

# Appendix D – The Solihull Council Plan 2020-2025 – Scrutiny Position Statement for 2022/23

## People and Communities

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
Improving outcomes for Children and Young People in Solihull	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	<p><b><u>Joint Targeted Area Inspection – Update</u></b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of the report is to provide the Children’s Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny Board with a summary of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) into the identification of initial risk and need regarding Children and Families within Solihull. This was not a graded inspection.</p> <p><b>Decision/Actions:</b> The Board noted the findings of the JTAI and action being taken to respond to the issues identified.</p>
	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	<p><b><u>Update Report – Corporate Parenting In Solihull</u></b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To inform Board members of the progress and current position in relation to corporate parenting in Solihull. To outline how Solihull MBC and its partners have supported our children in care and care experienced young people, by striving to be excellent corporate parents, taking corporate parenting into service areas and ensuring that teams understand what it is and how they can support. To raise awareness both of the needs of children looked after and care experienced young people and OVOS (Our Voice Our Services) our children in care council, which gives a voice to children and young people through monthly meet ups and supports them to take part in local and national forums, chair their own review meetings, as well as planning events and activities for all Solihull children and young people who are looked after or care experienced.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Actions:</b> Received the report, were aware of current progress and take relevant actions to support the development of corporate parenting in Solihull. Noted the current issues experienced by children looked after and care experienced young people and explored how they may be able to support and find solutions for them.</p>
	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2022	<p><b><u>Findings of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel – Update on the Local Recommendations</u></b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p>

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	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2022	<p>In May 2022, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published a review, Child Protection in England, looking at the circumstances leading up to the deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson in 2020. The review made nine local recommendations; this report gave an update on the multi-agency work that has taken place in response to the recommendations made.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Outcomes</b> The board unanimously noted the report of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel subgroup of the LSCP</p> <p><b><u>Children’s Services Improvement Plan/JTAI Update</u></b> <b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of this report was to provide the Children’s Services, Education &amp; Skills Scrutiny Board with an update in relation to the Improvement Plan and response to the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI). The report updated members on the service wide Improvement Plan devised in March 2022 which focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the lived experience of the child</li> <li>• Managing workloads</li> <li>• Recording systems and support best practice</li> <li>• A system-wide approach to improvement and performance</li> <li>• Clearly articulated vision and values</li> <li>• Practice using evidence-based methods and tools</li> <li>• A strong focus on retention, recruitment, and staff development</li> <li>• A culture of reflective thinking, curiosity, challenge, learning and development</li> <li>• Stable and visible leadership and management</li> <li>• Effective partnership that makes a difference to children and families</li> </ul> <p>The plan comprised of six themes which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership and Governance</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> <li>• Workforce</li> <li>• Quality of Practice</li> <li>• Quality Assurance &amp; Performance</li> <li>• Record Keeping</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions/Outcomes:</b> The Board unanimously noted the update regarding the Improvement Plan and JTAI Statement of Action.</p>



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<p>Good quality, responsive, and dignified care and support for Adults in Solihull when they need it</p>	<p>18<sup>th</sup> July 2022</p>	<p><b>Day Opportunities Strategy 2022 – 2027 – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The report informed the Scrutiny Board of the development of a Day Opportunities Strategy for 2022 to 2027. Members considered how the pandemic demonstrated it was critical to have good quality, resilient day services that supported residents and gave them a choice of activities that aligned with their interests. The Scrutiny Board took into account how the revised strategy focused upon ensuring the services in place in the future reflected the changing landscape across the Borough and offered what people in Solihull now needed and wanted.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Board also reviewed the accompanying action plan, which set out how the Council and providers would support the further development of the day opportunities offer to support those aspirations. The Action Plan also outlined how success would be measured.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b> The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board endorsed the new vision for day opportunities for Solihull, as well as the priorities identified in the Strategy, which in summary included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring good quality</li> <li>• Improving awareness and understanding</li> <li>• Improving flexibility of services</li> </ul>
	<p>4<sup>th</sup> August 2022</p>	<p><b>Adult Social Care 5 Year Directorate Plan – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The Scrutiny Board reviewed a draft Adult Social Care 5 -Year Directorate Plan, which had been developed as a public facing document to outline the work of the Directorate, their priorities over the next 5 years, and how they would approach this period of change. A summary ‘Plan on a Page’ formed part of the draft Plan to outline a snapshot of the Directorate vision, purpose, values, priorities, resources, and key projects.</p> <p>Members considered how an involvement plan was currently underway whereby key partners and residents were being asked their views on the draft Plan. This included meetings with key partners, including care providers, open sessions facilitated by Heads of Service, and an</p>

