

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 June 2024

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor S Bambrick (Chair) and Councillor A Jones (Vice-Chair)
and Councillors I Hudson and G Jones.

Conservative Group

Councillors A Kirke and D Muller

In Attendance

Councillor A Taylor
Councillor A Tilley
Councillor N Tilley
Councillor A Wheelton

OS/01 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor N Atkin (Conservative Group).

OS/02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM ITEMS ON AGENDA**

The Committee was informed that no Declarations of Interest had been received.

OS/03 **QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Public had been received.

OS/04 **QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

OS/05 **SETTING THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25**

Purpose

The Committee has an annual work programme, which appears as an item on each meeting's agenda for consideration and approval. The Committee noted that the meeting was to determine the Committee Work Programme for 2023/24 and as such the Committee made the following proposals.

Proposals

1. Demand and Supply of Childrens Homes Throughout South Derbyshire

Councillor I Hudson proposed a review to look at how many children in South Derbyshire would require care in a Childrens Home (demand), and then follow with how many Childrens Homes places were available in South Derbyshire (supply).

Councillor Hudson suggested that it was a reasonable assumption that Children in care were best accommodated close to existing support networks, i.e. within the district.

It was proposed that the review would consider HM Government best practice of using small scale residential private homes rather than larger more traditional Local Authority ran homes.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered the suggested and agreed for its inclusion in Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2024/25.

A was report requested and allocated to the 05 February 2025 meeting.

2. Approach to Residential Property Management Fees

Councillor B Stuart proposed a review to explore options to ensure that any new developments be adopted to avoid residents paying management fees of an excessive nature.

It was suggested that there were several ways to approach this but proposed that Overview and Scrutiny considered a caveat in the Open Spaces (SPD) document to put in place a system that tried to ensure open spaces are adopted, or if not, that a period of grace be put in to be covered by commuted sums covered by Section 106 Agreement Funding.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered the suggestion and agreed for its inclusion in Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2024/25.

A report was requested and allocated to the 09 April 2025 meeting.

3. Consideration of Car Park widening in South Derbyshire District Council Car Parks

Councillor B Stuart proposed a review to consider whether it would be feasible and effective to widen the car parking spaces within South Derbyshire District Council's car parks where necessary.

It was suggested that the review could specifically focus on the bus park car park, where spaces were narrow.

The review would determine whether the widening of spaces gained positive feedback that would offset the possible loss of parking spaces.

It was noted that the car park was due to be redesigned for amendments to the bus park and the creation of more Electric Vehicle charging points so it could be an ideal time to make the change.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered the suggestion and agreed for its inclusion in Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2024/25.

A report was requested and allocated to the 09 April 2025 meeting.

4. Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy

The Executive Director – proposed a review to revise the Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy.

It was proposed that the scrutiny review would seek to achieve a Member endorsed policy that would:

- set out effective and efficient decision-making processes for the award of discretionary business rates relief;
- set out award criteria that was fair and suited the needs of local business, community and third sector organisations; and
- was clear and transparent.

It was noted that actively reviewing the award criteria of discretionary rates relief would ensure value for money by optimising the economic support against business rates collectible by the Council.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered the suggestion and agreed for its inclusion in Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2024/25.

A was report requested and allocated to the 20 November 2024 meeting.

5. Review of Recycling Collections Streams

The Head of Operational Services addressed the Current recycling collections are dual stream, for example, plastic, cans, glass and tin in the large bin and cardboard collected separately in the removable caddy. The current fortnightly garden bin collection contains the offer of food waste disposal. The government had introduced a number of changes to refuse and recycling collections set to start over the next two years, which included a mandatory weekly food waste collection from April 2026. The review was to explore the waste collection stream opportunities available, the associated costs with each, establish the best operational model for collection to maximise performance, the service costs and the best customer practice choice.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered the suggestion and agreed for its inclusion in Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2024/25.

A was report requested and allocated to the 09 October 2024 meeting.

6. Grass Cutting and Care of Land

Councillor S Bambrick proposed a review of grass cutting and other land maintenance schedules for the District.

It was suggested that the following areas could be considered and reviewed:

- Maintenance schedules
- Details of equipment and resources
- Benchmarking – comparison to another authority on costs and schedules
- Different options available
- Complaints data

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered the suggestion and agreed for its inclusion in Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2024/25.

A report was requested and allocated to the 05 February 2025 meeting.

7. Rural England Prosperity Fund Community Grant Awards

An item was proposed by Councillor A Wheelton following discussions last year regarding the reporting of the allocation of the funding in deprived rural areas.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered the suggestion and agreed for its inclusion in Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2024/25.

A report was requested and allocated to the 09 April 2025 meeting.

8. Community Buildings

An item brought forward from the 2023/24 Work Programme. It was requested that a report which referenced the use of community buildings, the number of buildings in each Ward, the best use of the buildings, how the use of such buildings was advertised, income generation and best value for money.

RESOLVED:

The Committee requested a report allocated to the 28 August 2024 meeting.

9. Section 106 Agreement Funding – Education

An item brought forward from the 2023/24 Work Programme. It was requested that a report that included references to how and when funding was received, the amounts available in each Ward and how timely funding was spent.

RESOLVED:

The Committee requested a report allocated to the 28 August 2024 meeting.

10 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)

As standard item on the Work Programme, quarterly reports were allocated to meetings taking place on 28 August 2024, 20 November 2024, 15 January 2025 and 09 April 2025.

11 Budget Setting Approach 2025/2)

As a standard item on the Work Programme a report was allocated to the meeting taking place on 09 October 2024

12 Consolidated Draft Budget 2025/26 and Medium -Term Financial Plan (MFTP) to 2029/30

As a standard item on the Work Programme, a report was allocated to the meeting taking place on 15 January 2025.

OS/06 **REQUEST FOR CALL IN**

The Executive Director – Law and People presented the report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered the request for Call In of the decision made at the Environmental and Development Services Committee on 30 May 2024, relating to the item titled Planning Services Review.

1.2 That Committee deferred the item for discussion to item OS/09, under exempt items and consider resolving as follows.

(i) That the matter be referred back to the Environmental and Development Services Committee for reconsideration; or

(ii) That the matter be referred to Council.

OS/07 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it would be likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

**EXEMPT QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.

REQUEST FOR CALL IN

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations of the report.

The Meeting terminated at 18:40 hours.

COUNCILLOR S BAMBRICK

CHAIR