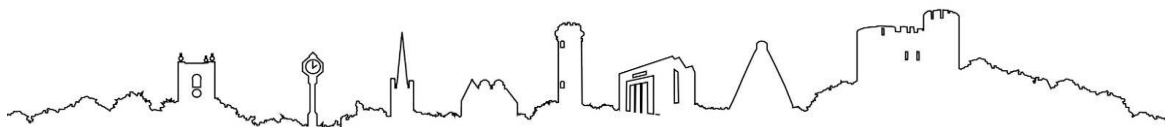




Overview and Scrutiny

Annual Report 2022/2023



Working as One Council in
the historic capital of the Black Country





**Chair -
Councillor
Paul Bradley**

Annual report of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

2022/23 Municipal Year



**Vice-Chair -
Councillor
Daniel Bevan**

Our role involves the scrutiny of matters relating to Children and Young People Services in the Directorate of Children's Services and the Cabinet portfolios of appropriate Cabinet Member(s).

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Re-Visit Update

Throughout the Municipal Year, Members considered reports on SEND as follows: -

On 13th June 2022 a report was received on the findings from a recent SEND re-visit and next steps together with the SEND Accelerated Progress Plan (APP). Appended to the report was the SEND revisit findings letter, the SEND APP and the SEND Improvement Programme Communications and Engagement Strategy.

On 5th September 2022 Members received a report on the current progress of the SEND APP, the SEND Operational Performance data and a School Inclusion update. The joint area SEND revisit in Dudley findings letter was appended to that report.

On 19th January 2023 a verbal update was provided in relation to the Ofsted Inspection when improvements to services since 2021 were referred to and the overall judgment that, although some services still required improvement, the inspection was overall more positive in the detail.

Outcomes:

- *The Service Director of Education, SEND and Family Solutions was requested to provide details of the work undertaken in relation to Post 19 provision for young people with complex needs, once structures and co-produced work was implemented.*
- *The Director of Children's Services was requested to submit the APP to a future meeting.*

Corporate Quarterly Performance Report

Throughout the Year Members considered reports on key performance indicators within the Directorate of Children's Services and noted the Directorate's performance against those indicators.

Outcomes:

- There was a request that the Service Director of Education, SEND and Family Solutions be requested to provide details of those areas within the Borough where Time for Two's placements were not being taken up for Members to promote placements in their Wards.*
- The Director of Children's Services was requested to report on the further analysis assessing the outcomes for children supported by Families Come First and My Safety Plans.*

Children's Services Complaints, Comments and Compliments Annual Report 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

Members considered a report that had been emailed to them prior to the meeting and uploaded to the Council's Committee Management Information System (CMIS) requesting Members to provide comments and questions prior to the meeting.

Outcome:

- The report was approved for publication in line with statutory requirements.*

Dudley Children's Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2021-2022

A report was submitted on the role and appointment of the Independent Children's Safeguarding Scrutineer detailing the work of the Partnership to engage with children and young people. The priorities for 2021/22 were considered by Members.

Outcomes:

- There was a request to advise Members of the number of children in care who had been placed out of Borough.*
- The Service Director of Education, SEND and Family Solutions was requested to undertake a tracking exercise and advise*

Members of the number of those Post 16 entering the Youth Service who had experienced problems at school.

- A joint meeting of the Children and Young People and Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee and the Children's Corporate Parenting Board Working Group would be arranged to consider child poverty and obesity as soon as practicably possible.*

Integrated Early Years, Family Hubs and Start of Life in Dudley.

A report was submitted to the November meeting of the Committee on the details of the progress of the Local Authority 's work on the development of the Integrated Early Years' Service Family Hubs and Start of Life.

Outcomes:

- The delivery of the Integrated Early Years' Service following remodelling work to bring three distinct teams into a single leadership and management model was acknowledged.*
- The delivery of the new Family Hubs and Start of Life programme in Dudley linked to grant conditions and funding over the financial years 2022 to 2023 and 2024 to 2025 was to be facilitated by Officers.*
- There was a request that a visit to the Leapfrog Specialist Nursery Provision in Netherton be arranged.*

Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report 2021/22

Details of the Dudley Safeguarding Service statutory responsibility for overseeing and ratifying the care plans for children and young people in care via the activity of the IRO's was presented to Members. The service was also duty bound to provide the Committee with an annual report outlining the activity of the service, the impact for children and recommendations for service improvement that would enhance young people's experiences.

Outcomes:

- The report would be utilised to inform strategic planning for the Dudley children and young people in care population.*
- The report is to be used to hold the Safeguarding Service to account in the ongoing delivery of services to children and young people in care.*

Serious Violence Statutory Duty and Strategy

The Committee received a report of the Acting Director of Public Health and Wellbeing providing information on the new statutory duty upon Local Authorities and other specified authorities in relation to serious violence and to report on the current activities to meet that duty. The Safer Dudley – Preventing and Reducing Serious Violence in Dudley Strategy for 2023 to 2026 was appended to the report.

Outcomes:

- *It was requested that once developed Members be further consulted on the Serious Violence Strategy.*
- *The work of the Safe and Sound Board in undertaking their statutory duty around prevention of serious violence on behalf of the Local Authority was supported.*
- *The Head of Service Consultant in Public Health was requested to forward to Elected Members details of the support services available to tackle violence and serious crime.*

Medium Term Financial Strategy

A joint report was submitted of the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Legal, and the Director of Children's Services on the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2025/26, with the emphasis on those proposals relating to the Committee's terms of reference, specifically Children's Services.

Outcome:

- *The Director of Finance and Legal was requested to investigate the possibility of offering a Council Tax Reduction Scheme to Foster Carers and provide Members with the detail surrounding the savings against the base budgeted for children's placements.*

Home to School Transport Policy

Members considered a report on the Home to School Transport Policy. Appended to the report were the Consultation on the proposed changes to the Transport Policy for children and young people, the Home to School analysis and feedback, the aged four to sixteen proposed Transport Policy, the proposed Post sixteen Transport Statement, the Parent Carer Forum's Transport Consultation response, an email from a

parent containing comments on the aged four to sixteen new proposed Transport Assistance Policy and feedback from a parent on the proposed aged four to sixteen proposed new Transport Assistance Policy.