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	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2022	<p>online survey. Feedback from this involvement exercise, and from the Scrutiny Board was then used to further update the draft Plan, which was presented for sign off by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions:</b> The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsed the Adult Social Care 5-Year Directorate Plan.</li> <li>• Endorsed the Directorate vision, purpose, values, priorities, resources, and key projects outlined in the ‘Plan on a Page.’</li> <li>• Endorsed the development of an easy to read version of the Adult Social Care Plan.</li> <li>• Requested, where possible, for hyperlinks to be included for the key projects outlined on the Plan on a Page, to allow viewing of the latest plans and strategies.</li> <li>• Requested for a further breakdown to be provided of the different disabilities residents have across the Borough, and</li> <li>• Agreed to receive future reporting, following the publication of the Care Quality</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Adult Social Care Carers Strategy Update – Joint Children’s and Adults Scrutiny Boards</u></b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The Scrutiny Board was invited to review the new strategy, which was for carers of all ages in Solihull, who cared for individuals of any age. It therefore included the concerns and interests of parent carers, young carers, and adult carers. Members considered how the strategy had been developed with partners to agree an approach that was for all of Solihull’s health and care system, ensuring an integrated approach to addressing the experiences and concerns of carers.</p> <p>Members took into account how the strategy was intended to ensure that carers were able to identify tangible changes in support, not just from adult or children’s social care provision, but from interactions with the wider council and health partners. The Scrutiny Board reviewed how the strategy gave a clear set of actions that would take forward carer services that recognised their value and demonstrated a collective local commitment to support for carers.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions:</b> The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted the progress on the development of the Strategy.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested that the key points raised by Members be taken into account as part of the future development and delivery of the strategy and action plan, including on ensuring personalised care for the whole family, with both adult and children’s social care working collaboratively.</li> <li>• Welcomed the engagement and establishment of links with formal Pensioner Organisations; and</li> <li>• Agreed for a future update to be circulated to Board members, outlining the comparative benchmarking work undertaken for carers in the Borough.</li> </ul>
Take action to improve life chances and health outcomes in our most disadvantaged communities	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	<p><b><u>Update on the Health Inequalities Strategy – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board</u></b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The Scrutiny Board received an update on the delivery of the Health Inequalities Strategy. Members considered how the final wording of the strategy had taken account of feedback from local residents and the Scrutiny Board, including stronger references to reducing inequalities relating to transport and housing quality and supporting people with disabilities and poor mental health. The report outlined progress against the key priorities of the Strategy - Priority 1: Maternity, early years and young people, Priority 2: Adulthood and work, Priority 3: Supporting higher risk groups and Priority 4: Healthy Places. Members were informed how the ICS had now established an Inequalities Board, reflecting the importance of maximising what could be achieved across Birmingham and Solihull to reduce inequalities. Work was underway to ensure the local inequalities strategy and action plan was well-coordinated with system/ ICS plans so that all agencies were working to clear goals and a common purpose.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions:</b> The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted the update on the Health Inequalities Strategy</li> <li>• Requested that the key points raised during this discussion were considered as part of the future delivery of Strategy, especially in regards to support for young people and adults with different health conditions and additional needs accessing training and employment opportunities.</li> </ul>

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<p>Good quality, responsive, and dignified care and support for Adults in Solihull when they need it (by providing early intervention, support and safeguarding adults from domestic abuse).</p>	<p>7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022</p>	<p><b>Domestic Abuse Act 2021 – Delivery of New Duties and Service Updates – Stronger Communities &amp; Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To consider progress made towards the new duties brought into effect by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Scrutiny of key work streams included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition of an existing multi-agency group into the statutory Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.</li> <li>• Completion of a Needs Assessment to assess the demand for DA safe accommodation.</li> <li>• Publication of Solihull’s 2022-2025 Domestic Abuse Strategy, detailing the Partnership’s approach for identifying and meeting the needs of DA safe accommodation.</li> <li>• Commissioning of a new BAME 6-bed refuge, together with the submission of a planning application to support a larger Housing of Multiple Occupancy licence.</li> <li>• Commissioning of dedicated children’s support within refuges to achieve compliance.</li> <li>• Commissioning of specialist Housing Advocates who will work directly with victims.</li> <li>• Ongoing compliance with detailed data reporting requirements to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All work undertaken towards the new duties brought into effect by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, together with the publication of Solihull’s new Domestic Abuse Strategy was endorsed;</li> <li>• Solihull Domestic Abuse Partnership Board be invited to consider the feasibility of an alternate means for victims of domestic abuse to contact the Police (non-emergency) without having to use either 101 or live web-chat (to encourage reporting);</li> <li>• Information contained on the Council’s website to support male victims of domestic abuse be reviewed to ensure clear reporting routes and support mechanisms are more easily accessible; and</li> <li>• A further progress report be considered in 2023.</li> </ul>
<p>Enable communities to thrive (by ensuring that the legacy of the Commonwealth Games drives tourism, economic growth and</p>	<p>7<sup>th</sup> June 2022</p>	<p><b>Commonwealth Games 2022 Legacies – Stronger Communities &amp; Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To consider a full appraisal of Solihull’s involvement in the delivery of the Games and to highlight several potential legacies for the Borough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Project work streams in the build up to the Games – which included service area specific updates for Transport, Highways &amp; Infrastructure; Regulatory &amp; Enforcement; Resilience; Street Scene; Inclusion &amp; Communities; Economy &amp; Tourism; and Health Protection.</li> </ul>

