

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

ANNUAL REPORT 2011/2012



Contents

1. BACKGROUND.....	2
2. IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS 2011/2012.....	3
3. LINKS TO COUNCIL PLAN 2010-14	3
4. REVIEW OF 2011/12	4
4.1 The Improvement and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12	4
4.2 Call-in.....	11
4.3 The Improvement and Scrutiny Team	11
5. IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY REVIEW PROGRAMME 2012/13	11
6. GETTING INVOLVED IN IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY.....	13
6.1 Contacts.....	13

1. BACKGROUND

Improvement and Scrutiny is a statutory function established under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and more recently, the Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Scrutiny is a Member led function which:

- Reviews and/or scrutinises decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions
- Reviews decisions yet to be made and contained within the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions
- Exercises the right to call-in for consideration any decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet and/or any policy
- Has an input in to the development of key plans and strategies of the County Council
- Considers any matters affecting the area or its inhabitants
- Makes reports and/or recommendations to Cabinet and/or full Council as appropriate

Section 244 of the NHS Act 2006 requires NHS organisations to consult local authority scrutiny committees on any proposal for a substantial development or variation of the health service. Section 242 of the Act also requires NHS organisations to involve and consult patients and public in:

- Planning services they are responsible for
- Developing and considering proposals for changes in the way those services are provided
- Decisions to be made that affect how those services operate

These are referred to as health service reconfigurations and in Derbyshire they are considered by the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – People.

2. IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS 2011/2012

Following the Council's Annual General Meeting in April 2011, the number of Improvement and Scrutiny Committees was reduced from four to three and renamed:

- People (Chairman – Councillor Mrs G A Farrington)
- Places (Chairman – Councillor Mrs J A Twigg)
- Resources (Chairman – Councillor P Murray)

The Scrutiny Management Committee which oversees the work of the Scrutiny function in general is chaired by Councillor Mrs J A Twigg.

3. LINKS TO COUNCIL PLAN 2010-14

In undertaking its work the Improvement and Scrutiny function aims to support the County Council in achieving its priorities as set out in the Council Plan:

Leading the way

- Giving local people better choice and more of a say
- Achieving more in partnership
- Working with local communities to help them flourish
- Doing things better and being open to doing things differently

Good use of public money

- Services that provide excellent value for money
- Strong and effective financial management
- Well managed assets
- A valued workforce

Raising aspirations

- Giving children in Derbyshire the best start in life
- Providing an excellent education for all
- Helping local people achieve their full potential
- Encouraging healthy, active and rewarding lifestyles

High quality personalised services that meet individual needs

- Giving people the choice and flexibility to live independent lives
- Safeguarding and providing excellent support to those who need it most

Places where people want to be

- Confident and safe communities
- Making places easier to reach
- A resilient economy
- Rich, diverse and protected environments
- A County of cultural opportunity

4. REVIEW OF 2011/12

4.1 The Improvement and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12

The Improvement and Scrutiny Committees agreed their own work programmes for the year and all Councillors and Chief Officers were invited to put forward suggestions for review topics. Some of the Improvement and Scrutiny reviews in the work programme for 2011/12 have been completed and referred to Cabinet for consideration and other reviews are on-going. The completed reviews have put forward recommendations aimed at service improvement to assist the Council to achieve the key goals and objectives outlined within the Council Plan.

Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - People

Review	Summary
Nutrition of Older People in Community and Care Settings, including Hospitals	<p>The review looked at the work being undertaken by health and social care services across Derbyshire in ensuring their service users are well nourished and hydrated.</p> <p>The review identified some examples of 'best practice', but it noted that there was no co-ordinated approach to tackling malnutrition amongst older people in Derbyshire. There was no data available at a local level on the prevalence of malnutrition nor was it identified as a priority in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.</p> <p>Four areas were identified as being integral to ensuring there are positive outcomes from this review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication• Screening• Training and Development• Data and Information <p>The review also recommended that a multi-agency working group be established to oversee the implementation of these four areas.</p> <p>Cabinet has acknowledged the good work of the review and has initiated a Public Health Campaign to combat malnutrition and raise awareness in Derbyshire.</p> <p>The review and the subsequent work it has prompted, has been promoted at an East Midlands 'Communities for Health Learning Event', which took place at Nottingham City Council in April 2012.</p>