Outcome:

- *The Director of Children's Services was requested to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment in relation to the new proposed Home to School Transport Policy.*

Feedback from the Joint meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Working Group, the Health and Adult Social Care Services Scrutiny Committee Working Group and the Children's Corporate Parenting Board Working Group

Having considered the feedback report, Members ratified the actions suggested by the joint Working Group as follows:-

Outcomes:

- *the short-term crisis interventions that the Council provide be noted, and that Public Health be tasked to research into good and innovative practises in other parts of the country, in respect of the long-term strategy to tackle the cycle of poverty embedded in parts of Dudley's Communities to assist with the development of the Dudley Strategy, and to report back to a future meeting of the joint working group.*
- *the Head of Service – Children and Young Peoples Public Health provide a detailed Ward by Ward breakdown of the percentage of children living in poverty within the Dudley Borough.*
- *That a clear set of Key Performance Indicators and robust monitoring of the council's activities on poverty reduction be agreed as part of the Dudley strategy.*
- *That the Head of Service – Children and Young Peoples Public Health provide a list of the Schools in the Borough taking part in the National Breakfast Club Scheme and the companies schools work with to provide breakfast club supplies.*
- *That the Leadership of the Council be recommended to write to Central Government, as a matter of urgency, to request additional funding during the current cost of living crisis to assist families. It is acknowledged that the Government have to date made money available to assist families with fuel and food however as the crisis deepens, more families who would traditionally not have found themselves in relative poverty were*

now struggling. Demand on the voluntary sector was growing and resources were not keeping pace.

- That the Housing and Communities Directorate be reminded of their Corporate Parenting role and responsibilities and be a named and active key partner within the Dudley Strategy.*
- That a report on the role and responsibilities of the Private Sector Housing Team; what powers of enforcement they have at their disposal and an understanding of how they put the child at the centre of the work they undertake, be submitted to a future meeting of the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee Working Group.*
- That the Head of Service – Children and Young Peoples Public Health, pursue the arrangements of a meeting with the Department for Works and Pensions, to raise concerns of the impact of the change in benefit eligibility and to consider the possibility of sharing data and to notify a school when a child was eligible for free school meals.*
- That a further report on ideas and initiatives Dudley could utilise to develop healthy High Streets and provide advice on whether fast-food delivery organisations require a special license to deliver food, be submitted to a future meeting of the joint Working Group.*
- That the Head of Service – Children and Young Peoples Public Health, provide the joint Working Group Members with a copy of the delivery plan in relation to the Family Hub Funding.*
- That the Head of Service – Children and Young Peoples Public Health, provide an update on the number of schools enrolled on the Apprenticeship Levy.*
- That Public Health undertake research and benchmark with other Authorities in relation to the Car Free Streets Scheme and provide a report outlining the advantages and disadvantages to a future meeting of the Working Group.*
- That a further report to review the data and progress made in relation to Mental Health needs and support for children and young people, be submitted to the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee in 12 months and included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for the 2023/24 municipal year.*
- That the Acting Director of Public Health and Wellbeing provide a briefing note on the services commissioned and provided by Cranstoun.*

Children's Services Improvement Update

Members considered a report on the progress of the improvement actions set out in the 2022/23 Improvement Plan, and in the oversight of the Dudley Children's Improvement Partnership.

Outcomes:

- *The updated report received by the Committee was noted.*
- *The Committee noted the outcome of the Ofsted ILACS inspection from November 2022, and that the inspection shaped the next development plan.*
- *The Department for Education's recommendation that Dudley Children's Services is no longer in need of support and supervision was noted.*

Other Items Considered by the Scrutiny Committee in the 2022/23 Municipal Year

Scrutiny Committee

- Education Outcomes Update
- Annual Scrutiny Programme 2022/23
- Children's Services Improvement Plan Update
- Dudley Virtual School Annual Report

Ongoing Items to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee.

Items that have been considered by the Committee but are incomplete requiring further scrutiny and inclusion in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2023/24 are listed below: -

- Corporate Quarterly Performance Reports
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Children's Services Complaints, Comments and Compliments Annual Report
- Dudley Children's Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report
- Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report
- Integrated Early Years, Family Hubs and Start of Life in Dudley
- Serious Violence Strategy
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Education Report
- Dudley Virtual School Annual Report
- Social Care Improvement Updates

Items suggested for inclusion in the work programme for 2023/24

- Good and innovative practices in other parts of the country, in respect of the long-term strategy to tackle the cycle of poverty embedded in parts of Dudley's Communities to assist with the development of the Dudley Strategy.
- The role and responsibilities of the Private Sector Housing Team: what powers of enforcement they have at their disposal and an understanding of how they put the child at the centre of the work they undertake.
- Ideas and initiatives Dudley could utilise to develop healthy High Streets and provide advice on whether fast-food delivery organisations require a special license to deliver food.
- Public Health undertake research and benchmark with other Authorities in relation to the Car Free Streets Scheme and provide a report outlining the advantages and disadvantages.
- That the data and progress made be reviewed in relation to Mental Health needs and support for children and young people and details be submitted to the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee during the 2022/23 municipal year.
- Care Leavers accommodation and related issues.



**Chair -
Councillor
Peter Dobb**

Annual report of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee

2022/23 Municipal Year



**Vice-Chair -
Councillor
Thomas
Russon**

Our role involves the scrutiny of matters concerning Climate Change and the Council's decision to declare a Climate Emergency. This includes the development and implementation of a Carbon Reduction Plan and action to support the United Nations sustainable development goals. The role includes contributing to the environmental sustainability agenda and action to address the corporate priority to create a cleaner and greener place, working collaboratively with partners, businesses and communities to achieve long term goals.

Chair of the Committee

During 2022/23, the Committee was chaired by Councillor Damian Corfield until his appointment to the Cabinet in February, 2023.

Public Forum

The Committee has considered the ongoing arrangements for engaging with the public and partner organisations. Public involvement and engagement is imperative for effective scrutiny and there is an ongoing need for the public to be included in discussions.

Outcome:

- The Lead for Law and Governance, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, was authorised to invite any member of the public or representatives of partner organisations to future meetings where they have a specific interest or specialist knowledge in relation to Climate Change and Environmental issues.*

Carbon Reduction Plan

The Committee received a presentation on 28th September, 2022 on the Carbon Reduction Plan. This gave a progress update of the work carried out on the Carbon Reduction Plan together with priority actions. An internal Working Group was established to drive forward behavioural change and a team of Officers has been working on eleven corporate buildings, to provide information on data usage, to be incorporated into the wider Carbon Reduction Plan.