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community wellbeing).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queens Baton Relay – details of the route for the Baton that would travel through the majority of the Borough and all associated community and Town Centre events.</li> <li>• Events Programme – established alongside key Partners to create a programme that would be accessible to all residents and communities.</li> <li>• Engagement Plans – several drop-in sessions had been arranged to answer questions and capture feedback from residents, communities and businesses.</li> <li>• Legacy Objectives – several objectives for Solihull had been aligned to the Games to help the region to “grow and succeed”, “put Solihull on the global stage”, “improve health and wellbeing”, and to “bring people together”.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The full appraisal of Solihull’s involvement in the delivery of the Games and the number of potential legacies for the Borough was endorsed; and</li> <li>• Review the progress made towards the reported future legacies in 12 months time.</li> </ul>
Enable communities to thrive (by continuing to ensure that the community safety partnership is working efficiently and effectively for the people of Solihull).	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	<p><b>Community Risk Management Plan – Stronger Communities &amp; Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To review West Midlands Fire Service’s Community Risk Management Plan which was used to identify and assess all foreseeable risks that communities might face – from house fires and road traffic collisions, through to flooding and terrorism. That information was then used to shape WMFS priorities, their Service Delivery Model and how they used their resources to reduce risk and vulnerability in local communities in Solihull. Key work-streams included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk Modelling - historic incident data alongside a range of other people and place datasets were used to identify characteristics present within communities that had the highest and lowest risk of an incident occurring.</li> <li>• Trend Analysis - strategic risk analysis, incident reports and performance dashboards helped identify annual and temporal trends in all incidents reported to WMFS.</li> <li>• Research - literature reviews of credible academic work to understand the research that existed globally into incident response management planning.</li> <li>• External Environment – to consider the social, technological, economic, environmental, political, legal and ethical factors that might affect service delivery and/or presented opportunities for inclusion within the Plan.</li> </ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forecasting – looking beyond the three-year CRMP planning cycle to understand potential future requirements taking account of global factors and major incidents to better understand unprecedented events.</li> <li>• Current Service Capabilities - reviewing existing capabilities and whether they were proportionate to the foreseeable hazardous scenarios WMFS were likely to respond to.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies and priorities in place to protect Solihull’s local communities endorsed.</li> </ul>
<p>Enable communities to thrive (by continuing to ensure that the community safety partnership is working efficiently and effectively for the people of Solihull).</p>	<p>16<sup>th</sup> November 2022</p>	<p><b>Prevent and Protect Programmes – Local Delivery Update – Stronger Communities &amp; Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To review the Council’s and the Safer Solihull Partnership’s current work on counter-terrorism and how the Partnership’s ‘responsible authorities’ in Solihull were meeting their statutory duties. the key local priorities for 2022/23 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of Prevent referrals: Ensuring that referral mechanisms for those vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism are robust and consistent across partner agencies.</li> <li>• Improve Communications and Engagement: Ensuring that key groups are involved and engaged with the counter-terrorism agenda and that processes are transparent in respect of counter-terrorism.</li> <li>• Review and Deliver Training: Ensuring that the Partnership’s training offer is consistent in respect of counter-terrorism.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Partnership’s key local priorities for 2022/23 were endorsed; and</li> <li>• A further update be considered in 12 month’s time; to include the potential implementation of the new statutory “Protect” Duty and progress towards the delivery of all 2022 benchmarking recommendations and actions.</li> </ul>
<p>Enable communities to thrive (by continuing to ensure that the</p>	<p>29<sup>th</sup> November 2022</p>	<p><b>Safer Solihull Community Safety Partnership – Key Priority Update – Stronger Communities &amp; Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p>

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community safety partnership is working efficiently and effectively for the people of Solihull).		<p>Progress updates from the Safer Solihull Community Safety Partnership (SSP) in regard to their detailed project action plans to tackle the Partnerships four key 2022/23 priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence Under-25: Key Priority Lead – West Midlands Police.</li> <li>• Violence Against Women &amp; Girls: Key Priority Lead – Birmingham &amp; Solihull ICB.</li> <li>• Anti-Social Behaviour: Key Priority Lead – Solihull Community Housing.</li> <li>• Hate Crime: Key Priority Lead – Solihull MBC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current progress towards the Safer Solihull Partnership’s 4 Key Priorities endorsed, emphasising the importance of preventative Partnership working;</li> <li>• Safer Solihull Partnership provide further details to confirm the geographical extent of the Safer Streets Campaign;</li> <li>• Safer Solihull Partnership be invited to pursue further initiatives with police and health colleagues to tackle the use of nitrous oxide gas canisters and, where necessary, pursue joint work with Trading Standards to deter under-age sales;</li> <li>• The Council be invited to review (and refine where appropriate) the customer contact information available to the public in relation to the reporting of graffiti in the first instance; and</li> <li>• West Midlands Police be invited to include bicycle crime prevention as part of their regular neighbourhood crime prevention events.</li> </ul>
Enable communities to thrive and improving outcomes for children and young people in Solihull (by continuing to ensure that the community safety partnership is working efficiently and effectively for the people of Solihull).	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	<p><b>Reducing Reoffending Update – Stronger Communities &amp; Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To review the current strategic approach within Solihull to reduce adult reoffending and how the Safer Solihull Partnership was delivering its statutory responsibility under the Policing and Crime Act 2009.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current work to reduce reoffending endorsed;</li> <li>• Further work be undertaken around family-based interventions to strengthen the delivery plan and ensure, particularly, young families of prisoners are identified and supported;</li> <li>• The community payback element of community sentences be promoted to raise awareness within Solihull and prompt greater usage of that resource;</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Partnership consider the challenges surrounding GP registration for some newly released offenders to ensure they can access support services without delay upon release (i.e. continuity of care issues); and</li> <li>The delivery plan incorporate clear performance measures utilising data pertaining to reoffending, released offender resettlement and employment tracking to evidence its overall effectiveness.</li> </ul>
<p>Enable communities to thrive (by continuing to ensure that the community safety partnership is working efficiently and effectively for the people of Solihull).</p>	<p>29<sup>th</sup> November 2022</p>	<p><b>Neighbourhood Crime Update – Stronger Communities &amp; Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To review the current position in respect of neighbourhood crime (robbery, vehicle crime, house burglary and theft from person) and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on that crime type. The report also set out the Police and Partnership’s strategic activity taking place to tackle offenders and prevent offending.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current work being undertaken by the Police and the Safer Solihull Partnership to tackle neighbourhood crime endorsed; and</li> <li>The Safer Solihull Partnership, and its individual partners, continue to raise awareness of crime prevention through timely and proactive communication campaigns and events.</li> </ul>
<p>Improving outcomes for children and young people in Solihull and enabling communities to thrive (by continuing to ensure that the community safety partnership is working efficiently and effectively for the people of Solihull).</p>	<p>29<sup>th</sup> November 2022</p>	<p><b>Youth Offending Update – Stronger Communities &amp; Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To review the current position in respect of youth offending. The report also set out the Police and Partnership’s strategic activity taking place to tackle and prevent offending.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current work being undertaken by the Police and the Safer Solihull Partnership to tackle youth offending endorsed;</li> <li>The Safer Solihull Partnership and its individual partners continue to raise awareness and undertake positive community engagement regarding youth offending initiatives through timely and proactive communication campaigns and events; and</li> <li>All elected Members assist in identifying role models from their local communities who could become engaged in initiatives to support reductions in youth offending.</li> </ul>

