

Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board

Year End Summary: 2023/24



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'.

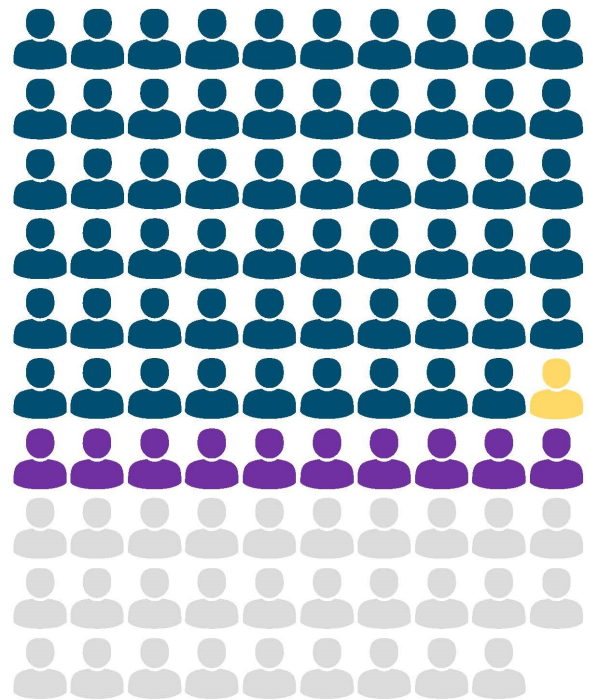
Transparency & Accountability

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

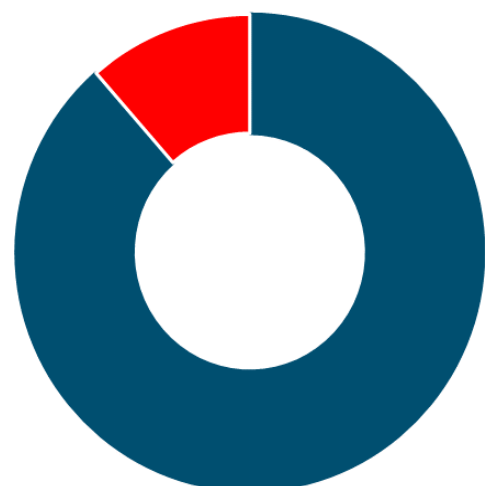
Membership of all Scrutiny Boards broadly reflects the political balance of the Council and cannot include members of the Council's Executive.

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

2023/24



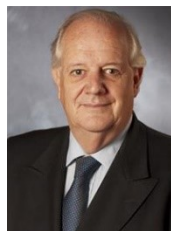
Cllr Gohar
Almass



Cllr Hannah
Bithell



Cllr Sharon
Burke



Cllr Andrew
Carter



Cllr Dianne
Chapman



Cllr Sam
Firth



Cllr Tom
Hinchcliffe



Cllr Asghar
Khan (Chair)



Cllr Wyn
Kidger



Cllr Andy
Parnham



Cllr Eleanor
Thomson

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 2023/24 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 2023/24 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 2023/24 we have focused on a number of core areas within our remit, Human Resources, staff well-being and mental health, the Best City Ambition 2024 Update, people management and organisation strategies, the Staff Survey findings, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), procurement, budget management and financial challenge, Electoral Services, customer contact, culture and the Leeds 2023 Year of Culture and the follow up from the LGA Peer Challenge.

It has been a busy year, and in my first year as Chair of this Board it has highlighted the commitment of our staff and the hard work that goes on to deliver against the Council's ambitions whether that is on the frontline or in services that operate in the background providing equally valuable support services and ensuring that, for example, our budgetary position is sustainable and robust.

Through our work on the budget and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy it has become increasingly clear that the financial challenge we have faced for a number of years is an almost ever present in the issues we deal with. Reduced budgets mean reduced staffing and the reduced financial envelope means that the Council is having to re-think how and what services it delivers. Wider cost pressures through inflation have made this situation even more challenging and it is really heartening that despite this challenge we continue to deliver services prioritised at the most vulnerable in the city and that we continue to do such good work in areas such as equality, diversity and inclusion and supporting our staff to be the best they can be when working for the Council.

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. To make sure that as far as possible we are getting things right for Leeds residents. Our work on the 2024/25 budget highlights this along with the scrutiny statement on the Council's approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and our work on the Best City Ambition Update. Through these, and our wider work, we hope to add value to the work of the authority and provide check and challenge through detailed scrutiny of policy and performance.

We also continue to engage with external partners where appropriate and when are our Work Programme requires. In 2023/24 we did this through our consideration of Leeds 2023 updates and an item on West Yorkshire Joint Services. I remain committed to engaging with external partners and participants where appropriate and where value can be added.

The Board would not be as effective without the support of officers at all levels, 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 excellent contributions to Board meetings. It has been a pleasure to Chair the Board and I am proud of the work we have done in 2023/24.

Councillor Asghar Khan

Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board Chair



Strategy & Resources

Scrutiny Board

Work Programme 2023/24

June	July	September
<u>Agenda for 19 June 2023 at 10.00 am</u>	<u>Agenda for 17 July 2023 at 10.00 am</u>	<u>Agenda for 18 September 2023 at 10.00 am</u>
Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference / Sources of Work / Co-opted members reports Performance Report Organisation Plan (Pre-decision Scrutiny)	Leeds 2023 Progress Update People Management Update Financial and Treasury Management Outturn	Electoral Services Update – 2023 Election Review/Postal Voter Validation Staff Survey Analysis Office for Local Government (OFLOG)
Additional Sessions		

October	December	January
<u>Agenda for 16 October 2023 at 10.00am</u>	<u>Agenda for 11 December 2023 at 10.00am</u>	<u>Agenda for 15 January 2024 at 10.00am</u>
Medium Term Financial Strategy Financial Health Monitoring 2023/24 Best City Ambition Attendance Management and Mental Health Well Being	West Yorkshire Joint Services Update Customer Contact – Performance Update LGA Peer Challenge – Progress Review Annual Corporate Risk Management Report	Performance Report Financial Health Monitoring 2023/24 <u>The Proposed Budget 2024/25 and Provisional Budgets for 2025/26 and 2026/27</u> Best City Ambition
Additional Sessions		
	Working Group: 2024/25 Initial Budget Proposals: 20 December 2023	



Strategy & Resources

Scrutiny Board

Work Programme 2023/24

February	March	
<u>Agenda for 19 February 2024 at 10.00 am</u>	<u>Agenda for 25 March 2024 at 10.00 am</u>	
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Corporate Approach & Staff Networks – Feedback Leeds 2023 Update	Financial Reporting 2023/24 (Performance Monitoring) Procurement Update (Performance Monitoring) IDS Helpdesk (Performance Monitoring) <u>Scrutiny Statement – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) (Policy/Service Review)</u> Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board End of Year Summary Statement	
Additional Sessions		

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 X.

