

Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities)

Year End Summary: 2022/23



Scrutiny at Leeds City Council



Purpose

Scrutiny is nationally recognised as an integral part of the improvement landscape for local government and forms part of governance arrangements for councils and some other local statutory bodies.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference that are applied to all Scrutiny Boards are set out in Leeds City Council's Constitution. The variations in the Scrutiny Boards' remits, together with any special responsibilities, are captured within Article 6 of the Constitution.

Article 6 also sets out the Council's agreed 'Vision for Scrutiny'.

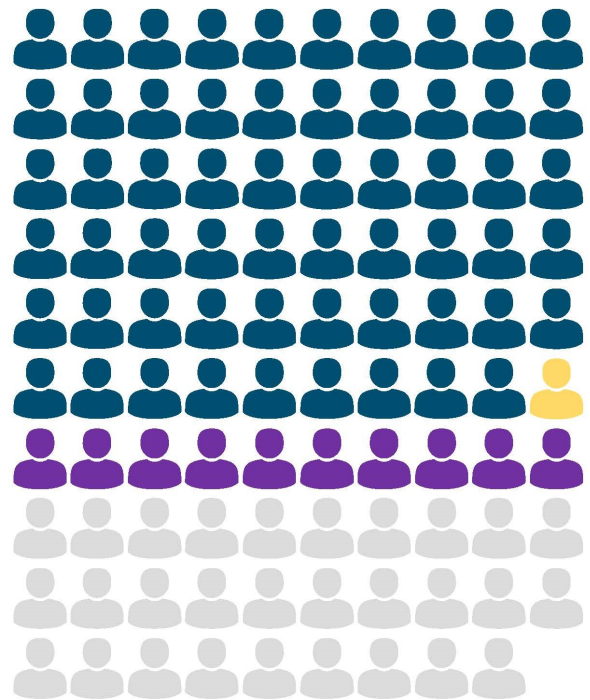
Transparency & Accountability

Scrutiny Boards usually meet in public, holding key decision makers to account, as well as providing 'critical friend' challenge and support for public service improvement and policy development.

Membership

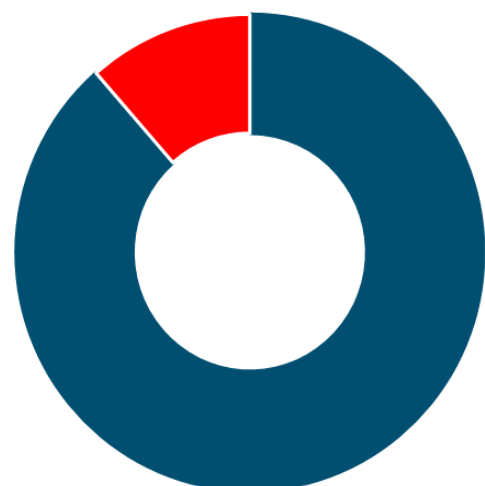
Membership of all Scrutiny Boards broadly reflects the political balance of the Council and cannot include members of the Council's Executive.

There is provision for Scrutiny Boards to appoint additional Co-opted Members.



Councillors who are members of a Scrutiny Board

Scrutiny Board Membership



■ LCC Councillor ■ Co-Opted

Environment, Housing & Communities Scrutiny Board 2022/23



Cllr Barry Anderson
(Chair)



Cllr Javaid Akhtar



Cllr Kayleigh Brooks



Cllr Ed Carlisle



Cllr Robert Finnigan



Cllr Pauleen Grahame



Cllr Asghar Khan



Cllr Sandy Lay



Cllr Annie Maloney



Cllr Trish Smith



Cllr Eleanor Thomson



Cllr John Tudor



Cllr Paul Wadsworth

Environment, Housing & Communities Scrutiny Board

Focusing on services affecting the lives of citizens living and working in the council's neighbourhoods to monitor progress as a citizen focused city and prioritising environmental sustainability.

Completed Work Schedule for the 2022/23 Municipal Year

Each Scrutiny Board schedules eight formal meetings throughout the course of a municipal year. The Local Government Act 1972 requires formal meetings to be held in person to enable members of the public to be admitted as observers wherever the meeting is being held. To further promote access and engagement, formal meetings are also webcast.

In addition, the Scrutiny Board may choose to carry out additional work using alternative methods including site visits, working groups and remote consultative meetings (consultative sessions do not constitute formal meetings but do enable public access via a webcast).

The completed work schedule of the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) for the 2022/23 municipal year has been provided as part of this summary. This presents an overview of all meetings held throughout the year and the work items considered at each meeting. The work schedule also includes links to the agenda papers, minutes and webcast recordings of the Scrutiny Board's publicly accessible meetings.



Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board

Statement from the Chair



“Over the last twelve months, the primary focus of our Scrutiny Board has been on the support provided to some of the most vulnerable residents in Leeds, many of whom are finding the current economic climate especially challenging.

We maintained the Board’s long-standing commitment to scrutinise the local approach to reducing poverty and improving financial inclusion, and received an update on the Local Welfare Support Scheme. We also developed recommendations in relation to reducing gambling harm.

Similarly, housing activity has been a significant, long-term priority for members. This year, we have examined tenancy management, performance in relation to repairs and maintenance, how best to ‘turn around’ void properties, and the HRA investment programme.

The growing pressure on Leeds Housing Register is just one example of the huge challenges facing our organisation. However, alongside the many and varied challenges we have seen some excellent examples of innovation, creativity and passion — such as the excellent work being carried out to prevent homelessness in Leeds.

The Scrutiny Board has explored ways to develop resilient waste services in response to the climate emergency, reduce anti-social behaviour and improve air quality. We have also scrutinised the action the Council can take to support a resilient, thriving third sector.

The Scrutiny Board has fulfilled its responsibilities under the Budget and Policy Framework, providing feedback on the initial budget proposals and considering regular performance data.

I want to put on record my thanks to the officers, Executive Members and partners who have taken the time to share their expertise, experience and insight with Scrutiny Board members. I know the challenge from our Scrutiny Board is robust, in part because we aim to reflect the concerns of the public through our work. However, I also continue to believe that holding decision makers to account is an important way of improving public services and outcomes for citizens in Leeds.

Finally, I want to thank Scrutiny Board members for their time, thoughtful contributions and commitment over the last year. I am once again very proud of our work.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Barry Anderson'.

Councillor Barry Anderson
Scrutiny Chair



Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board

Work Schedule 2022/23

June	July	September
<u>Agenda for 23 June 2022 at 10.30 am</u>	<u>Agenda for 21 July 2022 at 10.30 am</u>	Agenda for 15 September 2022 at 10.30 am
Co-opted Members Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference Potential Sources of Work Performance Update	Safer Leeds Update West Yorkshire Police & Crime Plan 2021-2024 Update	*Meeting Cancelled Following the Death of HM Queen Elizabeth II*
Additional Sessions		
		Site Visit: LeedsWatch 30 September 2022
October	November	December
<u>Agenda for 17 October 2022 at 10.30am</u>	<u>Agenda for 10 November 2022 at 10.30 am</u>	<u>Agenda for 1 December 2022 at 10.30am</u>
Reducing poverty and improving financial inclusion Local Welfare Support Scheme Review Update	Housing Activity Update	Remote Consultative Meeting Locality Working & Priority Neighbourhoods Ensuring the future resilience of the Third Sector
Additional Sessions		
Working Group: Development of the Waste Strategy 5 October 2022	Working Group: Understanding the role and responsibilities of the Housing Service 4 November 2022	Working Group: 2023/24 Initial Budget Proposals 12 December 2022 Social Progress Index 14 December 2022



Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board

Work Schedule 2022/23

January	February	March
<u>Agenda for 5 January 2023 at 10.30 am</u>	<u>Agenda for 2 February 2023 at 10.30 am</u>	<u>Agenda for 2 March 2023 at 10.30 am</u>
Performance report Financial Health Monitoring 2023/24 Initial Budget Proposals	Parks and Green Space Strategy 2022-2032 Update Review of the Long-Term Burial Plan	Climate Emergency Update End of year statement
<u>Agenda for 20 January 2023 at 10.30am</u>		
Remote Consultative Meeting		
Reducing Gambling Harms		
Additional Sessions		
	Working Group: Reviewing the Air Quality Strategy Action Plan 2021-2030 27 February 2023	

More information about Leeds City Council's Scrutiny Service, along with the activity and membership of individual Scrutiny Boards, can be found on the Council's committee webpages.

You can also follow @ScrutinyLeeds on twitter.