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Enable communities to thrive (by continuing to ensure that the road safety partnership is working efficiently and effectively for the people of Solihull).	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	<p><b>Solihull Road Safety Strategy 2017- 2030 – Stronger Communities &amp; Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To review the Council’s Road Safety statutory duty together with the range of services, supported by the Solihull Road Safety Partnership, that contributed to reducing the number of road traffic collisions in Solihull.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress made towards road casualty reduction at this stage in the Strategy period endorsed;</li> <li>• The importance of effective Partnership working in road casualty reduction at both regional and local levels acknowledged;</li> <li>• The high value of community-based initiatives such as Speed Watch acknowledged. In doing so, new groups of volunteers to come forward to maintain the future viability of those exercises was encouraged; and</li> <li>• All ongoing and future work to promote casualty reduction via effective and timely educational events and targeted campaigns, particularly working with young people and higher risk groups to make the road network safer for all users endorsed.</li> </ul>

## Economy and Environment

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
Take action to improve life chances and health outcomes in our most disadvantaged communities / revitalising our town centres / Enable communities to thrive	13/6/22 and 13/9/22	<p><b>To Review Progress of Implementation of the Draft Borough Wide Economic Strategy – Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To consider progress made towards implementing the draft Borough Wide Economic Strategy and to comment and make recommendations which will support the on-going implementation of the strategy. Scrutiny of the strategy included the work stream components relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping and evidence gathering</li> <li>• Future facing opportunities and options</li> <li>• An economic strategy for Solihull</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the first draft of the Borough Wide Economic Strategy</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <p>Scrutiny Board Members made several comments and recommendations for further consideration in the development of the draft strategy, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategy appeared to be too unwieldy to cascade down the individual themes/components and queried how its implementation would be measured.</li> <li>• In reference to deprivation in the north of the borough, it was noted that £500M had been spent over the last decade in regeneration initiatives and that the Council had to be mindful of other areas of deprivation within the borough.</li> <li>• Did the strategy take sufficient account of the Council’s desire for economic growth balanced against the potential for over development considering the Council Plan objectives regarding the Net Zero Action Plan and public health considerations.</li> <li>• The characteristics of the borough which drew people to live in Solihull should not be overlooked.</li> <li>• There had to be a recognition and reflection of the diversity of employment and up-skilling opportunities across the borough.</li> <li>• Logistics recruitment was problematic in the region and that up-skilling was not always the solution to raising productivity. Rather, to be effective, training had to be embedded in the workplace.</li> <li>• The need for local engagement with residents was emphasised when discussing job creation in order to properly understand local needs.</li> <li>• Concern involved developing a strategy that could be measured in terms of outputs, for example, how retaining value in local communities through the inclusive growth agenda would work.</li> <li>• Recognition of the difference between economic and social value and the distribution thereof needed to be recognised, with those residents not benefitting directly from any economic growth suffering from the further economic inequalities generated. As such, understanding what comprised social value was an imperative.</li> <li>• How could the strategy benefit from the West Midlands Industrial Strategy, and how collaborative working across geographic areas could benefit Solihull.</li> </ul>
Reduce Solihull’s net carbon emissions / Enable communities to thrive	13/9/22	<p><b>Draft Refreshed Solihull Connected Strategy– Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>To review and comment on the draft refreshed Solihull Connected Strategy and the approach taken. The Scrutiny Board was advised that the Solihull Connected Refresh – Draft Transport Strategy would be submitted</p>

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		<p>to the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022, with a view to going out to public consultation and adoption by the Spring of 2023.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <p>Scrutiny Board Members made several comments and recommendations for further consideration in the development of the refreshed strategy, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted the behavioural approach adopted within the draft strategy, which was welcomed.</li> <li>• One significant change required in relation to <i>Objective 1 – To make the transport network reach all parts of the borough</i>. As it stood, the refreshed strategy appeared to give greater focus to the needs of commuters. More appropriate, alternative wording for Objective 1 would read as <i>‘To make the transport network accessible to all people’</i>, which also helped to frame the draft strategy towards people, rather than places/geography.</li> <li>• Disappointing that the Solihull Connected strategy was expected to off-set increased car usage and levels of congestion, especially considering increased house building and growing population in the borough. This part of the strategy did not demonstrate enough ambition in its aims.</li> <li>• In respect of connectivity, the draft strategy referenced poor transport links and connectivity to the north of the borough, but it did not propose to address this.</li> <li>• Noted that people needed to use and support public transport services if they were to be retained and expanded, that the frequency of stops on bus routes could have a bearing as to whether the elderly used such services and that accessibility to the public transport network / modal shift issues for users with mobility issues were of equal importance.</li> <li>• A priority for the strategy had to be the linking of communities across the borough via access to transport service and infrastructure. If greater uptake of cycling and walking was to happen the public realm had to be made safe.</li> <li>• There was a lack of detail present in the current draft strategy around integration of private hire vehicles into the public transport infrastructure, the perception of fear and crime by potential and existing users of public transport and that reference could be made to the Crime &amp; Disorder Act with respect to improving the safety of the public realm and transport services.</li> <li>• A key challenge in respect of public bus and train services was frequency of service.</li> <li>• The Solihull transport infrastructure ‘spoke’ model was referenced and queried whether it was really understood where current and future demand for travel was located and what future demand looked like in the borough.</li> <li>• The role of integrated ticketing arrangements in support of public transport use, such as bus-train-bus, and its role in addressing frequent car journeys, was highlighted.</li> </ul>

