

**FOR: COUNCIL MEETING**  
**17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**  
**AGENDA ITEM 7**  
**(GREEN ENCLOSURE)**

**REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors Marshall (Chairman), Warfield (Vice Chairman), Mrs Woodward (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Allsopp, Mrs Bland, Evans, Humphreys, Ms Perkins, Salter, Taylor and Tittley.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were received from Councillors Mrs Bacon and Mrs Flowith.

(In accordance with Council Procedure No. 17 Councillor Greatorex also attended the meeting.)

County Councillor David Smith also attended the meeting to as the County Council's representative from the Health Staffordshire Select Committee

At the meeting of the Community, Housing and Health (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015 the following matters were considered:

<b>1. HEALTH ISSUES</b>
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**(a) Community Hospitals Consultation - Sir Robert Peel**

- 1.1 Members received an update following the consultation to close the day case theatre at the Sir Robert Peel Hospital (SRP). It was reported that the Board of the Burton Foundation NHS Trust had met and following the responses received, had agreed to keep the day case theatre open until June 2015 to allow for an action plan to boost activity at the theatre to be implemented. It was noted that Engaging Communities Staffordshire would also be conducting an audit into claims that some patients had not been given the SRP hospital as a choice of venue for their operations.
- 1.2 Some Members were concerned that keeping the theatre open, even if temporarily, did not deal with the fact that further investment would soon be needed in the equipment and facilities at SRP. Other Members welcomed the result and the decision to re-consider the proposal to close.
- 1.3 It was noted that the Committee were still awaiting clarification regarding the cost of this consultation exercise.
- 1.4 The information was noted.

**(b) Burntwood Health Centres**

- 1.5 Members received an update and it was reported that the temporary health and wellbeing centre (located on the Burntwood Leisure Centre site) had received planning permission to continue for a further five years and that the land owner (CISWO) had also renewed the lease for a similar duration.. NHS England has renewed the contract for the provision of medical services delivered from this centre.
- 1.6 It was noted that it was still planned for development to begin on the new Greenwood House health centre in the summer.
- 1.7 Members then noted that NHS England had made £75k available for investment in the Fulfen practice's surgery at Chasetown and this premise is now up to a better standard. It was reported that the Salters Meadow practice had been assessed and has been deemed satisfactory for the next five years. Councillor Mrs Evans raised a general concern that the family health services continued to be inadequate in Burntwood and that there would be further emerging pressures with the development of new houses. Pressures are exacerbated by the 'distressed' health economy in the county which may deter doctors from wishing to work locally.
- 1.8 Members requested information on three new clinics (to be held at Greenhill health Centre, Salters Meadow Health centre and Beacon Park Village) that had been reported in the local press and it was agreed to investigate and send Members any information found.
- 1.9 The information was noted.

**(c) Code of Joint Working Arrangements with Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee**

- 1.10 Members received a copy of the revised Code of Joint Working Arrangements as approved by the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee. It was requested that the Community, Housing & Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee adopt this revised code as it had the remit for health scrutiny at District Council level.
- 1.11 The Committee felt that there should be an opportunity to allow any Member of the CHH Committee to attend the Select committee and have voting rights if the Chairman was unavailable. This matter will be raised with officers at the County Council to clarify the voting position of any substitute Member.
- 1.12 It was agreed that the revised Code of Joint Working Arrangements be adopted.

**(d) Feedback from Staffordshire Health Select Committee**

- 1.13 The Committee received notes from the recent meeting of the Staffordshire Health Select Committee. It was reported that the Chairman had attended the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and gave the Committee a synopsis of what had been discussed. It was noted that the County Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing had also attended the meeting to give an update on the modernisation of day opportunities for people with learning disabilities.
- 1.14 County Councillor David Smith invited the Committee to attend a meeting of the Staffordshire Health Select Committee if they wished to do so and also reminded Members that if there are queries that they wished to be raised, to notify him and he would raise them on their behalf.
- 1.15 The information was noted.

## **2. MID YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT – ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN 14/15 FOR COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH DIRECTORATE**

- 2.1 The Committee received a report on progress against the activities and projects set out in the Directorate's One Year Action Plan for 14/15. It was noted that key performance indicators relating to activity during the first six months of the year were also included in the report. It was noted that income from the Community Transport service had increased and that anti-social behaviour cases dealt with by the District Council was now being measured. It was also reported that there had been no real change in performance from the Connects team despite the changes in the benefits system. It was then reported that there had been a reduction in expenditure for bed and breakfast for housing needs.
- 2.2 Members felt the performance indicators were positive and asked for congratulations to be passed on to the staff. However, concerns were expressed that capacity issues following reductions in staffing numbers could cause a tipping point where performance begins to suffer.
- 2.3 Members asked why the number of passengers using Community Transport was showing a downward trend and it was reported that it may be due to the type of passenger using the service and also that seasonal use could be a factor. The Cabinet Member agreed to monitor the situation.
- 2.4 The report was noted.

## **3. DIRECTORATE TOP 10 – 15/16**

- 3.1 The Committee received a report on the top 10 issues which are facing the Community, Housing and Health Directorate in 2015/16.
- 3.2 Members commented on the risk arising from the capacity of staff to deliver the Top 10. It was noted that the Top 10 format was to simplify the process and enable officers to focus on a smaller range of priorities.
- 3.3 The report was noted.

