme 2020-21

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
according to emerging priorities			
4th November 2020			
9th December 2020			
13th January 2021			
10th February 2021			
10th March 2021			
21st April 2021			
Dates to be identified	Climate Change	To follow up from the initial meeting on 8 th July	Cllr O'Boyle Bret Willers
	Digital Skills	To look in more detail how steps being taken to improve digital skills, to narrow the digital gap and to ensure there are sufficient skills in the job market to meet future demand	Cllr Hetherton Cllr Maton Cllr Lloyd
	One Coventry Plan		Cllr Duggins

This page is intentionally left blank