

NO PROBSOVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 MARCH 2022

PRESENT:

Councillors Leytham (Chair), Norman (Vice-Chair), Evans, Robertson, Silvester-Hall, Mrs Tranter, Warburton and M Wilcox

34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors R. Cross, Grange, A. Little, Parton-Hughes and Powell.

35 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

36 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

37 HEALTH MATTERS

The Committee discussed health matters and what had and was due to be raised at the Staffordshire County Council's Health and Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair gave a brief report on what had happened since the last meeting as the Lichfield representative at the SCC Committee and covered areas including Emergency Care Hubs, CCG's and the current situation regarding the George Bryan Centre. It was noted that its services had move to St George's Hospital in Stafford following a fire and there were still no plans to move back to the Fazeley location. Members wished to have this issue raised at the County's Committee as it did leave a gap in mental health provision in the area. It was also felt that children's mental health and work within schools was vital and it was disappointing that it had been re-tabled.

Information was given the Community Hospitals and that they would be taking on new roles. The maternity unit at Samuel Johnson was also discussed.

Items raised by the Committee included Ambulance long waiting times as Members had been contacted regarding these and it was asked to have it raised where they were positioned when waiting for calls.

It was also asked if health provision for Ukrainian refugees had been considered and raise that joined up thinking by all agencies should be a priority to support those who come to Staffordshire. It was help that mental health support should be part of this and not left just to volunteers as there could be complex needs. The incredible work of Lichfield City of Sanctuary was highlighted. It was noted that there was a government sponsorship programme to find accommodation for refugees and it was asked if the Housing Associations could be contacted to see how they could help.

RESOLVED: That the information given be noted.

38 NOTES FROM TASK GROUPS

The Committee received the notes from the Dual Recycling Task Group and the following points were raised.

- What was the risk of not having the bags delivered. It was noted that the first tranche had been received and recycling would carry on “as is” for residents with the cost being to the Council if not delivered in time.
- There is a storage issue if bins were to be taken back.
- Communications was key and the draft leaflet had been reviewed by the Task Group who were supportive of it. It was felt that Parish Council publications could be utilised to help further. Labels on bins would also be effective.
- There would be weights in the bottom of the bags to prevent them from blowing away in the wind.

The Committee also received the notes from the recent Climate Emergency Task Group and the following points were raised.

- That external organisations had been invited and helped the Task Group
- That there was not an Action Plan however an Organisational Carbon Reduction Plan had been created and the Task Group used the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Checklist from Climate Emergency UK checklist to consider it.
- It was recognised that it will not be quick or easy work to undertake but the Council was heading in the right direction.
- That communications again was vital especially when getting residents on board for the wider District work.
- That reaching young people would also be key and they have concerns regarding climate issues.
- That this subject needs to feed into other areas of work of the Council. An update to the Local Plan was given at this point.
- That the Cabinet Member will be invited to the next Task Group meeting to discuss the progression of an Action Plan.

RESOLVED: That the notes be received.

39 CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE - UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal report on outcomes of the Corporate Peer Challenge and resulting Action Plan. An update on what areas of the Action Plan had already been achieved was also received.

The Committee asked questions in the following areas.

- Strand 3 referred to using data to drive decision making and support district wide improvement however it was not clear how that could be measurable. It was asked if this needed to be reviewed. It was reported that it referred to a data set review as part of the Being a Better Council programme. It was noted that it would include district and ward level data sets and would feed into the Strategic Plan and provided to Ward Members to help their work.

The Committee gave the following views.

- That a report should come back to Overview & Scrutiny at the end of May to consider what actions had not been achieved and why. This would also coincide with the review date set with the Peer Challenge Group
- That interim progress briefing papers be circulated.

- That the actions mostly look like easy to measure outcomes which is preferable.

RESOLVED: That the views of the Committee be noted and further reports be submitted to the Committee.

40 WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

The work programme and forward plan were considered by the Committee. It was noted that the briefing paper on the Councillor Community Fund had been received and it was agreed that although many good outcomes from the scheme, there were still some matters that needed to be considered further including a governance process. It was agreed for this to be done via a Task Group. The Leader of the Council also requested that the Task Group also investigate what would be deemed acceptable level of risks and recognising the balance between this and the low value of grants.

The Committee were notified of the request from the Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement and Revenues & Benefits to have Overview & Scrutiny input into the review of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme. It was agreed to create a Member Task Group for this item.

It was requested that update briefing papers be received on the Be a Better Council programme and on the progress of the Development Management improvements.

RESOLVED: That the work programme and forward plan be noted.

41 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That, as publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

IN PRIVATE

42 NOTES FROM TASK GROUP

The Committee received the notes from the last Lichfield City Masterplan Task Group. This item was held in private as it included confidential information.

RESOLVED: That the notes be received.

(The Meeting closed at Time Not Specified)

CHAIRMAN