## **4. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014**

- 4.1 The Committee received a report on the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 along with proposed changes to delegated powers and levels of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) pertaining to the Act. It was noted that an amendment to the scheme of delegation had been circulated to Members.
- 4.2 Members emphasised that care needed to be taken to only authorise suitably qualified and experienced staff to implement the powers under the Act; ultimately officers could be required to attend court and therefore this level of responsibility would need to be restricted. It was explained to Members that relevant officers each hold a card which lists the roles for which they are individually authorised in relation a range of legislation. It was reported that the authorisation was given by the Director or Environmental Health Manager having regard to the skills and experience of each individual, also to ensure sufficient capacity across the team to fulfil statutory duties. It was noted that this was a very longstanding practice across the environmental health profession.

- 4.3 Members discussed a possible reduction in the fee for early payment of a FPN and whether this would encourage payment. They considered the relative merits of a discounted charge ranging between £60 - £80. Members felt that a discount of £20 was sufficient to encourage payment of the FPN. Members were reminded that the purpose of the FPN was as a deterrent to anti social behaviours rather than an income stream for the Council and therefore the level of fee should be set accordingly. Members were advised that early payment for dog fouling and litter had been set at £80 with a £10 reduction for early payment. The Committee recommended that the same level was set for FPNs issued in accordance with the ASB, Crime and Policing Act.
- 4.4 The following was agreed
- (1) That the requirements contained within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 be noted; and
  - (2) That the proposed delegations and levels of Fixed Penalty Notices be endorsed subject to the early payment amount being £70 instead of £80.

## **5. EQUALITY STATEMENT**

- 5.1 The Committee received a report on the proposed Equality Statement for 2015 prior to submission to Cabinet. It was reported that the value of conducting impact assessments could be seen in tasks including the Local Plan, Mobile Homes Fees Policy and Community Transport Dial-a-Ride scheme. It was reported that the intention was for impact assessments to become a matter of course.
- 5.2 Councillor Ms Perkins requested that along with the more common groups, trans-gender and trans-sexual groups are also considered when assessing impact; it was felt that the needs of these groups are often overlooked Members were keen to ensure that the equality impact of all Service Reviews should continue to be assessed in detail and the potential impacts on people with protected characteristics be thoroughly considered.
- 5.3 Members felt that the District Council should use its community leadership role to set the standard for developing and promoting a culture of equality and non discriminatory practice; reference was made to the recent Peer Review and the need to ensure relationships between Members and officers do not become too close.
- 5.4 Councillor Mrs Woodward expressed concern that there may still be differences in the treatment of male and female officers within the Council and it was felt that positive change should be promoted. Members (including the Equalities Champion) and officers have a responsibility to facilitate this so that the District Council can evidence that it is an organisation which welcomes diversity. It is important that everybody recognises the importance of equality issues and it was suggested that attendance at equality training should be obligatory for all Members post election. Whilst noting that some incoming Members will be familiar with equality issues from their own workplace and previous training / experience, it was suggested that a further recommendation for mandatory equality training should be included in the report to Cabinet.
- 5.5 The Cabinet Member reported that although it may take longer, a cultural change would happen and a new Council after the election would aid this.

5.6 The following was agreed

(1) That the Equality Statement for 2015 be recommended to Cabinet for approval; and

(2) That Cabinet be recommended to make training on Equality mandatory training for Members after the may elections

## **6. LOCALITY COMMISSIONING**

6.1 The Committee received a report on the principles of locality commissioning, how it affects other partners and the measures taken to keep the process as transparent as possible. It was reported that the closing date for bids was the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 and 80 bids had been received against a budget of £0.5million. It was noted that there had been no bids against the Lot for preventing homelessness.

6.2 Councillor Mrs Woodward was concerned that there was a lack of Member engagement in the process and information only filtered through once a decision on awards for funding had already taken place. She felt that local intelligence was invaluable and that Members would be able to comment on the capacity of organisations to perform. She felt that an early view of the recommendations of the Local Commissioning Panels to the Board would be useful.

6.3 Councillor Greatorex reminded Members of the steps taken to keep the locality commissioning process as transparent as possible. Members of this Committee had set the priorities for investing the LDC element of the locality commissioning budget including making a late change to include an allocation for homelessness in recognition of the Supporting People cuts. The process had not been greatly dissimilar from three years ago when all bids had been scored by officer panels which is again the approach being used in the locality commissioning process. Cllr Greatorex also referred to the knowledge and expertise within the Panels' membership and his view that this is an officer role.

6.4 The report was noted.

## **7. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION 2014**

7.1 The Committee received a report on the outcome of the Community Consultation carried out in May – June 2014 and the statistical results of the exercise and key findings.

7.2 The results were discussed by the Committee and it was noted that some general trends had been identified including the civic car and Garrick spending. It was also noted that it may not be that simple to just cut a service as there may be some underlying implications which have not been considered. It was noted however that there may be different ways of doing things and these would need to be investigated.

7.3 Officers and Members of the Task Group were thanked for their hard work to date.

7.4 The report was noted.

## **8. WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN**

- 8.1 Members discussed the Work Programme and it was noted that the item of Burntwood Health Centres would be considered at the March meeting. An update on Disabled Facilities Grants was requested. It was agreed that a report on DFG's be added to the work programme. It was reported that there would not be a report to Cabinet about the Better Care Fund as it was no longer required for the District Council to enter into a legal agreement.
- 8.2 The Work Programme and Forward Plan was noted and it was agreed that it be amended where necessary.

T. Marshall  
Chairman  
Community, Housing and Health (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee