

Report of Head of Democratic Services

Report to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)

Date: 9 July 2020

Subject: Referral to the Scrutiny Board (Impact of nitrous oxide use and abuse on Leeds' Communities)

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| Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s): | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Has consultation been carried out? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Will the decision be open for call-in? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present details of a referral that falls within the remit of the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities).

2. Background information

2.1 In accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, any member of a Scrutiny Board may request that the Scrutiny Board of which they are a member considers a matter relevant to that Board's functions. Such requests are generally considered as part of a Scrutiny Board's standard agenda item to review its work programme.

2.2 Any referrals that arise from outside of the relevant Scrutiny Board membership are to be dealt with in accordance with sections G and H of the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules ([Link to SBPR](#)).

3. Main issues

3.1 A referral has been made to the Board by Cllr Matthew Robinson. Details of the referral can be found at Appendix 1.

3.2 In accordance with the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, an invitation to today's meeting has been extended to Cllr Robinson as the main 'Referrer' to make

representations as to why it would be appropriate for the Board to exercise its functions in relation to the matter. The Scrutiny Board Chair will decide how much time will be given for the person to address the Scrutiny Board.

3.3 The Scrutiny Board shall consider whether to exercise its power to review or scrutinise the matter referred and may have regard to:-

- Any relevant information provided by or representations made by the Referrer as to why it would be appropriate for the Scrutiny Board to exercise any of its powers in relation to the matter;
- The principles set out within the 'Vision for Leeds at Scrutiny' document as part of Article 6.

3.4 The Scrutiny Board may also wish to consider:

- If further information is required before considering whether further scrutiny should be undertaken;
- If the matters links in with the scope of any current / planned scrutiny inquiries;
- If a similar or related issue is already being examined by Scrutiny or has been considered by Scrutiny recently;
- If the matter raised is of sufficient significance and has the potential for scrutiny to produce realistic recommendations that could be implemented and lead to tangible improvements;
- The impact on the Board's current workload;
- The time available to undertake further scrutiny;
- The level of resources required to carry out further scrutiny.

4. Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 The Vision for Scrutiny states that Scrutiny Boards should seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Chief Officer and Executive Member(s) about available resources prior to agreeing items of work.

4.1.2 An invitation has been extended to the relevant Chief Officer and Executive Board Member to contribute to the Board's initial discussion surrounding the matter raised as part of this request.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules state that, where appropriate, all terms of reference for any work undertaken by Scrutiny Boards will include 'to review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme'.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 Any requests for Scrutiny are dealt with in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules as well as the principles set out within the 'Vision for Leeds at Scrutiny' document.

4.3.2 The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards also promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the best council objectives.

Climate Emergency

4.3.3 Following the Council's Climate Emergency declaration, importance is also placed upon the need to consider the potential climate and sustainability impacts associated with any matters being considered by Scrutiny.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 As set out in paragraph 3.4, the Scrutiny Board is advised to consider any potential impact on its current workload in taking forward requests for Scrutiny, including the level of resources required to carry out further scrutiny.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.5.1 This report has no specific legal implications.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 This report has no specific risk management implications.

5. Conclusions

5.1.1 A referral to this Scrutiny Board has been made by Cllr Robinson. An invitation has been extended to Cllr Robinson as the main Referrer of this request and also to the relevant Chief Officer and Executive Board Member to contribute to the Board's initial discussion surrounding the matter raised as part of this request. The Board will then be asked to determine what, if any, further scrutiny activity is required.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) is asked to determine what - if any - further scrutiny activity is required in relation to the matter referred.

7. Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.