Review	Summary
Derbyshire LINK and Stakeholder Organisations	<p>This review looked at the work of Derbyshire LINK and its relationship with stakeholders to see what had worked well and what could be improved, in order to ensure that when the transition to local HealthWatch takes place in 2013, the public in Derbyshire will have an effective 'champion' of health and social care services.</p> <p>The review noted some room for improvement in the work of Derbyshire LINK but also that it had undertaken a lot of good work that has benefitted a range of people across the County in the past three years and continues to do so.</p> <p>Eight recommendations were made to address certain issues raised during the review process that are relevant to both Derbyshire LINK and its stakeholders. The review also made recommendations to the County Council as the body responsible for developing a local HealthWatch for Derbyshire.</p>
<p>Health Service Reconfigurations</p> <p>The Committee were consulted formally on a number of service changes by local NHS Commissioners and Provider organisations during 2011/12. The two main issues involving the Committee were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand Alone Maternity Units; • Psychodynamic Psychological Therapy Services (led by Derby City Council). <p>The Committee was formally consulted on both proposals in accordance with Section 244 of the NHS Act 2006. The Committee also undertook an engagement exercise with service users in relation to the maternity unit issue. On the issue of closure, whilst the Committee were concerned about the effects of closure on community services, it was not considered that there were any grounds for a referral to the Secretary of State.</p> <p>With regard to the Psychodynamic Psychological Therapy Services issue, it was decided by Derby City Council's Adults, Health and Housing Commission (and agreed by this Committee) that the Primary Care Trust had made a decision prior to any form of engagement activity and it was requested they halt proposed reductions in the service pending more robust engagement work with clinicians and service users. NHS Derby City and NHS Derbyshire County PCT Cluster took the recommendations into account and has worked with service users and practitioners to develop a more suitable and equitable service model.</p> <p>Other issues considered by the Committee during 2011/12 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Response provided on National Children's Congenital Cardiac Services (Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts) • Future of GP Services in Creswell and Langwith (NHS Derbyshire County) • GP Fairer Funding Project (NHS Derbyshire County) 	

- Closure of Brookdale Locked Rehabilitation Unit at Ash Green (NHS Derbyshire County)
- Buxton Orthodontic Service (NHS Derbyshire County)
- Changes to the contract of Burton Independent Treatment Centre (with Staffordshire County Council and South Staffordshire PCT)
- Foundation Trust Bid (Derbyshire Community Health Service)
- Changes to Podiatry Services in North and South Derbyshire (Derbyshire Community Health Service)
- Reconfiguration of Community Hospital Beds (Derbyshire Community Health Service)
- Babington Hospital X-Ray Service (Derbyshire Community Health Service)
- Community Incontinence Service (Derbyshire Community Health Service)
- Changes to Sexual Health Service Provision in North Derbyshire (Derbyshire Community Health Service)

Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Places

Review	Summary
Flooding Risk working Group	
The Working Group maintains an overview of the implementation of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and receives reports and presentations on a regular basis from the Emergency Planning Team and the Derbyshire Strategic Flooding Board.	
Lower River Dove Flood Risk Management Scheme	<p>The Working Group was involved in the Lower River Dove – Flood Risk Management Scheme, a project led by the Environment Agency to alleviate flood risk in some villages in the South Derbyshire/East Staffordshire area. Following site visits by Members and officers and meetings with the Environment Agency project managers and the local District Council Member, the Committee facilitated the County Council contributing to the project through the Environmental Services Highways Division providing design work on raising road levels.</p> <p>The Committee will be receiving progress reports on the scheme and its eventual effectiveness.</p>
Flooding Risk Manager	The Council's Flooding Risk Manager based in the Environmental Services Department, reports regularly to the Committee. During the year Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments have been produced by the Council for submission to the Environment Agency. These were presented to the Committee for information and have been upheld as an example of best practice by the Environment Agency.