The Committee received a further presentation on 23rd January, 2023 giving a progress update along with priority actions. The Climate Emergency UK Scorecard assessment was outlined together with a brief summary of work carried out to identify concepts to decarbonise corporate buildings. An overview was provided of the ongoing work to drive forward behavioural change. The development of the Dudley Carbon Reduction Plan is ongoing with a view to submitting the final draft Carbon Reduction Plan, incorporating engagement and consultation outcomes, to the Cabinet in September, 2023.

Outcome 28th September, 2022:

- That the Lead for Climate Change provide an update regarding the data usage from 2019, concerning eleven corporate buildings, which will be fed through to the Wider Carbon Reduction Plan.*
- That the Lead for Climate Change provide a review of the work undertaken of the working group established to drive forward behavioural change.*
- That the Lead for Climate Change provide information regarding the costings of CLS consultancy.*
- That the Lead for Climate Change submit a full plan to the Scrutiny Committee once the necessary information has been obtained and the plan formulated.*

Outcomes 23rd January, 2023:

- That a further update and information including statistical information in relation to Low Carbon be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee within the next six months.*

- *That the Interim Lead for Climate Change be requested to provide comparative information of the neighbouring Boroughs in relation to the Climate Plan Scorecard and circulate to Members.*

Air Quality Monitoring in the Borough

The Committee considered the current measures in place to monitor air quality in Dudley and proposals to improve air quality in the future. The methods used to monitor air quality were outlined, together with the national objectives and requirements that the Local Authority is obligated to report to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs.

Outcomes:

- *That the Pollution Control Officer consider the accessibility issues highlighted for various devices and platforms regarding the Geographical Management Information System.*
- *That the Head of Environment and Trading Standards provide further data after the end of the year, specifically regarding the Wordsley area.*

Progress update on the trial of the use of pesticides and maintaining the Borough's green spaces

The Committee received a presentation on the progress of the trial of alternatives to the use of Glyphosate in maintaining the Borough's green spaces.

The alternative methods that were used as part of the ongoing trial were outlined with a view to a full report concerning the details of the trial being provided to the Committee once completed.

The Committee considered a further report in January, 2023 regarding the progress on the trial of the use of pesticides and maintenance of the Borough's Green Spaces. The alternative methods that were used at four locations across the Borough were demonstrated at the meeting, together with information on public feedback received concerning the use of pesticides.

Outcomes 28th September, 2022:

- *That the Head of Street and Green Care and Amenity Services provide a full report to the Scrutiny Committee setting out figures and cost implications of the weed control used for the trial, what areas were trialled, how easy it was for residents to give feedback and an overview of the effectiveness of the trials.*

Outcomes 23rd January, 2023:

- *That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Realm, in view of the Scrutiny Committee comments, consider the use of alternative methods in place of non-Glyphosate, Katoun Gold/Chikara, for managing grass edges and obstacles and shrub beds as part of future annual weed control programmes.*
- *That a review of shrub beds undertaken by Officers to determine their current condition and appropriateness during 2023/24 be supported.*
- *That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Realm be recommended to consider commissioning a detailed review of where foam stream could be used effectively and including a review of sweeping schedules across the borough.*
- *That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Realm, in consultation with the Head of Neighbourhood Services be recommended to explore costings in relation to the planting of wildflowers.*

Climate Change and Environment Engagement Feedback

The Committee received a presentation on feedback obtained from the Climate Change and Environment Engagement. The 'Your Borough, Your Future' public consultation and engagement was carried out to provide an understanding of residents' views to address challenges of climate change and further consideration was to be given to new services such as food waste collections.

Outcomes:

- *That the Head of Communications and Public Affairs and Interim Director of Public Realm provide a breakdown of the location and the properties in which the respondents to the survey resided.*
- *That the Cabinet Member for Waste Management and Climate Change be recommended to consider prioritising and maximising the facilities at the Roundhill Anaerobic Digestion Plant based in Gibbet Lane, Kinver for food waste for the Dudley Borough.*
- *That a report on progress made be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee in six months.*

Transport Fleet Services

The Committee received a presentation on the Transport Fleet Services operated predominately from the Lister Road Depot as a traded service. The Council's fleet vehicles and overall transport costs were outlined together with the draft Fleet Strategy which focussed on supporting frontline operations in the most cost effective and environmentally considerate way.

Outcomes:

- *That a further report be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee at the first meeting in the 2023/24 Municipal Year, together with a feasibility study and programme, prior to formal approval by the Cabinet.*

Household Waste and Recycling Centre, Stourbridge and Pop-up Site Performance

The Committee considered a report and presentation on the usage and performance of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre, Stourbridge and the Pop-Up site, Dudley.

Outcomes:

- *That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Realm be recommended to consider the provision of domestic waste disposal units within local communities throughout the Borough.*

- *That a review of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre Strategy in line with the end of the existing contractual arrangement C058-The Management and Operation of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre in March 2024, be considered as part of the Annual Scrutiny Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year, by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.*

Cycling Provision in Dudley

The Committee considered a report and presentation regarding the current progress on all matters associated with Cycling provision across the Dudley Borough.

Outcomes:

- *That the Head of Transport and Highway Services be requested to provide a breakdown of cycling provision/training courses on a ward basis to the Committee for information.*
- *That the Head of Transport and Highway Services be requested to provide further details in relation to the three Dudley Schools selected to pilot the School Streets initiative.*

Other items Considered by the Scrutiny Committee in the 2022/23 Municipal Year

- Annual Scrutiny Programme 2022/23
- Terms of Reference
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Corporate Estates

Future items for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee

Items to be rolled forward and included in the work programme for 2023/24:

- Progress Update - Climate Change and Environment Engagement Feedback
- Transport Fleet Services – Feasibility Study and Programme
- Area Based Transport Strategy
- Anaerobic Digestion and Food Waste Collection
- Carbon Reduction Plan Update

- Waste Management Strategy Update
- Planning policies in relation to renewable energy
- Presentation on Planning and Developers actions to Climate Change
- Brockmoor Housing Retrofit Scheme
- Achieving Net Zero



**Chair -
Councillor
Ed Lawrence**

Annual report of the Future Council Scrutiny Committee

2022/23 Municipal Year



**Vice-Chair -
Councillor
Adam Davies**

Our role involves the scrutiny of matters falling within the functions of the Directorates of Chief Executive's, Digital, Commercial and Customer Services, Finance and Legal and Regeneration and Enterprise and the Cabinet portfolios of appropriate Cabinet Member(s).

