

Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth)

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'.

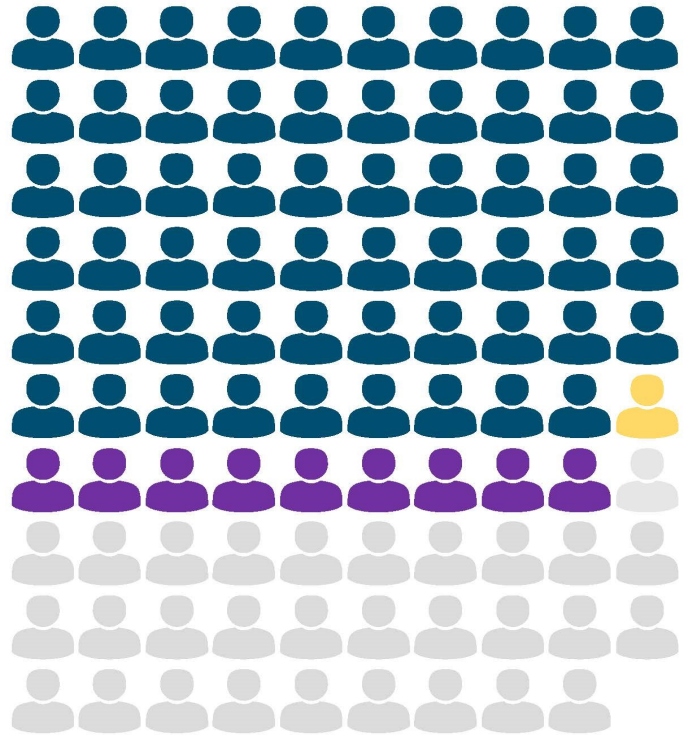
Transparency & Accountability

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.

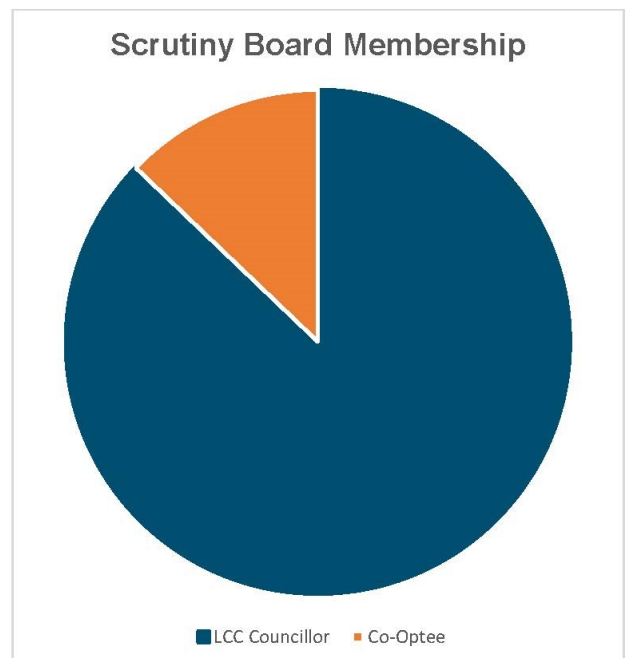
Membership

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 Scrutiny Board members



Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board 2023/24



Cllr Neil Buckley



Cllr Billy Flynn



Cllr Mike Foster



Cllr John Garvani



Cllr Sharon Hamilton



Cllr Arif Hussain



Cllr Sandy Lay



Cllr Abigail Marshall-Katung



Cllr Michael Millar



Cllr Mohammed Shahzad



Cllr Nicole Sharpe



Cllr Izaak Wilson

Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board: *Focusing on development and infrastructure functions and services to monitor progress in relation to transport and planning, regeneration and housing growth. The Board will also oversee economic growth functions and services to monitor progress towards being a strong and compassionate city, promoting opportunities for access to learning, skills and employment for all.*

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 (Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth) 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.



Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board

Statement from the Chair



“The priority for Scrutiny Board members this year has been to ask how the issues we explore directly impact upon the lives of people in Leeds and contribute towards inclusive growth in the city.

