

# Public Document Pack



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PUBLIC

To: Members of Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Places

Tuesday, 20 February 2024

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the **Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Places** to be held at **10.30 am** on **Wednesday, 28 February 2024** in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Matlock,, the agenda for which is set out below.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen E. Barrington'.

**Helen Barrington**  
**Director of Legal and Democratic Services**

## **AGENDA**

### **PART I - NON-EXEMPT ITEMS**

1. Apologies for absence  
To receive apologies for absence (if any)
  
2. Declarations of interest  
To receive declarations of interest (if any)

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the non-exempt minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places held on 22 November 2023.

4. Public Questions (30 minute maximum in total) (Pages 5 - 6)

(Questions may be submitted to be answered by the Scrutiny Committee, or Council officers who are attending the meeting as witnesses, on any item that is within the scope of the Committee. Please see the procedure for the submission of questions at the end of this agenda)

5. Storm Babet (October 2023) Review (Pages 7 - 12)

6. Work Programme 2024-25 (Pages 13 - 20)

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**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PLACES** held on Wednesday, 22 November 2023 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Matlock,.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor S Bull (in the Chair)

Councillors J Siddle, A Clarke, N Gourlay, D Greenhalgh, D Murphy, J Nelson, P Niblock and R George (substitute member).

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor A Haynes.

### **57/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **58/23 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **59/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (30 MINUTE MAXIMUM IN TOTAL)**

There were no public questions.

### **60/23 BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Chris Henning, Executive Director – Place, introduced the report which provided an update on the implementation work that had been undertaken on the various elements in the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) over the last 12 months.

Chris Hegarty from the Public Transport Unit provided the committee with details of this work along with the plans for future works in the next phase of the programme. The Committee was also updated on how the programme would be managed when the East Midlands Combined County Authority had been created.

In April 2022, the Department for Transport (DfT) made an announcement setting out the funding that would be available nationally to Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) for BSIPs for the next three financial years, up until March 2025 (this was a shortening of the original timescales from five years). Of the 70 LTAs that had submitted BSIPs, only 31 had received indicative allocations with neighbouring authorities' areas such as Cheshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire and South Yorkshire receiving

nothing. Derbyshire was given an initial allocation of £47m which was the second largest amount awarded to a non-urban LTA.

Since November 2022, work to implement the various measures within the BSIP, which the DfT had agreed to fund, had been gathering pace. These included:

### Bus Priority Measures

- Traffic Management System (TMS), which monitored the highway conditions from various sources and when required, could make requests to the Urban Traffic Control (UTC) system for interventions to take place. The UTC was a cloud-based operating system that enabled monitoring or control of multiple traffic signal-controlled sites within Derbyshire.
- Split Cycle and Offset Optimisation Technique (SCOOT) enabled the regional control and optimisation of traffic signals in urban locations by continuously assessing traffic flows in the area and adjusting traffic signal timings as required to better suit the changing conditions.

Mr Hegarty expanded further on all the systems, which were being developed and implemented in parallel. The initial 120 sites that required a mixture of these systems and control requirements had been assessed, with 24 traffic signal controllers built ready for software configurations to be tested and installed into them.

### Transport Communications and Roadworks

Utilising the Pre-Emptive Traffic Management System (PTMS) and the Traffic Management System (TMS), the Council was developing an automatic alert system which would send information regarding roadworks or congestion to the affected bus operators to notify them of where delays might occur.

### Better Value Ticketing

A variety of ticketing schemes had been introduced which included: improvements to the Wayfarer Day rover ticket product; improvements to the B\_line young persons' concessionary scheme; and free Sunday morning travel during the school holidays.

### Better Bus Services

A large number of improvements had been made including:

- Enhancements to 21 existing commercial bus services with a mixture of improved frequencies, longer operating hours and extended routes.
- The introduction of an open top bus service in Ashford/Bakewell/Chatsworth aimed at reducing tourist car traffic in the area.

- Improvements to the Derbyshire Connect Shopping bus service.
- 72 additional electronic Real Time Information (RTI) screens had been installed at stops, taking the total to 302 across the County.
- Transport hub infrastructure with the first new shelters being installed in the Long Eaton area.

A variety of other work had also been undertaken to support these changes, which included: a series of targeted marketing campaigns; the development of a 'Travel Derbyshire' brand; and the introduction of Bus Champions to promote bus travel at events and to key groups, such as businesses and students.

Projects that required physical works to be undertaken had a longer lead time than the service improvements and ticketing initiatives. As a result, the implementation of the bus priority measures would continue into 2024. Much of the work linked to the transport hubs scheme was also only now beginning to be delivered. A total of 18 hub sites were being delivered across the County from Hayfield in the north to Swadlincote in the south. Many of these were linked to other improvement schemes already underway, such as the Heanor Market Place Future High Street project and the Staveley and Clay Cross Town Deals. By combining BSIP money with these other sources of funding, it was anticipated that the hub programme would be able to deliver a more rounded and integrated solution at a number of locations.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Mr Hegarty and Mr Henning for their in-depth report and presentation and looked forward to receiving a progress report next year.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee:

- a) Notes the work undertaken to implement the various elements in the Bus Service Improvement Plan over the last 12 months; and
- b) Notes the work proposed for the coming year.

**61/23 WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

The Committee's work programme for the remainder of 2023-24 was presented and it was noted that currently there were a number of agenda items for both of the remaining meetings. Work was commencing to plan for 2024-25 and Members were invited to suggest possible items for consideration for the 2024-25 work programme.

The Chairman also informed the Committee that an additional meeting was to be arranged to discuss issues relating to the recent floods that the County had suffered as a result of Storm Babet. Members of the Committee

would be informed of the date of this meeting in due course.

Meeting finished: 11:48

## **Procedure for Public Questions at Improvement and Scrutiny Committee meetings**

Members of the public who are on the Derbyshire County Council register of electors, or are Derbyshire County Council tax payers or non-domestic tax payers, may ask questions of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committees, or witnesses who are attending the meeting of the Committee. The maximum period of time for questions by the public at a Committee meeting shall be 30 minutes in total.

### **Order of Questions**

Questions will be asked in the order they were received in accordance with the Notice of Questions requirements, except that the Chairman may group together similar questions.

### **Notice of Questions**

A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing or by email to the Director of Legal Services no later than 12noon three working days before the Committee meeting (i.e. 12 noon on a Wednesday when the Committee meets on the following Monday). The notice must give the name and address of the questioner and the name of the person to whom the question is to be put.

Questions may be emailed to [democratic.services@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@derbyshire.gov.uk)

### **Number of Questions**

At any one meeting no person may submit more than one question, and no more than one such question may be asked on behalf of one organisation about a single topic.

### **Scope of Questions**

The Director of Legal Services may reject a question if it:

- Exceeds 200 words in length;
- is not about a matter for which the Committee has a responsibility, or does not affect Derbyshire;
- is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Committee in the past six months; or
- requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

## **Submitting Questions at the Meeting**

Questions received by the deadline (see **Notice of Question** section above) will be shared with the respondent with the request for a written response to be provided by 5pm on the last working day before the meeting (i.e. 5pm on Friday before the meeting on Monday). A schedule of questions and responses will be produced and made available 30 minutes prior to the meeting (from Democratic Services Officers in the meeting room).

It will not be necessary for the questions and responses to be read out at the meeting, however, the Chairman will refer to the questions and responses and invite each questioner to put forward a supplementary question.

## **Supplementary Question**

Anyone who has put a question to the meeting may also put one supplementary question without notice to the person who has replied to his/her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. The Chairman may reject a supplementary question on any of the grounds detailed in the **Scope of Questions** section above.

## **Written Answers**

The time allocated for questions by the public at each meeting will be 30 minutes. This period may be extended at the discretion of the Chairman. Any questions not answered at the end of the time allocated for questions by the public will be answered in writing. Any question that cannot be dealt with during public question time because of the non-attendance of the person to whom it was to be put, will be dealt with by a written answer.





**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PLACES**

**WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2024**

**Report of the Executive Director - Place**

**Storm Babet (October 2023) Review**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To scrutinise the work that was done by the County Council before, during and after Storm Babet, and to contribute to improving future preparation, response and recovery.
- 1.2 To note that, in addition to County Council officers, officials from other relevant organisations will be present at the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee and will be able to respond to questions where these fall outside the scope of the County Council's duties.

**2. Information and Analysis**

- 2.1 Storm Babet occurred during 19 to 22 October 2023. The rainfall across Derbyshire was unprecedented, with record river levels across the County, causing flooding to approximately 1,600 properties and businesses (exact numbers are still to be determined).
- 2.2 Dozens of roads were closed, some communities needed to be evacuated, and a Major Incident was declared in Derbyshire. Both Gold (Strategic Command Group) and Silver Command (Tactical Command Group) were operating for several days, and hundreds of personnel from Derbyshire County Council and other Risk Management Authorities (Environment Agency, Water Companies, Emergency Services, District/Borough Councils) were involved in both the response and recovery, and also preparations for future flooding events.

- 2.3 The rainfall during Storm Babet was a record for the Midlands, with 67mm of rain falling between 18 and 20 October 2023. Overall, it was the third wettest 3-day period on record in England and Wales (since 1891).
- 2.4 Record water levels were recorded on the vast majority of the main rivers in Derbyshire during Storm Babet, with Rivers Hipper, Rother, Amber, Erewash, Ecclesbourne and Bottle Brook all exceeding previous records by some margin.
- 2.5 During the flood event, numerous flood warnings were issued across the whole of Derbyshire.
- 2.6 All Risk Management Authorities were involved in the immediate recovery, post Storm Babet, assisting in the clean-up operation of hundreds of roads and inspection of hundreds of structures (culverts, bridges, etc), supporting residents and businesses who had been flooded in their recovery (e.g. advice, clean up, waste disposal, re-homing, flood grants, etc).
- 2.7 Seven Multi-Agency drop in sessions have been carried out post Storm Babet across the County, to provide residents with an opportunity to speak to all Risk Management Authorities about their experiences, and to obtain help and advice. The County Council's Flood Team has played a key role in these sessions, of which all have been very well attended.
- 2.8 The County Council's Flood Team has attended dozens of site visits across the County with residents, members, MPs and other agencies, to start to understand who was affected, and how and why the flooding occurred. Even though it is 4 months post Storm Babet, it will take many more months to understand the full picture. As part of this ongoing work, the County Council is undertaking a Section 19 Flooding Investigation (as required under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010), which is being undertaken by its Professional Services Partner, Jacobs Consulting.
- 2.9 The Flood Team is also managing the Property Flood Resilience Grant Fund, which allows residents, who have been flooded during Storm Babet, to apply for a grant of up to £5,000, to make their homes and businesses more resilient to flooding (e.g. Flood doors/barriers, pumps, air brick covers, etc). The reported figure to Government of properties who have been internally flooded in Derbyshire from Storm Babet was 1,675.
- 2.10 Once all of the investigatory work has been completed, which will include the Section 19 Flooding Investigation, the Flood Team, along

with all other professional partners, can start to plan as to how future mitigation solutions can be realised. Any quick wins for flood mitigation will always be explored, but given the scale of the flooding in Derbyshire, it is simply not feasible to try and protect every single property in Derbyshire for future flooding events. Communities will need to be assessed on things like risk, deliverability, cost benefit and deprivation, along with many other factors, to prioritise where efforts can be focussed on. Funding is also a significant factor in all of this, as Derbyshire is predominately reliant on grant in aid funding from the Government, to fund any future flood mitigation schemes.

2.11 It is clear that, given the very recent significant flood events in Derbyshire, including November 2019 and February 2020, along with Storm Babet, the ever-increasing onset of climate change is here to stay, with wetter winters and drier summers. Communities need to become more resilient to flooding and, although all Risk Management Authorities will continue to support these communities in any way they can, they also need to try and support themselves in dealing with and recovering from future flood events.

2.12 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 is the legislation that determines the Lead Local Flood Authorities roles and responsibilities for the County Council. However, prevention of, response to and recovery from events like Storm Babet requires action from a range of public bodies and utilities well beyond the County Council, and each will have its statutory duties in this context. For this reason, officials from the relevant organisations operating in Derbyshire have been invited to the Committee and many have made themselves available to respond to appropriate questions.

### **3. Consultation**

3.1 All Risk Management Authorities have been consulted and had an input into the ongoing Section 19 flooding investigation.

### **4. Alternative Options Considered**

4.1 Option 1: Holding this Committee session at a later date - It was considered whether to delay this Committee session until after completion of the Section 19 report, when more information would be available to the Committee. However, this would not give the Committee the opportunity to scrutinise the County Council officers and provide input into the Section 19 investigation.

## **5. Implications**

- 5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

## **6. Background Papers**

- 6.1 None.

## **7. Appendices**

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

## **8. Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- a) Takes account of the information provided in this paper (and subsequent presentation) in its scrutiny of the work that was done by the County Council before, during and after Storm Babet, and to contribute to improving future preparation, response and recovery.
- b) Notes that in addition to County Council officers, officials from other relevant organisations will be present at the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee and will be able to respond to questions where these fall outside the scope of the County Council's duties.

## **9. Reason for Recommendations**

- 9.1 To provide an effective mechanism to scrutinise the work of the County Council, ensuring that the County Council remains effective in its management of flood risk, and ensure it keeps abreast of the ever-changing landscape and climate, which impacts upon how flood risk is managed.

**Report Author:** Richard Ward

**Contact details:** Richard.Ward@derbyshire.gov.uk

## **Implications**

### **Financial**

- 1.1 The continued increase in major flooding events due to climate change, does impact upon funds available for both the emergency response and continued management of flood risk.

### **Legal**

- 2.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 is the legislation that determines the Lead local Flood Authorities roles and responsibilities.

### **Human Resources**

- 3.1 Attracting people into local authorities who have the relevant experience, skills, and qualifications in flood risk management, is becoming increasingly challenging, as the market for this is extremely competitive.

### **Information Technology**

- 4.1 None.

### **Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 None.

### **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 6.1 One of the objectives in the Council Plan 2021-2025 is to “*Reduce the level of flood risk to the residents and businesses of Derbyshire through our planning role, the delivery of flood mitigation schemes and working with communities to develop flood resilience measures*” and also “*Adapted our services and worked with communities to help lessen the effects of climate change*”.

### **Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental, Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)**

- 7.1 None.

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**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PLACES**

**WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2024**

**Report of the Director - Legal and Democratic Services**

**Work Programme 2024-25**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To review the Committee's work programme and invite committee members to suggest possible agenda items for the municipal year 2024-25.

**2. Information and Analysis**

- 2.1 It is considered good practice that each Scrutiny Committee develops and agrees an annual work programme. The identification of relevant topics and their allocation to a specific meeting date, focuses the work of the Committee and promotes transparency.
- 2.2 Scrutiny work programmes are best viewed as flexible documents. The timescales are indicative of when each issue will be considered by the Committee. Throughout the year timings may change and new issues may emerge. For example, new items may be identified from the Council's Forward Plan.
- 2.3 The work programme for 2024-25 is given at Appendix two and Members are invited to propose additional items to be considered for inclusion.
- 2.4 When identifying issues for the work programme Members are advised to consider:

- Whether the issue falls within the remit of the Committee
- How the issue aligns with the Council Plan priorities
- Whether the issue is in the public interest
- If there has been a change to National Policy and how this will affect people in Derbyshire
- If there are any performance, financial or safety concerns about a particular service or function
- How consideration by the Scrutiny Committee will add value.