Call-In of Decision Sheet – Changes to the Council's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure to cease elected Member involvement in Disciplinary Appeals

An additional meeting was scheduled to respond to the call-in of the decision of the Cabinet Member for Commercialisation and Human Resources concerning changes to the Council's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure to cease elected Member involvement in Disciplinary Appeals. The decision had been called-in at the request of five Members of the Future Council Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules, as set out in the Council's Constitution. The Cabinet Member of Commercialisation and Human Resources, Chief Executive and the Assistant Director People and Inclusion attended the Committee to address the meeting and to respond to questions.

Outcomes:

- That the Future Council Scrutiny Committee recommends that no objection be raised to the decision in which case no further action is necessary and that the decision of the Cabinet Member for Commercialisation and Human Resources be implemented with immediate effect.*
- The Members who did not vote in favour of the resolution above reserved their right, following the meeting and with agreement by the Chair, to make a minority report pursuant to the Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution. The following recommendations was made by the opposition group for future consideration:*

- (a) *That the equality impact assessment is properly conducted on this decision and a future Committee hears a report back on the outcome including figures relating to previous cases.*
- (b) *That consultation processes for decisions that impact on the wider Council membership and the workforce are reviewed and improved.*
- (c) *That work on the benchmarking information is completed and presented to a future committee with proper analysis. Benchmarking activity should continue alongside the implementation of this decision to determine whether the decision has been a success in Dudley and other local authorities.*
- (d) *That information is provided on the financial implications of the decision, including officer time devoted to dismissal appeals and any other relevant information.*
- (e) *That in future, to drive and sustain improvement in Appeals processes, periodic dip sampling of documentation related to all completed cases is undertaken by Members of the Committee, in camera, with issues arising incorporated into periodic reports to public sessions of the Future Council Scrutiny Committee.*

Call-In of Decision Sheet – The Closure of the Café at The Crystal Leisure Centre

The Committee considered the call-in of the decision of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise concerning the closure of the Café at The Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge. The decision had been called-in at the request of five Members of the Future Council Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules, as set out in the Council's Constitution. The former and existing Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise, Director of Regeneration and Enterprise and Head of Culture, Leisure and Bereavement Services attended the Committee to address the meeting and to respond to questions.

A number of concerns were raised by some Members in relation to the number of significant repairs required at the Leisure Centre and the reasons why the café had not been considered under phase one of the refurbishment project, lack of public consultation with service users and evidence of full options appraisals that could be explored and market tested. Some Members considered that the decision should be referred

to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise for further consideration taking into account the concerns raised during the meeting.

Outcomes:

- *That the Future Council Scrutiny Committee recommends that no objection be raised to the decision in which case no further action is necessary and that the decision of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise be implemented with immediate effect.*

Corporate Quarterly Performance Report

The Committee received the corporate Quarterly Performance reports during the year. Specific officers attended meetings to provide a summary and respond to questions asked by the Committee. In view of the number of items to be considered, the Corporate Quarterly Performance Report in relation to Quarter 2 was e-mailed to the Committee for comments. Additional information in relation to COVID-19 in Dudley was included in all reports submitted, together with two Directorate Service Summary documents providing detailed accounts of service delivery for each Quarter.

Outcomes:

- *Detailed scrutiny has been undertaken of specific performance indicators that are reported as 'below target' with responses provided by relevant Directorates.*
- *Further information was requested on the training provided to Managers to deal with complaints. This will be provided during the consideration of the Corporate Quarterly Performance Report in relation to Quarter 4 in the 2023/24 Municipal Year.*
- *That the Corporate Performance Manager be requested to arrange training with the Local Government Association in relation to performance management, to be extended to all Members. Training videos and documents have since been developed and made available to the Members Portal.*
- *That the Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee be recommended to scrutinise the Key Performance Indicators in relation to Fly-Tipping as part of their annual scrutiny programme.*

- *That the Corporate Quarterly Performance Report be considered at the first meeting of the Future Council Scrutiny Committee of the 2023/24 Municipal Year to consider future reporting.*

Council's Bid for City Status

During consideration of the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2022/23, Members suggested the inclusion of an additional item in relation to the Council's Bid for City Status. Following receipt of the feedback from the Government, it was considered that there was insufficient data to fully scrutinise this area and therefore it was agreed that the item would not be included in the Programme. A copy of the feedback letter was circulated separately to Members for information.

Digital and Technology Services Update

The Committee received an update on ongoing and planned developments relating to Digital and Technology Services. During the meeting, the Committee was fully supportive of the upgrade to the Microsoft E5 Licences and understood that although this was a large financial investment it was necessary to make sure the Council's Information Technology systems can be as secure as possible and give the staff the tools to work smarter in the new style of hybrid working.

Outcomes:

- *That the update on the ongoing and planned developments relating to Digital and Technology Services, as summarised in paragraph 2 of the report submitted, be noted.*
- *That the Head of Technology Systems and Services be requested to provide detailed information in relation to the financial costs associated with the proposed upgrade to Microsoft E5 Licences to the Committee for information.*
- *That the Director of Digital, Customer and Commercial Services be requested to provide further information in relation to budgets and the restructure of the ICT Team to the Committee for information.*

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23

The Committee considered a report on the annual delivery plan for the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy. The Head of Human Resources, Organisational Development and Inclusion presented the report and invited comments from the Committee to enable further consideration and development of the delivery plan over the longer term.

Outcomes:

- During the discussion, Members supported the potential adoption of 14pt size font as the corporate standard for Council Committee reports to promote inclusion. The proposal was presented and subsequently approved by the Strategic Executive Board and reflected within the revised Corporate Report Template and adopted across the Directorates.*
- That the comments and views of the Committee concerning the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion annual delivery plan 2022/23, as summarised within the minutes, be considered further and incorporated in the ongoing development of the delivery plan.*
- That the Scrutiny Working Group, comprising all Members of this Committee, provide further contributions to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion annual delivery plan and review progress.*
- That the Equality, Development and Inclusion Team, in conjunction with the Local Government Association, develop further training on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, tailored to reflect the Dudley context, and that the training be provided to Members of this Committee and made available to all Members of the Council. This training was provided to all Members on Thursday 2nd November, 2022 and has been recommended to be included in future Annual Member and Development Training Programmes.*

Feedback from the Future Council Scrutiny Committee Working Group – Consultation Process Review Across the Authority

The Committee received feedback from the Future Council Scrutiny Committee Working Group meeting held on 27th July, 2022 to consider the consultation process review across the Authority, following a request made at the Scrutiny Committee in 8th June, 2022.