Over the last twelve months, we have seen inspiring examples of innovative projects, creative thinking and resilient teams working within increasingly difficult financial constraints. Equally, we have challenged decision makers and partners to be citizen focused and to set out how the work they are doing benefits the people we, as councillors, represent.

Our work has illustrated that strong partnerships have often been at the heart of delivering major changes in our city —making it cleaner, greener and more accessible for people who want to walk and cycle, for example. When we examined the complexities of affordable housing need in Leeds, it was again an innovative partnership approach that was shown to be key to delivering more of the right housing, of the right tenure, in the right places.

We have engaged with partners to consider how we can deliver further improvements to public transport—for example, to achieve simplified bus fares and bus services that better reflect the needs of people living, working and studying in the city.

Performance reports have assured members that the city’s post-pandemic economic recovery continues with increases in city centre footfall and rail passengers. However, we have sought to ensure that Council interventions also align with changing trends in work and leisure travel.

We have considered in detail how business support services delivered through the Council can further support economic growth, including the role of the employment and skills service in relation to the recruitment and retention of a talented workforce.

Scrutiny members examined how planning and flood risk teams work together to minimise the risk of future flooding linked to new housing development, and how the Council responds when problems with water management systems do result in flooding for residents or businesses.

All members of the Scrutiny Board remain unwavering in our support for the Vision Zero approach to road safety in Leeds. This year, we explored the particularly high proportion of young lives cut short due to road death and considered the ongoing challenge from campaigners about where the Council and its partners can do more to stop this tragic loss of life.

It has been a privilege to Chair the Scrutiny Board this year. I want to thank all those partners and officers that have taken the time to engage with the Scrutiny Board during 2023/24 —your insight and expertise has been invaluable. Finally, I want to thank the Scrutiny Board members for their commitment, engagement and contributions over the year.”

Councillor Abigail Marshall-Katung

Scrutiny Chair



Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board

Work Schedule 2023/24

June	July	September
Wednesday 28 June 2023 at 10.30am	Wednesday 19 July 2023 at 10.30am	Wednesday 27 September 2023 at 10.30am
Performance report (PM) Annual reports: - Sources of Work (DB) - Terms of Reference (DB) - Co-opted members (DB)	Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy Annual Update 2022 [deferred from 2022/23 & to include an update on Park and Ride services] (PSR) Sustainable Travel Gateway Scheme – Update on Progress (DB)	Leeds Safe Roads Vision Zero 2040 strategy. (PSR) Future Talent Plan (PSR) Call in meeting – Wednesday 27 September 2023 at 1.30pm Call In of Decision: <i>Active Travel Fund – A660 Headingley Lane/Woodhouse Lane, Walking & Cycling Improvements</i> (PSR)
November	December	January
Wednesday 1 November 2023 at 10.30am	Friday 8 December 2023 at 10.30am	Wednesday 10 January 2024 at 10.30am
Future of Bus Service Provision in Leeds (PSR)	Business Support in Leeds (PSR) Local Asset Review (PSR)	Performance Monitoring (PM) Financial Health Monitoring (PSR) Initial Budget Proposals (PDS) Leeds Affordable Housing Growth Delivery Partnership Plan update (PSR) Planning Portal – Outcome of 6-month trial regarding publication of third party comments online. (PSR) Call In Meeting - Wednesday 3 January 2024 at 10.30am Call in of Decision: <i>Lawnswood Roundabout Improvement Scheme - Approval to Proceed with Further Development and Delivery</i> (PSR)
Working Group Meetings		
	1 December 9.15am-10.15am: Employment Data working group (remote) 14 December 9.30am – 11am: Budget consultation working group (remote)	
February	April	
Wednesday 28 February 2024 at 10.30am	Wednesday 3 April 2024 at 10.30am	
Leeds Transport Strategy Update (PSR) Flood Risk Management Annual update (PSR)	100% Digital (PSR) Inclusive Growth update (PSR) Social Progress Index Update (PSR) End of Year Summary Statement (DB)	

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 (formerly twitter).