Review	Summary
Exercise Watermark	The Working Group Members attended part of the Exercise Watermark event as observers. This national event was held over three days to test the response of local authorities and emergency services to flooding incidents and their aftermath.
<p data-bbox="177 412 1410 448">Crime and Disorder Working Group</p> <p data-bbox="177 448 1410 672">This Working Group has concentrated its work on services provided to support victims of domestic violence and their families. Members have been informed of a major review of these services and how they have been prioritised to offer a comprehensive service County-wide. The Working Group will be monitoring the implementation of the new arrangements.</p> <p data-bbox="177 672 1410 927">A consultation exercise with victims of domestic violence is being planned by the working group. The aim of this will be to establish the experiences of victims when they have approached different agencies for support. This is a very sensitive subject and will require substantial planning in order to achieve the intended objectives.</p>	
Review of Water Power in Derbyshire	<p data-bbox="571 927 1410 1039">The Committee commenced a review of the potential for water generated power in Derbyshire and appointed a working group to undertake the review.</p> <p data-bbox="571 1039 1410 1263">Members visited a large scheme being developed by Derby City Council at its Council Offices by the River Derwent. A small project which was in the early stages of planning had been established by the Haddon Estate on the River Lathkill.</p> <p data-bbox="571 1263 1410 1397">Information was also gathered from the Environment Agency, "Climate East Midlands", the British Hydro Association and Severn Trent Water.</p> <p data-bbox="571 1397 1410 1644">The outcomes of the review identified a potential for water power from some of the County's water courses but also identified some pitfalls which could be encountered. The review made a number of recommendations with two specific requests that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="571 1644 1410 1823">(a) Consider offering support to potential water power projects by providing advice and information from a central point which would collect and offer information from external agencies as well as the County Council. <li data-bbox="571 1823 1410 2029">(b) Be asked to consider which Cabinet Member should assume responsibility for leading on any initiative in respect of water generated energy and consider whether the Council could introduce a grant or loan scheme to assist with such

Review	Summary
	<p>developments which would help towards the Carbon Reduction Programme.</p> <p>The review recommendations were accepted by Cabinet in July 2012, with the Derbyshire Enterprise Partnership being tasked with providing the central information source. The Cabinet Members for Regeneration, Education, Technology and Recycling and Leadership and Culture all identified a link with their portfolios and the review outcomes.</p>
Part-Night Street Lighting	<p>The Committee has been included in the consultation and decision process for the Environmental Services Department's implementation of the part-night street lighting scheme. Designed to make financial savings as well as contributing to the Council's Carbon Reduction Programme, the scheme underwent a lengthy consultation process with local communities.</p> <p>The Committee received information from Leicestershire County Council which had undertaken a similar process, from Police and Community Safety Officers and supported the initiative. Through the Scrutiny process, the Environmental Services Department worked with the Community Safety Team to ensure that the lighting provided to deter criminal activity was unaffected.</p> <p>The scheme went live in July 2012 and impact and progress reports will be submitted to the Committee as appropriate.</p>
Countryside Services Car Park Charges	<p>The Committee was consulted on proposals to introduce parking charges at some County Council Countryside Services sites.</p> <p>The charging scheme was introduced in July 2011 and an impact report was received by the Committee in July 2012.</p>

Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Resources

Review	Summary
Budget Review	<p>The Review Report was presented to the Cabinet on 13 December 2011. As part of the review process, the Working Group met with each Strategic Director and the Chief Executive, receiving briefings on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Pressures;

Review	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value for money in service delivery • Invest to save projects • Service and budgetary pressures that will impact on the formulation of the budget in 2012-13. <p>Derbyshire County Councillors have a fiduciary duty to look after the interests of Council Tax payers and this budget review process is one of the tools Members use to demonstrate they are representing the interests of their constituents; it allows them to assure the communities they represent that the finances of the Authority are being effectively and prudently managed. The focus for this review was to seek assurances that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good financial stewardship is being exercised by each directorate • There is a clear plan of action as to how budget reduction requirements will be achieved • Frontline services are being protected • Jobs are being protected where possible • Value for money is being achieved
Procurement	<p>This review considered a broad range of areas reflecting the complexity and scope of the subject including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability and procurement • Fleet procurement • Contract management • Partnerships • Development of the local economy and local spend • Equality and Procurement • The tender process <p>Several meetings have taken place with the County Procurement Officer and the Working Group has also met with the Director of Finance to gain an understanding of the procurement strategy. Following an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2010 Website Review, the Director of Transformation briefed the Working Group on the process for procuring an on-line booking and e-payments system for the website.</p> <p>This has been an extensive area to consider, with the length of time taken to conduct this review reflective of the complexity and scope of procurement throughout the County. A final report will be presented to the Committee at its September 2012 meeting.</p>