In light of deliberations at the Working Group, it was apparent that existing resources should be used more effectively to promote/support consultation engagements with the public, suggestions of which included publications within the existing Your Borough Your Home magazine, Council Tax publications and through Elected Members who were considered to be a prime asset within the Community. It was also considered vital that the Equality and Diversity Inclusion Strategy was adopted and instilled in all aspects of a consultation process to ensure all communities were aware and provided with an opportunity to engage in any process. Whilst the overall approach to consultations is recognised to be satisfactory, it is considered that more needs to be done in relation to working together as one Council and sharing information across directorates to provide a centralised and consistent approach.

Outcomes:

- *That the Chief Executives Office to lead a review of consultation processes across all directorates, to collate information and identify best practice areas to inform a consistent corporate approach.*
- *That the Scrutiny Committee support the continued use of a multi-channel approach to communicating with the wider public and key stakeholders to raise awareness of consultations and encourage participation.*
- *That the outcomes of the review of consultation process be e-mailed to the Scrutiny Committee for information.*

Future Council Scrutiny Progress Tracker and Future Business

The inclusion of a standing item was adopted to all Scrutiny Committee agendas highlighting progress on outstanding actions and future business for Members information.

Major Regeneration and Town Centre Projects (including Funding Agreements, Future Projects and Borough Wide Vision)

The Committee considered a report on the major regeneration projects in Dudley town centre, Brierley Hill and other town centre proposals and projects in development.

Outcomes:

- *That the update on the major regeneration projects in Dudley town centre, Brierley Hill and other town centre proposals and projects in development, be noted.*
- *The Director of Regeneration and Enterprise was requested to provide responses to queries raised in relation to:*
 - *Sustainable connectivity and active travel throughout the Borough;*
 - *Plans to improve the Pensnett to Wolverhampton Path;*
 - *Temporary relocation of Dudley Town Centre Bus Stops during the Dudley Interchange construction works;*
 - *Colley Gate By-Pass*
 - *Proposals to convert Lye By-Pass to a two-way road.*

Medium Term Financial Strategy

A joint report of the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and Directors of Finance and Legal, Digital, Commercial and Customer Services and Regeneration and Enterprise was submitted on the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2025/26, with emphasis on those proposals relating to the Committee's terms of reference.

Outcomes:

- *That, subject to comments made above, the proposals for the Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2025/26, as set out in the report and Appendices to the report submitted, be noted.*
- *That the Director of Finance and Legal, in conjunction with the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise, be requested to provide a written response in relation to Forging the Future to the Committee for information.*
- *That the Director of Finance and Legal be requested to provide the triage list utilised during the MTFs process to the Committee for information.*

- *That the Deputy Chief Executive be requested to provide supplementary information in relation to the Strategic Contingency Fund to the Committee for information.*
- *That the Director of Finance and Legal refer the request for further information in relation to the proposals included in the one-off spending plans totalling £2.3m for the 2023/24 financial year within the Public Health Grant funded budget, to the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing for a response to be circulated to the Committee.*

Stalled Sites – Strategies for bringing back into use privately owned vacant land and property

The Committee considered the report on the strategies being deployed by the Local Authority to bring back into use privately owned land and property which remained derelict or untidy of where development was stalled.

Outcomes:

- *That the Head of Economic Growth and Skills be requested to confirm whether the initial long list of 68 sites had been identified for housing redevelopment; investigate the work undertaken by neighbouring local authorities in relation to the redevelopment of derelict sites and provide a response to the Committee; and refer the question in relation to further borrowing from the Housing Revenue Account in order to facilitate additional residential developments to the appropriate officer for a response.*
- *That the appropriate decision taker be requested to consider additional staffing capacity and resources to enable the Local Authority to maximise their powers in relation to enforcement in particular in relation to derelict and stalled sites.*
- *That updates on progress made in relation to derelict and stalled sites, as discussed at the Working Group, be circulated to all Members on a quarterly basis for information. Following the meeting, work was ongoing to upload information to the Council's Corporate Programme and Project Management System (Verto) in order for reporting to be consistent with corporate reporting. A page dedicated to this area with links to Verto will also be created on the Members Portal.*

Update on the Council House Refurbishment

The Committee considered a detailed presentation on progress made in relation to the refurbishment of the Council House. Arising from concerns by the Committee, the Head of Corporate Landlord Services was requested to consider to the installation of additional Electric Vehicle Charging Points within the Members Car Park, including those allocated for disability parking; the allocation of a small number of car parking spaces in the Members Car Park for larger sized vehicles and consideration for replacing the term 'Disabled' with 'Disability'.

Outcomes:

- *That the Head of Corporate Landlord Services consider and incorporate the comments and suggestions made by the Committee, if deemed appropriate.*
- *The Team Manager – Facilities Management was requested to provide further information and cost savings in relation to the installation of LED lighting.*

Other Items Considered by the Scrutiny Committee in the 2022/23 Municipal Year

- Annual Scrutiny Programme 2022/23
- Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro Extension Update

Ongoing Scrutiny Items

Items that have been considered by the Committee but are incomplete requiring further scrutiny and inclusion in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2023/24 are listed below.

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23 (July, 2023)
- Council House Refurbishment Updates
- Consultation Process Review – Outcomes
- Corporate Quarterly Performance Reports
- Stalled Sites – Strategies for bringing back into use privately owned vacant land and property Updates



**Chair -
Councillor
Matt Rogers**

Annual report of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

2022/23 Muncipal Year



**Vice-Chair -
Councillor
Phil Atkins**

Our role involves the scrutiny of local health and associated services, as a contribution to the Council's community leadership role and in line with our statutory duties. This includes the scrutiny of local NHS bodies and matters falling within the portfolio responsibility of appropriate Cabinet Members.

High Oak Surgery

The Committee undertook a full scrutiny review on the relocation of High Oak Surgery. A single subject Scrutiny Committee was held on 15th June, 2022, which members of the public, stakeholders and Ward Councillors were invited to attend and make representations. A joint report of Dudley Integrated Health and Care Trust (DIHC) and the Managing Director for Dudley at Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was considered, which provided context around the temporary relocation of High Oak Surgery, including the current provision of services provided at the Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre. The report also outlined the changes in primary care, a health needs analysis of the local population and the next steps in determining the future location of the surgery.