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was emphasised that the draft strategy should make clear that the transport options put forward had the potential to positively or negatively impact some residents directly.</li> <li>• Highlighted policy areas had to be ambitious in their expected deliverables (such as Metro connectivity to North Solihull), the importance of the role station developments had to play as part of the draft strategy had to also be recognised and highlighted.</li> <li>• The Board endorsed the draft strategy's ambition and direction but questioned the level of ambition around project delivery in terms of scale.</li> </ul>
Increase the supply, quality & energy efficiency of housing, especially affordable and social housing	17/11/22	<p><b>Draft Housing Strategy – Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The purpose was to summarise the draft Housing Strategy and Implementation Plan, set out responses received to the consultation and invite the comments of Scrutiny Board. The views of Scrutiny Board, together with consultation responses, were reported to Cabinet when the draft Housing Strategy was considered for final approval.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b> Scrutiny Board Members made several comments and recommendations for further consideration in the development of the draft strategy, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was questioned how the Draft Housing Strategy would be delivered, by whom, how delivery of aims would be measured and by whom, and how would the strategy make best use of the boroughs existing housing stock.</li> <li>• In relation to 'good housing options', the Board queried what was the perceived balance across the housing stock when catering for the over 75's.</li> <li>• Regarding the issue of housing affordability and provision of social rented housing, the Draft Strategy did not address these issues with adequate substance.</li> <li>• The Draft Housing Strategy required defined deliverables/ targets, objectives, associated timelines.</li> <li>• Affordable Housing - the Government definition did not equate to affordable in practical terms, which raised the potential of linking the boroughs definition of affordable with regional wages/salary.</li> <li>• Affordable Housing and young people - greater emphasis was required within the Draft Strategy to address this specific policy area.</li> <li>• Quality of Housing, specifically temporary accommodation, was too poor and unfit and the norms associated with housing quality had to be challenged.</li> </ul>

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking at partnership working and delivery within the Draft Strategy, how would ownership of delivery across the various housing objectives be ensured.</li> <li>• The concentration of dedicated retirement developments and marketed properties for the elderly had the capacity to change both the demographic and appearance of a locality and should be considered.</li> <li>• The discussion in the Draft Strategy relating to the number of new housing units required in the borough was not in the context of, or related to, the current social rented housing waiting lists.</li> <li>• Regarding reference within the draft strategy to ‘more effective self-regulation’ the Board questioned where effective self-regulation had worked, stating that the cutting of regulatory practice could lead to the potential loss of life.</li> <li>• There was no substantive discussion of the materials used for new construction and the related issue of embedded carbon present in some building materials.</li> <li>• How would ownership of the housing strategy across partnerships and other stakeholders be managed.</li> <li>• Concern was expressed for young person’s access to the housing market, particularly first steps, and how could they be supported to do so.</li> <li>• Use of temporary accommodation and the quality and distance from Solihull of some temporary accommodation currently used was raised as a concern.</li> <li>• Do It Yourself Shared Ownership models were raised and their potential use in Solihull discussed.</li> </ul>
Increase the supply, quality & energy efficiency of housing, especially affordable and social housing	17/11/22	<p><b>Council Housing Asset Management Strategy 2023 – 2033: Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> SCH and SMBC officers have been collaborating to produce a 10- year asset management strategy for the SMBC council housing stock managed by SCH. The Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board is asked to provide comments and feedback on the draft strategy’ the strategic objectives in the strategy document and the supporting investment plan.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b> Scrutiny Board Members made several comments and recommendations for further consideration in the development of the strategy, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was strong endorsement of the priorities outlined in the Draft Asset Management Strategy.</li> <li>• EPCs in older housing stock was a key matter to be addressed.</li> <li>• Provision of new housing development, including affordable social rented was essential to the borough.</li> </ul>



Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenants feeling safe in their homes and within the wider community was very important and should be addressed further.</li> <li>• Referencing the draft Three Year Investment Plan, specifically the first objective <i>‘Intelligently invest sufficient resources to ensure our homes are safe, in good condition and are ‘desirable’ both now and in the future...’</i> the Board noted that there was no accompanying definition of what was entailed, how the intelligence to be gathered would be used and what ultimately were the objectives.</li> <li>• Further clarity was sought as to how the Asset Management Strategy would be monitored over its 10-year life span to ensure it remained relevant to the boroughs needs and secondly, what communication and consultation channels were available to residents to input and receive feedback on strategy implementation.</li> <li>• The Board noted Objective 5 of the strategy <i>‘Providing safe and attractive neighbourhoods that support thriving communities’</i>, and questioned how this objective would be achieved, noting that there was a potential for a profound, detrimental effect on mental health and physical well-being of residents if they did not feel safe in their locality.</li> <li>• The Board noted that a required timeline and measurable targets for strategy delivery and performance measures should be included in the Asset Management Strategy to review the future delivery of the various programmes within it.</li> <li>• In respect of the Investment Plan, the Board observed that the what, how and when type of information categories supporting the investment plan should be included.</li> <li>• The Board highlighted the importance of documenting some issues, such as HRA borrowing, Public Sector Loans Board borrowing, associated costs and what further actions and resource was required from the Council to SCH to facilitate delivery.</li> </ul>
Increase the supply, quality and energy efficiency of housing, especially affordable and social housing	17/1/23	<p><b>Housing Allocations Scheme - Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The Scrutiny Board was asked to consider the proposed changes to the Housing Allocation Scheme and to make recommendations on the draft proposals before they were presented to the Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Wellbeing decision session for approval to undertake statutory consultation.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b> Scrutiny Board Members made several comments and recommendations for further consideration in the development of the strategy, which included:</p>

