



Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth 2021/22 Municipal Year Summary Report

Introduction

The role of Scrutiny is recognised nationally as a critical and integral part of the overall improvement landscape for local government, including the general accountability and governance arrangements for local councils and some other local statutory bodies.

The general Terms of Reference for all Scrutiny Boards are set out in Leeds City Council's Constitution – available here: [Scrutiny Boards \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/scrutiny-boards).

While general Terms of Reference is applied to all Scrutiny Boards, the variations in the Scrutiny Boards' remits, together with their special responsibilities, are captured within [Article 6 of Leeds City Council's Constitution](#).

Article 6 also sets out the Council's agreed 'Vision for Scrutiny' which follows the nationally agreed 'Four Principles of Good Scrutiny' and sets out a number of conditions that need to be present to enable the vision to be fulfilled locally.

Scrutiny Boards usually meet in public, holding key decision makers to account, as well as providing 'critical friend' challenge and support whenever service delivery outcomes and performance expectations are not being met.

Purpose of the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)

The remit of the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) involves focusing on services and issues affecting the lives of citizens living and working in the council's neighbourhoods to monitor progress as a citizen focused city, prioritising environmental sustainability.

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 also provision for Scrutiny Boards to appoint additional non-voting Co-opted Members.

For the 2021/22 municipal year, the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) included the following members:

- Councillor Jonathan Bentley
- Councillor Neil Buckley
- Councillor Katie Dye
- Councillor Bob Gettings JP
- Councillor Arif Hussain
- Councillor Lisa Martin
- Councillor Mohammed Shahzad
- Councillor Nicole Sharpe
- Councillor Paul Truswell
- Councillor Paul Wadsworth

Further information about individual Councillors can be accessed by clicking the names

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Scrutiny Board Chair

Councillor Paul Truswell was appointed as Chair of the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) during the Council meeting held on Thursday 20th May 2021.

A Statement from the Scrutiny Board Chair acknowledging key areas of work undertaken by the Scrutiny Board during the 2021/22 municipal year is set out below.

Completed Work Schedule for the 2021/22 Municipal Year

Each Scrutiny Board schedules eight formal or 'consultative'¹ meetings throughout the course of a municipal year which are open to the public. The decision to hold any additional meetings is left to the discretion of each Board.

Scrutiny Boards also adopt other methods of evidence gathering outside of the public meeting setting, such as site visits and working group meetings. The primary purpose of a working group meeting is to obtain and/or develop information which cannot realistically be undertaken within the confines of a formally convened Scrutiny Board meeting. A working group cannot discharge the primary purpose of a Scrutiny Board i.e. it cannot undertake Inquiries independently from its parent Scrutiny Board, conduct Inquiries, issue reports/recommendations (other than to its parent Scrutiny Board) or in any way present itself to a third party as representing the views of the parent Scrutiny Board.

The completed work schedule of the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) for the 2021/22 municipal year has been provided as part of this summary report. This presents an overview of all meetings held throughout the year and the work items considered as part of each meeting. The work schedule also includes links to the agenda papers, minutes and webcast recordings of the Scrutiny Board's publicly accessible meetings.

¹ Consultative meetings are held remotely and webcasted live to enable public access. However, they are not a public meeting held in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.



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Councillor Paul Truswell Chair of Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)

“The Council’s role in driving inclusive growth and reducing inequality has never been more crucial. Scrutinising elements of the pandemic response and recovery was a recurring theme for Board members during 2021/22.

Leeds has been described as a “two-speed city.” This reflects the social, environmental and economic inequalities facing many of our citizens. The Covid pandemic has increased these disparities. The Board has systematically examined key areas that fall within its remit to identify how they address inequalities in a practical and measurable way.

The Board scrutinised support for local businesses in the context of both the pandemic and emerging recovery plans, including the future of town and district centres. We examined the support available to help Leeds residents to access skilled jobs, and the potential barriers to employment, including digital exclusion and public transport connections.

In addition to scrutinising the wide-ranging initiatives designed to deliver inclusive growth locally, the Board has focused specifically on how the Council will measure the actual impact of its inclusive growth activities.

Members dedicated a significant part of their 2021/22 work programme to an inquiry into the prevention of deaths and serious injuries on our roads. The Board heard powerful evidence from a range of partners. The most compelling contributions came from parents who shared their heart rending experiences about the deaths of their children on our roads. We provided an interim version of our inquiry report to the Executive Board to support the planned consultation on the adoption of a ‘Vision Zero’ approach to the prevention of deaths and injuries on our roads.