Review	Summary
Cost of Waste to the Authority	<p>The decision to conduct a review into the cost of waste to the Authority arose from the 2011 Budget Review conducted by a working group drawn from this Committee. This review highlighted the financial risks and challenges presented to Derbyshire County Council in its role as the waste disposal authority for the County. The working group held a number of evidence gathering sessions and made a visit to the Waterswallows site in Buxton. The review highlighted the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just how dramatic the increases in Landfill Tax have been, rising from £12 per tonne in 2002 to £64 per tonne in 2012 and continuing to rise to £80 per tonne by 2015 • Currently £12m of the waste management budget is spent on Landfill Tax • Significant work is being undertaken by the Council in partnership with the district and borough councils in diverting waste from landfill and promoting recycling • The role dual hatted councillors have to play in representing both waste collection and disposal authorities, reinforcing the importance of partnership working • The crucial role to be played in winning the hearts and minds of the County's residents in their approach to waste production and disposal.
Regeneration	<p>The Committee received a comprehensive briefing from the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and the Head of Service at its November Committee meeting.</p> <p>The Head of Regeneration attended the March Committee meeting to brief Members on the results of his review of the Regeneration Service and gave Members an overview of the key priorities for this area. The Committee found this briefing to be very informative and were supportive of the work already undertaken by the Head of Service.</p> <p>It was agreed that rather than establishing a working group to consider regeneration, the Head of Service would present regular briefings (every six months) to the Committee. The Committee may consider establishing a specific working group if they identify an area that warrants further or more in-depth attention.</p>

Review	Summary
Equalities Working Group	<p>The Working Group has been considering the eight corporate equality objectives following their adoption in April 2012. The Group received an initial overview of each of objective deciding to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More young people are working for the Council and being helped to gain employment; and • The Council's workforce feels valued, respected and is reflective of the diverse community it serves.

4.2 Call-in

There was one decision called-in during 2011/12. This related to the Allocation of Winter Damage Funding. At the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee-Places on 1 August 2011, the Committee considered the grounds for a call-in in relation to whether the decision taken had been made in relation to a presumption of openness and whether it was clear in its aims or desired outcomes. The Committee resolved that the Cabinet decision had been taken in accordance with the decision making principles and no further action on the call-in was taken.

During the year, two requests were made to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen to waive the call-in requirements in order that decisions taken could be acted upon immediately.

4.3 The Improvement and Scrutiny Team

In April 2011 as part of an internal re-organisation, the Improvement and Scrutiny Team transferred from the Chief Executive's Office to the Legal Services Department. As part of the change, Roy Ackrill was appointed to the position of Head of Democratic Services and Improvement and Scrutiny. The Improvement and Scrutiny Committees are supported by three (2.5 full-time equivalent officers) Improvement and Scrutiny Officers, Graham Spencer, Ratna Taylor and Jackie Wardle (part-time).

5. IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY REVIEW PROGRAMME 2012/13

The current work programmes for the Improvement and Scrutiny Committees for 2012/13 is set out below. Discussions have taken place with Councillors, Chief Officers and partners to develop this work programme and will continue throughout the year as new areas for review are identified. Consideration will also be given to any suggestions put forward for review by the public and partner agencies.

Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - People

Review	Status
Safeguarding Working Group	On-going
Review of Chronic Pain Management	Started June 2012
Review of Care Planning Admission to Acute Trusts	Started June 2012
Review of Medication Management	Started June 2012

Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Places

Review	Status
Flooding Risk Working Group	On-going
Crime and Disorder Working Group – Domestic Violence Review - Consultation with victims of domestic violence service users	Planning stage – working with Police, voluntary sector and other agencies to access participants
Review of Water Generated Power	Progress on implementation of outcomes
Review of Twinning/Tourism	Pending
Review of Shale Gas	Pending

Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Resources

Review	Completion Date
Equalities Working Group	On-going
Budget Review	Autumn 2012
Review of Procurement	September 2012
Review of Regeneration Strategy	On-going overview
Review of Cost of Waste to the Authority	September 2012
Review of Business Waste and Regeneration	Autumn 2012
Petition Referral	

Police and Crime Panel

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 brought in new structural arrangements for policing. Principal among these will be the election of Police and Crime Commissioners which will take place in November 2012. The Commissioner will be held to account by a Police and Crime Panel, composed of locally elected councillors along with several lay members. The role of the Police and Crime Panel is to scrutinise the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner, to promote openness in the transaction of Police business and also to support the Commissioner.

The Police and Crime Panel and the Crime and Disorder Working Group (under the Places Committee) will have due regard to respective work programmes to ensure there is no duplication of work.

6. GETTING INVOLVED IN IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

The County Council welcomes the involvement of members of the public and outside organisations in the Improvement and Scrutiny process. The Council welcomes ideas for future scrutiny review topics and members of the public can, where appropriate, participate in the review process by, for example, giving evidence to a Scrutiny Committee.

6.1 Contacts

Contact details for Improvement and Scrutiny are set out below:

Scrutiny Function	Roy Ackrill – Head of Democratic Services and Improvement and Scrutiny Tel: 01629 538327 Email: roy.ackrill@derbyshire.gov.uk
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