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board highlighted that the quality implications criteria was applicable to all the Housing Allocations Scheme.</li> <li>• Further consideration may be given to the use and context of language used, for example ‘intentionally homeless.’</li> <li>• Regarding the inclusion and prioritising of those who have suffered from domestic violence in the Band A criteria, the Board agreed that similar priority should be awarded to those who have suffered, or are suffering, from local community violence.</li> <li>• The Board recommended that further work be undertaken to clarify how many people would be excluded from the Housing Register if the financial threshold of £70,000 income annually was applied.</li> <li>• The Board agreed to receive a Housing Allocations Update Report as part of its 2023/24 Annual Work Programme.</li> </ul>
Enhance our natural environment, improve air quality and reduce net carbon emissions	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	<p><b><u>Adult Social Care Environmental Sustainability Action Plan – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board</u></b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The Scrutiny Board reviewed the draft Adult Social Care Environmental Sustainability Plan, which had been developed to outline the Adult Social Care approach to working together to deliver sustainable services with a low carbon impact in Solihull, as part of their contribution to the Council’s intent to protect the environment.</p> <p>Members considered how the draft plan, which was structured around three headings of Sustainable Service Delivery, Sustainable Commissioning and Sustainable You, set out Adult Social Care objectives and actions, highlights the achievements so far, and the aspirations for 2022 - 2027.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions:</b> The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsed the aims, objectives and key actions outlined in the Adult Social Care Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.</li> <li>• Endorsed the identification of measurable targets for the Adult Social Care Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, to allow the monitoring of outcomes delivered.</li> <li>• Endorsed the work being undertaken to benchmark the current environmental position of the local Adult Social Care sector, to allow identification of progress over time.</li> </ul>

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
Reduce Solihull's net carbon emissions	17/1/23	<p><b>Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) Annual Report 2021/22- Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b>  In November 2021 the Council agreed the Borough's Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP), which sets out the key actions that will need to be progressed to meet the ambition of becoming a net zero Borough by 2041. Accompanying this report to the Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board is the first annual report of progress against the NZAP. The Board was requested to note progress in the first year of delivery of the Council's Net Zero Action Plan and to consider the Net Zero Action Plan Annual Report 2021/2022.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b>  Scrutiny Board Members made several comments and recommendations for further consideration in the development of the strategy, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board recommended that the Sustainable Travel Education Programme and Road Safety Training Programme were co-ordinated through schools for children and young people.</li> <li>• The Council's own performance in reducing its carbon emissions since 2017 should be conveyed to the wider people to demonstrate that the Council was leading by example, for example, to local schools, businesses and voluntary and community sector.</li> <li>• Companies and SME's located in the borough should be targeted and encouraged to address the means of reducing their carbon emissions, for example through the introduction of EV fleets and switching to green energy suppliers.</li> <li>• Solihull residents should be encouraged to use their gardens and land for more tree planting.</li> <li>• Local schools and colleges should be engaged to help deliver the plan's targets.</li> <li>• Consideration should be given to identifying a definitive amount of canopy cover to be achieved in the borough.</li> <li>• The Plan should recognise the importance of engaging with and educating people to encourage them to be active custodians of the natural environment and wildlife sites.</li> <li>• The Scrutiny Board agreed to include the future Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) Annual Report 2022/23 as part of its Annual Work Programme 2023/24.</li> </ul>

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
Reduce Solihull's net carbon emissions	17/1/23	<p><b>Draft Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To review and provide comments on the draft Climate Change SPD.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b> Scrutiny Board Members made several comments and recommendations for further consideration in the development of the strategy, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Draft Climate Change SPD should add further detail addressing community energy projects.</li> <li>• Further clarification and definition should be sought to be provided for Planning Committee and developers in respect of Local Plan policy determining 'where possible'.</li> <li>• The Board sought further consideration of including adherence to 2025 Building Regulations for developers to adhere to.</li> <li>• Adequate waste collection facilities and storage areas should be considered as integral requirements for new build multiple storey properties.</li> <li>• Current historical flood data held by the Council should not impede flexible thinking around future development.</li> </ul>
Take action to improve life chances and health outcomes in our most disadvantaged communities / Revitalising our towns and local centres / Enable communities to thrive	<b><u>CONFIRMED FOR 13/3/23</u></b>	<p><b>Delivering Inclusive Growth in Solihull Strategy - Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To review delivery and progress of the Council's inclusive growth initiatives following the Scrutiny Boards previous consideration at the Board meetings held on 18/3/21 and 8/3/22.</p>
Deliver UK (Central) and maximise opportunities of HS2	<b><u>CONFIRMED FOR 13/3/23</u></b>	<p><b>UK Central / HS2 - Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To review UK (Central) / HS2 opportunities for the borough within the context of the national Levelling Up agenda and the local/regional economy.</p>