In November the Board welcomed representatives from West Yorkshire Combined Authority and several bus service providers to continue our examination of local bus services. In addition to issues such as bus routes, customer communication and punctuality, the Board considered evidence about reduced passenger volumes, new patterns of use, and the potential impact of such factors on future funding models.

As in previous years, the Scrutiny Board continued to track progress on the delivery of recommendations from previous inquiries, including Housing Mix and Digital Inclusion. The Board also examined the latest Flood Risk Management Plan.

Like all Scrutiny Boards, the Board has a responsibility to participate in the development of the Council’s Budget and Policy Framework. This year Board members provided recommendations regarding the introduction of the Best City Ambition, scrutinised key performance indicators, and responded to consultation regarding the Council’s budget proposals.

I would wish to thank all the Elected Members, officers and partners who have contributed to the Board’s work during the last year – and particularly this year’s Board members for their commitment and their astute consideration of the issues that came before the Board.



SCRUTINY BOARD (INFRASTRUCTURE, INVESTMENT & INCLUSIVE GROWTH)

Work Schedule for 2021/2022 Municipal Year

June	July	August
<u>Agenda, reports & recording for Thursday 24 June</u> <u>10.30 am</u>	<u>Agenda, reports & recording for Thursday 22 July</u> <u>10.00 am</u>	No Scrutiny Board meeting scheduled.
Performance report [PM] Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy – post-public consultation update [PSR] Update on Powered Two Wheel access to Bus Lanes. [PDS] Sources of Work (DB) Terms of Reference (DB)	Local Plan Update [PSR] Inclusive Growth agenda: • Skills/Employment [PSR] • City and District Centres [PSR] Co-opted members (DB)	
Working Group Meetings		
	Powered Two-Wheeler use of bus lanes (PDS)	
Site Visits		

Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response

Inclusive Growth Strategy

PEOPLE, **PLACE** and **PRODUCTIVITY** - Relevant **BIG** Ideas **3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10**



SCRUTINY BOARD (INFRASTRUCTURE, INVESTMENT & INCLUSIVE GROWTH)

Work Schedule for 2021/2022 Municipal Year

September	October	November
<u>Agenda, reports & recording for Wednesday 29 September 10.30am.</u>	<u>Agenda, reports & recording for Wednesday 27 October 10.30 am</u>	<u>Agenda, reports & recording for Wednesday 24 November 10.30am</u>
Road Safety Inquiry: Session 1 [PSR]	Road Safety Inquiry: Session 2 [PSR]	Advancing Bus Service Provision [RT]
<u>Additional meeting: Agenda, reporting & recording for 16 September 10.30am</u> - Referral to Scrutiny (Cllr Robinson): Closure of Leeds Road in Scholes [PSR] - Vote on Powered Two-Wheeler access to bus lanes. (PDS)		
Working Groups		
Site Visits		

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Work Schedule for 2021/2022 Municipal Year

December	January	February
No meetings Scheduled	<u>Agenda, reports & recording for Wednesday 19 January 10.30 am</u>	<u>Agenda, reports & recording for Thursday 17 February at 10.30am</u>
	Performance Monitoring [PM] Financial Health Monitoring [PM] Initial Budget Proposals [PDS] Inclusive Growth: measuring inclusive growth/the Social Progress Index [PSR] Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme – Update [PSR]	Inclusive Growth update [PSR] Flood Risk Management [PSR] Housing Mix Update [RT]
Working Group Meetings		
8/12 Budget consultation (PDS)		24/2/22 – KSI inquiry discussion (PSR)
Site Visits		

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SCRUTINY BOARD (INFRASTRUCTURE, INVESTMENT & INCLUSIVE GROWTH)

Work Schedule for 2021/2022 Municipal Year

March	April	Notes
No meetings scheduled	<u>Agenda, reports & recording for Wednesday 6 April at 10.30am</u>	
	100% Digital [RT] Highways communication protocol (as per SB discussion on 16/9) [PSR] KSI Inquiry outstanding items: [PSR] - School Streets - Pedestrian Crossing Criteria - School Crossing Criteria	Deferred: Inclusive Growth: Green economy update [PSR]
Working Group Meetings		
Site Visits		

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