Following the conclusion of DIHC High Oak Public Conversation, a further single subject meeting of the Scrutiny Committee was arranged and held in the Pensnett community on 10th January, 2023. Local residents, Ward Councillors and Stakeholders were again invited to make representations and an update on the current situation was provided by DIHC.

Outcomes:

15th June, 2022

- That the information contained in the report and the associated presentation concerning High Oak Surgery be noted.

- That this Committee believes that the GP surgery and services should revert back to Pensnett.
- That the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing be supported in undertaking further discussions with partner organisations and that a further report on the outcomes be submitted to the Committee in due course.
- That the views expressed by the Committee, as summarised above, be considered further and that responses be provided to specific issues raised by Members.
- That further work be undertaken with the CCG to develop a joint engagement plan and to ensure that consultation is real and meaningful, however, this is subject to and dependent on services being returned to Pensnett as per the pre-Covid situation.
- That the Stakeholder Panel be reinstated and that a meeting of the Panel take place in advance of the next meeting of this Committee in respect of the High Oak surgery.
- That the Chair and Vice-Chair be authorised to determine the arrangements for a further meeting of this Committee to consider the High Oak issue taking account of the views and suggestions made by Members at this meeting.

(Arising from comments raised in relation to the level of public transport operated between Pensnett and the Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre, located in Venture Way, Brierley Hill, a letter on behalf of the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee was sent to Transport for West Midlands, outlining the concerns and asking for a re-evaluation as a matter of urgency to support the local community.)

10th January, 2023

- That the report and verbal update provided at the meeting in relation to High Oak Surgery, be noted and endorsed.
- That the comments made at the meeting, be submitted to DIHC and taken into consideration as part of the public conversation.
- That the agenda item in relation to High Oak Surgery remain on the Scrutiny Committee's working programme, with a further update provided to the Scrutiny Committee in April, 2023.

Local and National Covid-19 Developments and Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP)

Members considered a report which provided a final update on Dudley's Local Outbreak Management Plan, the Local and National Covid-19 development and the Local Authority's position at the end of the pandemic phase of the response. An overview of all the work undertaken throughout the pandemic was provided, together with the system-wide response implemented to mitigate the impact on the health and social care system, communities and local economy. It reported that although the LOMP specifically for Covid-19 was no longer required, Dudley's local response plans would be reinvigorated to incorporate lessons learned from the pandemic.

Outcomes:

- That the final update in relation to the pandemic phase of Covid-19 be received and noted.
- That the lessons learned from the pandemic and the plans moving forward, be received and noted.
- That the Government's strategy for Local Authorities to have a reduced role in Covid-19 specific activities and that no additional Covid -19 specific local funding has been provide and that a LOMP specifically for Covid-19 is no longer necessary to be maintained by the Local Authority, be noted.
- That the Acting Director of Public Health and Wellbeing circulate a breakdown of how the additional financial support provided, in terms of Government grants, was allocated to each individual Ward, to all Members of the Scrutiny Committee.
- That the Head of Health Protection circulate the findings from the community engagement, together with what barriers were identified, particularly from the BAME communities and lessons learned, to all Members of the Scrutiny Committee.
- That the Head of Health Protection circulate data in relation to the percentage of residents that are unable to have the vaccination for any reason, if available, to all Members of the Scrutiny Committee.

Feedback from the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Working Group

The Committee received a feedback report from the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Working Group held on 29th September, 2022, in relation to the work undertaken by the Council's Mental Health, Health and Safety and Corporate Landlord teams on the Woodside Day Centre. The recommendations formulated at the Working Group were submitted for consideration and approval.

Outcomes:

- That the information contained in the report submitted on the feedback from the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Working Group, be noted.
- That the short-term capital required to ensure Woodside Day Centre is committed from the Adult Social Care capital budget and the proposed partial re-opening and use of the two portacabins on site, subject to remedial works, be noted and endorsed.
- That the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, in conjunction with the Director of Adult Social Care, be recommended to seek a land valuation for the site and report back to a future meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Working Group with options for future provision of the service identified.

Corporate Quarterly Performance Reporting

The Committee received the Corporate Quarterly Performance reports during the year. The Director of Adult Social Care and Acting Director of Public Health and Wellbeing attended meetings to provide a summary and respond to questions asked by the Committee.

Outcomes:

- That the Director of Adult Social Care draft a letter, on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee, to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, expressing the Committees serious concerns in relation to the impact and difficulties the Social Care sector was experiencing and requesting additional financial support for carers and care providers.

Annual Adult Safeguarding Report and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

The Committee considered the Annual Adult Safeguarding report and received an update on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). The report highlighted that the number of safeguarding referrals continued to

increase year on year, with an increase in self-neglect referrals also reported. Legislation in relation to the implementation of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards was awaited from Government.

Outcomes:

- That the report on Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board's Annual Report for 2021/22, be received and noted.
- That the Cabinet be recommended to refrain from making any additional resource cuts in relation to Safeguarding, irrespective of budgetary issues and pressures, and that consideration be given as to how to enhance and positively address areas of neglect, to ensure that the service was fit for purpose.
- That the Independent Chair (Safeguarding) and Director of Adult Social Care be requested to continue to update the Committee on the level of safeguarding demand and performance of the Directorate.

Progress update on the development of the Black Country Integrated Care System (ICS) and Dudley's Integrated Health and Care Model

Throughout the municipal year, the Committee received regular updates on the development of the Black Country Integrated Care System and Dudley's Integrated Health and Care Model.

Outcomes:

- That the position in relation to the development of the Black Country Integrated Care System, including the integrated care board and the development of Dudley's Integrated Health and Care Model, be noted.
- That the Dudley Managing Director - Black Country Integrated Care Board, be requested to provide a further report on the significant changes in the care system and the impact this had on the role of a Councillor and provide further clarity on the specific role of a Councillor and the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the ICB and ICP, in particular how all parties could be involved to ensure Dudley's priorities would be incorporated.
- The Dudley Managing Director be requested to invite Brendan Clifford to attend a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to discuss the composition of the ICS and the role of the Scrutiny Committee and Councillors.

Impact of the Dudley Telecare Digital Strategy

The Committee considered a report and received a presentation on the implementation and impact of the digital strategy and the progress of the Telecare Service Review. The ways in which the telecare service supported the wider health and social care system were highlighted, together with the risks from the switchover from analogue to digital and the charging model and future developments for the service were outlined.