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
Increase the supply, quality and energy efficiency of housing, especially affordable and social housing	<b><u>CONFIRMED FOR 13/3/23</u></b>	<p><b>Draft SCH Delivery Plan 2023/24 - Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To review and comment on the Draft SCH Delivery Plan 2023/24 prior to its submission to the SCH Board for approval.</p>

## Enablers

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
Strong foundations: Sound finance and management of assets	11/7/22	<p><b>Risk Management Information Report – Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To provide the Resources &amp; Delivering Value Scrutiny Board with an update on the Council’s corporate risk register and for the Board to consider the information produced regarding the Council’s identified corporate risks and, if felt appropriate, comment on any additional risks or mitigating factors that should be reflected in the corporate risk register.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b> Scrutiny Board Members made several comments and recommendations for further consideration, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board identified existing financial pressures within the Childrens Directorate and of the anticipated, on-going fiscal pressures in future years. Furthermore, the Board raised recruitment and retention in Adult Social Care as a future risk.</li> <li>• It was noted that development of a workforce strategy regarding MASH should be raised under mitigating actions in the Corporate Risk Register, and that further information and detail was required in relation to recruitment of social workers.</li> <li>• The Board referred to the risk title ‘<i>failure to secure sufficient funding to deliver the UK Central Programme</i>’, stating that non-delivery would jeopardise the proposed health campus at the Arden Cross development.</li> </ul>
All Council Plan Priorities	5/9/22	<b>Income Generation from Council Services and Assets – Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b>

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
		<p><b>Purpose:</b> To consider current and potential income generating opportunities and details of current income generation and trading activities, including income generated from Council assets.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b> Scrutiny Board Members made several comments and recommendations for further consideration, which included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The financial model supporting the Everyone Active contract and the associated Deed of Variation enacted from July 2020.</li> <li>• How much income arising from Parking Services could be counted as profit after operational costs.</li> <li>• What income was generated for the Council for the siting of 4G/5G masts within the borough.</li> <li>• The Board sought clarification whether consideration had been given to providing web casting services for weddings and charging for such services.</li> <li>• What was the cost for the Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Company.</li> <li>• The Board noted that arising from the Core Theatre and Café, only a small amount of income was generated from these services, which may be attributable to visitors to the borough being largely unaware of the businesses very existence and location. Consequently, the Board suggested that the Council explore digital marketing opportunities in Mell Square and Solihull train station to market The Core as an attraction and destination.</li> <li>• The Board referenced Appendix A ('Risk Management') to the report and noted that against the Risk of 'Charges impact on different people unfairly', the Mitigating Action stated, 'Managers should consider the potential for impact of charging on different groups (seeking advice from the Equalities Team) and undertake a Fair Treatment Assessment if required'. The Board recommended that a Fair Treatment Assessment should be undertaken as a matter of course.</li> <li>• The Board agreed to submit for the attention of the Budget Strategy Group the following matters as part of the formal 2023/24 budget process: a) Professional organisations and private sector businesses using the Council's parks should pay commercial fees and rates and, b) That the Council ensures that its income arising from the location of any 4G and 5G masts in the borough is maximised as is legally permissible.</li> </ul>
Strong Foundations: Sound Finance and	3/10/22	<b>Review of the Council's Financial Position, Including the Impact of Financial Pressures in Children's Services - Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b>

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
Managements of Assets		<p><b>Purpose</b> The Scrutiny Board asked to receive a report on a review of the Council’s financial position, including the impact of financial pressures in Children’s Services.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b> Comments arising from the Board were to be passed to the Budget Strategy Group, to be considered as part of the Budget process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board endorsed the recommendation arising from the Children’s Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny Board meeting held on 12th September 2022, which was: <i>‘This committee recognises the hugely significant pressures on Solihull Council’s budget from Children’s Services and resolves to call upon the Cabinet to ensure resources are fully aligned with the risks identified in this report’.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Board</i> queried what solution was foreseen to the prospective ending of the statutory instrument in respect of the DSG.</li> <li>• Further clarification was sought if the statutory override arrangement was discontinued and queried whether the Council, rather than national Government, would have to cover any shortfall.</li> </ul>
Strong Foundations: Digital Empowerment	3/10/22	<p><b>SMBC and SCH Digital Strategy 2022-27: Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b> To update Members on the SMBC and SCH Digital Strategy 2022-2027.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board proposed that digital security for residents could be reflected within the Digital Strategy e.g. in respect of on-line/digital frauds and scamming / phishing targeting the public and residents.</li> <li>• Queried whether the Council had plans to move towards a ‘One Stop Shop’ arrangement for residents to log on to access Council services and whether this could be an area the Digital Strategy could continue to address.</li> <li>• Supported greater emphasis within the Digital Strategy around cyber protection, with the possible inclusion of user guidance addressing cyber security.</li> <li>• The Board agreed to support the key digital priorities for implementation.</li> </ul>

