

# Scrutiny Board (Strategy & Resources)

**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'.

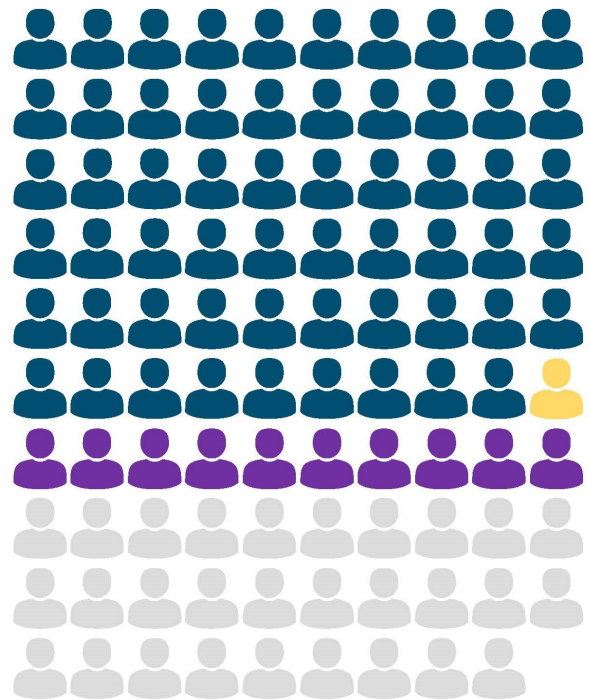
## Transparency & Accountability

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

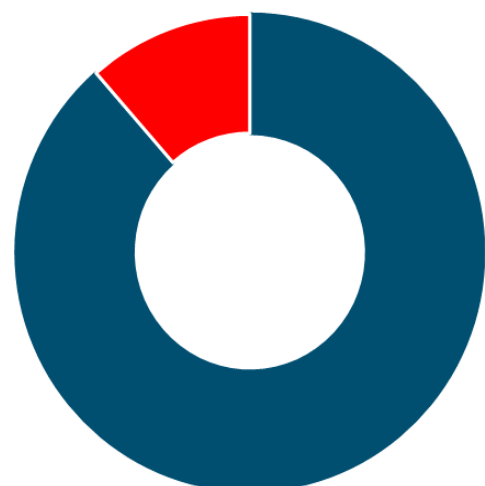
Membership of all Scrutiny Boards broadly reflects the political balance of the Council and cannot include members of the Council's Executive.

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

# Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board

## 2022/23



Cllr Gohar Almass



Cllr Sharon Burke



Cllr Peter Carlill



Cllr Dianne Chapman



Cllr Robert Finnigan



Cllr Sam Firth



Cllr Billy Flynn



Cllr Mahalia France-Mir



Cllr Caroline Gruen



Cllr Kevin Ritchie



Cllr Andrew Scopes

### **Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board**

*Focusing on the council's central strategic and regulatory functions, including financial services, human resources, digital and information services, elections, registrars, licensing, local land charges and council tax processing. The Board will also oversee cultural related activities to deliver the city's cultural ambitions.*

### **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 (Strategy & Resources) 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.





# Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board

## Statement from the Chair



In municipal Year 2022/23 we have focused on core areas within our remit, Human Resources, staff well-being, attendance management and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), Finance, procurement, budget management and financial challenge, Digital Services and digital change, Culture and the Leeds 2023 Year of Culture, our relationship with the Mayoral Combined Authority, LGA Peer Challenge and wider corporate planning and how we communicate and consult with Leeds residents both proactively and reactively.

Continuing to deliver essential services against the backdrop of ongoing financial challenge features in much of our work and we have considered in detail the impact of funding reductions on the budget and the knock-on impact this has had on staffing levels and the possible impact on staff well-being over an extended period of time. Our work on procurement, budgets and financial health monitoring has looked to deliver both value for money and a continuing focus on robust financial planning and we have been keen to ensure that council staff are treated fairly through a focus on EDI and staff well-being. Gaining a better understanding of the authority's interactions with Leeds residents through our interest in Contact Centre performance, FOI performance and how we communicate and consult with residents is a developing area of interest and Leeds 2023 and the exciting Year of Culture plans, that are now becoming reality across the city, have also been high on our agenda. We continue to receive updates from Electoral Services to better understand voter behaviour and the plans to introduce voter ID in May 2023 and we have reviewed the recommendations made in the Corporate Peer Challenge with a view to using those recommendations to inform our work and the wider work of the scrutiny in the future.

The scrutiny function has a variety of roles in terms of performance monitoring, conducting pre-decision scrutiny and policy and service reviews but our overall aim is to provide critical friend challenge to the Executive. Our work on the 2023/24 budget highlights this with our challenge on resourcing of the Contact Centre responded to and additional funding put in to ensure that the service provided to residents during a period of service change remains up to standard. It is this effective relationship between scrutiny and the executive that works in Leeds and adds value to our services.

As a board we are committed to hearing as many voices as possible and sometimes it is better to hear opinion and challenge from outside of our organisation. We did this through our consideration of the Peer Challenge, and I remain committed to inviting partners and external participants to scrutiny where appropriate and where value can be added.

The Board would not be as effective without the support of officers, Executive Board Members and key partners and I would like to put on record the Board's thanks for their regular contributions.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow Board members who have been committed to our work programme and made telling contributions to our work. It has been a real pleasure to chair the Board and I am proud of the work we have delivered.

Councillor Andrew Scopes

Scrutiny Chair



# Strategy & Resources

## Scrutiny Board

### Work Schedule 2022/23

June	July	September
<a href="#"><u>Agenda for 20 June 2022 at 10.30 am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Agenda for 25 July 2022 at 10.30 am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Agenda for 26 September 2022 at 10.30 am</u></a>
Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference / Sources of Work (DB) / Co-opted members reports  Performance Update  Financial Outturn  Procurement update: contracts, T&Cs and monitoring of those T&Cs.	Digital Strategy Update  Agile Working and Estate Realisation  Recruitment and Retention  Area based income assessment (council tax and business rates)	Electoral Services Update  Annual Corporate Risk Management Report  Customer Contact
<b>Additional Sessions</b>		
October	November	December
<a href="#"><u>Agenda for 7 October 2022 at 10.30am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Agenda for 7 November 2022 at 10.30 am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Agenda for 12 December 2022 at 10.30am</u></a>
Call In Meeting—Taxi Suitability Policy (minor motoring convictions)	Leeds 2023 including update on Community Committee / ward member engagement  Financial Health Monitoring & Impact of Inflation and Medium term financial strategy  The UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Devolution Update (PM)  Staff Inclusion: to include staff network representation (PM)  Core Business Transformation (PSR)
<b>Additional Sessions</b>		
		<b>Working Group:</b> 2023/24 Initial Budget Proposals: 15 December 2022



# Strategy & Resources

## Scrutiny Board

### Work Schedule 2022/23

January	February	March
<u><a href="#">Agenda for 16 January 2023 at 10.30 am</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Agenda for 20 February 2023 at 10.30 am</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Agenda for 27 March 2023 at 10.30 am</a></u>
Consultation & Communication Best City Ambition Update/ Performance Report Financial Health Monitoring 2023/24 Initial Budget Proposals	LGA Peer Review Civic Enterprise Leeds – Update Report Procurement update FOI: progress on performance, potential for automation	Staff Absence – update report Equality Diversity and Inclusion Follow Up Elections Update – Voter ID End of Year Summary Statement
<b>Additional Sessions</b>		

**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.**