Outcomes:

- That the impact of the digital strategy and digital offer be noted and appraised by Members.
- That the awareness and impact of the analogue to digital switch cover be noted.
- That data in relation to how quick calls were responded/ answered be circulated to the Scrutiny Committee following the meeting.
- That a letter on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee be sent to the Telecare Services team expressing their thanks for their exemplary service.
- Consideration be given to the development of an information pack/booklet for Elected Members and that information on the service be included as part of the induction training for Elected Members.

Update on the Health Inequalities Strategy

The Committee considered a joint report and presentation on the Health Inequalities Strategy and to seek support on adopting a system wide approach to addressing the inequality gap in Dudley and to explore ways to increase the input of the wider system. The priorities for the Borough and the Council to address wider determinants were also presented, together with a picture of the population in Dudley in terms of the percentage of residents with a long-term health condition, unemployed and living in poverty.

- That the report on adopting a system wide approach to addressing the inequality gap in Dudley, be noted.
- That a further report and action plan, taking into account all of the comments made at the meeting and outlined above, be submitted to the first meeting of the 2023/24 municipal year.
- That a progress update on the Violence Prevention Strategy, be submitted to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Other items considered by the Scrutiny Committee in the 2021/22 Municipal Year

- Food Safety and Standards in Dudley Borough
- Update Report regarding Primary Care Dental Services
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Primary Care Strategy
- Feedback from the Joint Meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Working Group, the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Working Group and the Children's Corporate Parenting Board Working Group

Future items for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee

Items to be considered at Scrutiny Committee on 24th April, 2023:-

- NHS Quality Accounts
- Serious Violence Strategy

Items to be rolled forward and included in the work programme for 2023/24:-

- High Oak Surgery
- Woodside Day Centre
- Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP) Hub
- Mental Health and Inequalities
- Director of Public Health Annual Report
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Review of the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board
- Progress update on the development of the Black Country Integrated Care System (ICS) and Dudley's Integrated Health and Care Model
- Health Inequalities Strategy



**Chair -
Councillor Mark
Westwood**

Annual Report of the Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

2022/2023 Muncipal Year



**Vice-Chair –
Councillor
Wayne Sullivan**

Our role involves the scrutiny of matters falling within the functions of the Directorates of Housing and Community Services and Public Realm and the Cabinet portfolios of appropriate Cabinet Member(s).

Minutes – 9th June, 2022

Councillor D Stanley commented on the minutes of the meeting held on 30th March, 2022. Additional comments were incorporated in the minutes of the Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee held on 9th June, 2022.

Outcome:

- *That the Head of Housing Maintenance be requested to provide Members with a written response providing accurate Key Performance Indicator figures relating to PI 2194, percentage of gas compliance.*
- *That the Interim Head for Neighbourhood and Communities be requested to send information to all Members of the Committee on the engagement event at Baylie and Kennedy Courts in relation to compliance in general.*

Annual Scrutiny Programme 2022/23

The Committee considered reports on the annual scrutiny programme 2022/23.

Outcome of the meeting held on 9th June, 2022:

- *That a meeting be arranged to discuss and agree a Scrutiny Programme for 2022/23.*

Outcome of the meeting held on 23rd June, 2022:

- *That a Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Working Group meeting be arranged to discuss progress on the Housing Board and Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Association (DFTRA), to include outcomes on the ARK Consultancy report.*
- *That the Head of Traffic, Transportation and Engineering Services be requested to provide a written response in relation to the programme of maintenance/repair work to the highway infrastructure and the issues associated with the programmed work, to include improvement strategies and planning techniques.*
- *That two separate Working Groups be established to provide for the informal consideration and formulation of recommendations concerning items associated with Housing and Communities and Public Realm to comprise all Members of this Scrutiny Committee.*
- *That the Deputy Chief Executive provide a draft programme of potential items to be discussed at future Working Groups to be submitted to the next Working Group.*

Corporate Quarterly Performance Report

The Committee received the Corporate Quarterly Performance reports during the financial year 2022/23. Specific officers attended meetings to provide a summary and responded to questions asked by the Committee. In view of the number of items that were considered by the Committee, the Corporate Quarterly Performance report in relation to Quarter 2 was e-mailed to the Committee for comments.

Outcome of the meeting held on 9th June, 2022:

- *That the Corporate Performance Manager be requested to refer the specific issues raised by the Committee to relevant Officers or Cabinet Members for appropriate responses.*
- *That the Deputy Chief Executive and the Director of Housing and Communities be requested to provide a comprehensive response to Councillor D Stanley in relation to the void property located in Sedgley.*
- *That the Deputy Chief Executive, together with the Director of Housing and Communities, investigate the progress of anti-social behaviour complaints received and particularly, any cases not progressed and respond to Members of the Committee.*
- *That the Director of Housing and Communities be requested to provide a detailed breakdown of figures in relation to strategic investments and the overall percentage of rent loss through voids to all Members of the Committee.*
- *That the Deputy Chief Executive be requested to provide background information on the ARK Consultant report to Councillor J Cowell.*
- *That the Director of Housing and Communities be requested to circulate information on stock investment decisions, the number of Inspectors employed, and the timescales involved in making decisions to all Members of the Committee.*

- *That the Head of Housing Options and Support be requested to provide a written response to Members of the Committee outlining details of the challenges faced and delays associated with the refurbishment of Jack Newell Court.*

Outcome of the meeting held on 21st September, 2022:

- *That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Realm be requested to review recycling options and facilities in the Borough, together with the possibility of introducing fortnightly recycling and residual waste collections and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.*
- *That the Interim Director of Public Realm and the Director of Housing and Communities be requested to provide Members with a management and officer structure of Directorates, to include service responsibilities.*

Outcome of the meeting held on 29th March, 2023:

- *That the Head of Neighbourhood Services be requested to provide statistics in relation to the number of fly tipping recorded and the number of fixed penalty notices issued to all Members of Council.*
- *That the Head of Traffic and Highways Services be requested to circulate information on the School Street Scheme pilot.*

Housing and Communities Directorate report on the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

The Committee received reports on areas agreed within the 2022/23 Annual Scrutiny Programme, approved by the Committee in relation to Social Housing White Paper, customer and value for money quality services.