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
<p>Good quality, responsive, and dignified care and support for Adults in Solihull when they need it / Take action to improve life chances and health outcomes in our most disadvantaged communities/ Improving outcomes for Children and Young People in Solihull</p>	<p>7/11/22</p>	<p><b>Solihull’s Response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis - Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b> To update members of the Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board on Solihull’s response to the cost-of-living pressures. This follows a motion to Full Council on the 11 October 2022, which asked the Chief Executive to provide officer and infrastructure support as necessary to ensure the warmth and safety of our residents this winter.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board highlighted that the warm spaces initiative could be used to draw several support services together at one location for easy access.</li> <li>• The Board highlighted the potential that the warm spaces initiative had to offer in engaging positively with children and young people towards supporting their wider development.</li> <li>• The Board referenced the Action Plan Dashboard Metrics and queried whether it was possible to capture locality target to target support.</li> <li>• It was noted that no reference to the Here2Help initiative could be found on the Solihull Community Housing (SCH) website and queried whether SCH tenants in Solihull were aware of it.</li> <li>• It was noted that in relation to partnership working arrangements there appeared to be little reference made to the role of the business sector/private enterprise.</li> <li>• The Board observed that there appeared to be potential for the Council to offer more support to local employers in addressing the current cost of living challenges.</li> <li>• The Board agreed that all Councillors had a role to play in supporting the signposting of those Council services which would assist residents in alleviating the everyday cost of living pressures.</li> <li>• The Board concluded that it was satisfied the Council was delivering all initiatives, resources and support it could at the present time in the interests of the borough’s residents but would like to see further bridges built with the borough’s business sector.</li> </ul>
<p>Strong Foundations: Sound Finance and Management of Assets</p>	<p>9/1/23</p>	<p><b>Follow Up Report Building Safety: Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b> The Scrutiny Board requested an update on current Building Safety legislation and activities undertaken for the Council’s Housing Stock and other Council owned buildings following consideration of an initial Building Safety report at the Board meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021.</p>



Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
		<p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board sought further information in respect of SCH placing people in non-SCH properties and what responsibilities/implications this had for the Council.</li> <li>• The Board queried how the sprinkler installation programme had presented opportunities for resident engagement and consultation.</li> <li>• Board Members were in favour of receiving an annual report from SCH addressing fire and building safety matters across the SCH estate, with a copy submitted for the attention of the Cabinet to strengthen the accountability of the Responsible Officer and SCH leadership.</li> <li>• Anonymous reporting arrangements for tenants to highlight issues for investigation and attention should be developed and brought forward.</li> </ul>
Strong Foundations: Sound Finance and Management of Assets	9/1/23	<p><b>Update for the Corporate Approach to Delivering an Asset Masterplan (CADAM) Programme - Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b> To provide an update on the progress of the Corporate Approach to Delivering an Asset Masterplan (CADAM) Programme, review the progress so far with the programme; and to determine whether the progress with the programme was satisfactory.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board concluded that progress and delivery of the CADAM Programme was satisfactory to date.</li> </ul>
Strong Foundations: Sound Finance and Management of Assets	9/1/23	<p><b>MTFS Update Budget Strategy 2023/24 – 25/26: Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b> The report outlined the forecast budget position in respect of the Resources portfolio in detail, explaining the pressures identified over the period to 2025/26 and the actions proposed to mitigate them.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board requested detail supporting the Age UK contract and the nature of the associated pressures with the contract.</li> <li>• Consideration was given to the on-going review of the Communities and Partnerships staffing structure and whether there were any implications arising around the staffing structure.</li> </ul>

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment and retention issues were highlighted within the Resources Directorate and for how long was the existing recruitment and retention situation expected to last.</li> <li>• Gambling Act, Permits and Licenses - the Board discussed the annual fees proposed for casino's, bingo clubs, betting and licensed premises and questioned whether the authority was maximising the potential income from these premises, especially when benchmarked against neighbouring authorities.</li> <li>• Catering Service: The Board raised the issue of inflationary pressures, such as food costs and pay settlements, on the Councils Catering Services and queried whether it was still a viable service going forward.</li> <li>• The appointment of a Media Officer and the related costs were raised.</li> <li>• The Board considered the appropriateness of the level of Fees and Charges associated with the Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) for developers, particularly for those newly constructed HMO's in the borough, and questioned whether these could be raised.</li> <li>• The Board discussed at length the legal and statutory requirements placed on a Local Authority to provide a school meals service to those schools under management of the Local Education Authority (LEA) and the potential options of the <i>Hand Back</i> and <i>Cost-Plus</i> fiscal models for such service delivery by the Local Authority.</li> <li>• Fees and Charges: Court Summons and Liability Orders in relation to Council Tax and Business Rates – the Board sought further information as to why the recommendation was not to increase these charges further than currently proposed.</li> <li>• Further cost detail was requested in relation to the procurement of alcohol for civic events held in the Civic Suite.</li> <li>• Strategic Land &amp; Property: The £151,000 annual cost pressure relating to the on-going rental income pressure for Touchwood – the Board sought further detail as to cost pressure projections / fiscal profile over future years.</li> <li>• The Board identified the potential for individual Members to cover the cost for any Committee Teas they may order through their respective Members allowance and requested that this option be considered further as part of the budget proposals.</li> </ul>

Priority	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
Strong Foundations: Sound Finance and Management of Assets	<b><u>CONFIRMED FOR 2/2/23</u></b>	<p><b>Budget Framework 2023/24 – 2025/26 Whole Council and Medium - Term Financial Strategy - Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b> To consider the whole Council budget, budget proposals and updated MTFS prior to these being presented to Cabinet.</p>
All Council Plan Priorities	<b><u>CONFIRMED FOR 2/2/23</u></b>	<p><b>Progress in Delivering Outcomes in the Council Plan - Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b> To outline progress with delivering the current Council Plan.</p>
All Council Plan Priorities	<b><u>CONFIRMED FOR 2/2/23</u></b>	<p><b>Council Plan – April 2023 Update: Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b> To update the Board on the annual update to the Council Plan and to present any suggested changes to key programmes for next year’s Council Plan.</p>
Continue to develop smarter ways of working	<b><u>CONFIRMED FOR 5/3/23</u></b>	<p><b>Smarter Ways of Working - Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b> To update the Board on arrangements for hybrid working, how services are operating under the SWOW Strategy, information on the latest sickness absence figures and support for employee wellbeing.</p>