### **3. Consultation**

- 3.1 Scrutiny work programmes are developed in consultation with Committee members. They are also informed by discussions with Executive Directors, who offer guidance about the timing of the Committee's involvement, to ensure that scrutiny work coincides with the availability of performance data, specific milestones, and appropriate stages of policy development.

### **4. Alternative Options Considered**

- 4.1 The option of not having a work programme was rejected as it is considered important that topics are allocated to specific meeting dates in order to focus the work of the Committee and promote transparency.

### **5. Implications**

- 5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

### **6. Background Papers**

- 6.1 None

### **7. Appendices**

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications
- 7.2 Appendix 2 –Work Programme 2024-25

### **8. Recommendation(s)**

That the Committee:



a) Notes the 2024-25 work programme and considers any proposed revisions or additions.

## **9. Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

9.1 To focus the work of the Committee and promote transparency.

**Report Author:** Alec Dubberley    **Contact details:** [alec.dubberley@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:alec.dubberley@derbyshire.gov.uk)

**Implications**

**Financial**

1.1 None Identified for this report

**Legal**

2.1 None Identified for this report

**Human Resources**

3.1 None Identified for this report

**Information Technology**

4.1 None Identified for this report

**Equalities Impact**

5.1 None Identified for this report

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

6.1 Resilient, healthy and safe communities.

6.2 High performing, value for money and resident focused services.

6.3 Effective early help for individuals and communities.

6.4 A prosperous and Green Derbyshire

**Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental, Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)**

7.1 None Identified for this report

**Places I & S Committee**  
**2024-25 Work Programme**

<b>Wednesday 15 May 2024</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead Officers</b>	<b>Purpose/ Key Lines of Enquiry</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>
Local Transport Plan	Alan Marsden	A follow up to provide an update and to consider the next steps.	Cllr Carolyn Renwick
Countryside Service Review <i>(tbc)</i>	Rupert Casey Richard Bonner	To provide an update on the future direction of the service.	Cllr Carolyn Renwick
Community Managed Libraries	Michelle Parker	An update on the number of libraries transferred to community management. A progress report on the relocation of Clay Cross and Staveley Libraries.	Cllr Barry Lewis
The Engagement and Partnership Strategy	Neill Bennett	A request for the committee's input in relation to co-designing the engagement and partnership strategy.	Cllr Charlotte Cupit/ Cllr Carolyn Renwick
<b>Wednesday 24 July 2024</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead Officers</b>	<b>Purpose/ Key Lines of Enquiry</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>
Section 106, 38 and 278 agreements	Steve Buffery Alison Richards Adam Fenlon	To look at agreements with developers in relation to the process and outcomes and the use of the earmarked monies.	Cllr Carolyn Renwick
Collaborative Waste Collection and Disposal and broader issues relating to waste management	Daniel Ayrton	To provide an update following discussions with Waste Collection Authorities on opportunities for delivering shared benefits prior to being considered by Cabinet. To take a look at the current budget and spending associated with the waste management service.	Cllr Carolyn Renwick

<b>Wednesday 25 September 2024</b>			
<b>Wednesday 20 November 2024</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead Officers</b>	<b>Purpose/ Key Lines of Enquiry</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>
<b>Wednesday 26 February 2025</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead Officers</b>	<b>Purpose/ Key Lines of Enquiry</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>

**Note: Pothole patching and repairs is also an item to be added to the work programme when confirmation of suitable dates have been agreed with officers along with the following issue:**

Devolution Deal	Emma Alexander	The implications for Derbyshire services following the move to the East Midlands Councils Combined Authority.	Cllr Barry Lewis
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