Outcome of the meeting held on 21st September, 2022:

- *That the aspirations and commitments of the Social Housing White Paper and its impact upon Dudley MBC, be noted.*

- *That the Community Housing Vision and progress in its implementation be noted.*
- *That activity to improve void performance for empty homes and garages be noted.*

Outcome of the meeting held on 17th November, 2022:

- *That the activity around compliance, assets, capital investment, development and fuel poverty be noted.*
- *That the Director of Housing and Communities be requested to arrange for a comprehensive response to be provided to Members on the percentage of income retained by the Council from capital receipts received through the Right to Buy Scheme.*
- *That the Director of Housing and Communities be requested to pursue the requirements for a Fire Door Contractor and provide a response to Members.*
- *That the Director of Housing and Communities be requested to provide a comprehensive response to Members on details of the housing 30-year maintenance plan to include information considered when assessing the overall baseline valuation of housing stock for strategic assessment management purposes.*

Developing a Neighbourhood Approach – Street Cleanliness and Environmental Quality

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Street, Green and Amenity Services providing an overview on developing a neighbourhood approach to street cleanliness and environmental quality.

Outcome:

- *That the comments made by Members be noted and referred back to the Directorate of Public Realm for consideration.*
- *That the Head of Street, Green and Amenity Services be requested to circulate statistics for fly tipping, including prosecutions, to all Members of the Committee.*

Public Forum

The Committee heard representations from members of the public concerning Affordable Housing, Housing Board and Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Association (DFTRA), High-Rise Aerial Fund, High Plateau and Daniels Land sites, Key Performance Indicators relating to PI 1889, Rent Loss, and the Review of high-rise properties.

Outcome of meeting held on 17th November, 2022:

- *That the Director of Housing and Communities be requested to arrange for information to be circulated to the member of the public on the definition and criteria of affordable housing and areas that had been identified for such housing.*
- *That the Director of Housing and Communities be requested to arrange for feedback to be provided to the Housing Board on a recommendation made by the Committee on 31st March, 2022 in relation to the consideration of appointing non-voting Co-opted Members to represent the Housing Board and Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Association, to comment on Housing issues only.*
- *That the Director of Housing and Communities be requested to arrange for a written response to be provided to the member of public in relation to the suggestion to review procedures for the allocation of funding from the High-Rise Aerial Fund.*

Outcome of the meeting held on 29th March, 2023:

- *That the Director of Housing and Communities and the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise provide a joint response to the member of public in relation to issues associated with sites located at High Plateau and Daniels Land, which had been designated for housing development.*
- *That the Director of Housing and Communities provide a written response to the member of public in relation to issues associated with rent loss and the rationale regarding investment decisions.*

- *That the Director of Housing and Communities provide a written response to the member of public providing an update on the review of high-rise properties in the Borough.*

Public Realm – Transport and Highways Progress Report on Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

The Committee considered a report on progress on all matters associated with Transport and Highways, in particular, strategic transport and partnership working, highways maintenance, asset management and a neighbourhood approach to traffic and highways functions.

Outcomes:

- *That the information contained in the report and presentation submitted to the meeting be noted and the comments made by Members be referred back to the Directorate of Public Realm for consideration.*
- *That the Head of Traffic, Transportation and Engineering Services be requested to provide a comprehensive response to Members of the Committee on the strategies and funding obtained to improve the cycle and bus corridor, with particular reference to the A4123 and A461 schemes.*

Developing the Neighbourhood Approach to Delivering Services to keep Dudley Clean and Safe

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Street, Green and Amenity Services providing an overview on developing the neighbourhood approach to delivering services to keep Dudley clean and safe.

Outcome:-

- *That the presentation be noted and the comments made by Members be referred back to the Directorate of Public Realm for consideration.*

Action Tracker and Future Business

The Committee received information on outstanding actions following recommendations made throughout the 2023/23 municipal year, which included items to be considered at future meetings.

Outcome of the meeting held on 26th January, 2023:

- *That the Director of Housing and Communities be requested to provide information to all Members of the Committee in relation to the length of time a fire door contractor had not been in place, whether the contract awarded to ABCA had been agreed and signed and the length of time expected for the new contractor to carry out the required work.*

Outcome of the meeting held on 29th March, 2023:

- *That the Director of Housing and Communities forward copies of responses in relation to Minute Nos. 28 – Housing Board and Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Association and High-Rise Aerial Fund to all Members of the Committee.*

Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Legal, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Housing and Communities and the Interim Director of Public Realm on the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2025/26, with emphasis on those proposals relating to the Committee's terms of reference. Items directly relevant to this Committee were those in relation to the Housing and Community Services and Public Realm Directorates.

Outcome:

- *That the Director of Finance and Legal be requested to provide statistics on the number of individual library facilities available within the Borough to all Members of the Committee.*

Annual update on the Safe and Sound Partnership priorities and update on improvements to managing neighbour disputes and anti-social behaviour

The Committee received a report providing an overview of Safe and Sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) and an update on the ongoing work to improve the management of neighbour disputes and anti-social behaviour.

Outcome:

- *That the information contained in the report be noted and the comments made by Members be referred back to the Directorate of Housing and Communities for consideration/action.*

Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23

The Committee considered the annual scrutiny report 2022/23.

Outcome:

- *That the annual scrutiny report for 2022/23 be noted.*
- *That consideration be provided to establishing separate Scrutiny Committees for Housing and Communities and Environment moving forward as it was considered that there were not enough meetings to scrutinise the wide range of services both Directorates managed.*
- *That the Director of Housing and Communities and the Interim Director of Environment be requested to circulate a detailed version of the Management and Officer structure to all Members of the Committee.*
- *That consideration be provided to including an item on the Directorates investment and spending programme in the draft Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2023/24.*
- *That Members be requested to e-mail the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee identifying work areas for consideration for scrutiny for the 2023/24 annual scrutiny programme.*

Customer Experience and Consumer Regulation Update

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Housing and Communities on Customer Experience and Customer Regulation Update.

Outcome:

- *That the presentation and comments made by Members be noted and referred back to the Service for consideration.*

Other Items Considered by the Committee in the 2022/23 Municipal Year

- Overview of Public Realm
- Review of Housing Finance

Briefing Notes considered by the Committee through e-mail

- *Corporate Quarterly Performance Reports – Quarter 2*

Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Working Group

- Annual Scrutiny Programme 2022/23
- *Progress on the Housing Board/Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Association (DFTRA).*

Ongoing items for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee

Items requiring further scrutiny or to be included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2023/24 are listed below:-

- *Medium Term Financial Strategy*
- *Review of Housing Finance*
- *Issues associated with anti-social behaviour*
- *Future plans for the Lister Road Depot, people and workforce and progress with the work on partnership and neighbourhoods*
- *Progress on grounds maintenance, green and open space*