

Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2019 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.06pm.

Present: Councillor Redford (Chair); Councillors Cullinan and A Dearing

Also Present: Councillor Falp, Portfolio Holder – Health & Community Protection

8. **Apologies and Substitutes**

There were no apologies received.

9. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

10. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2019 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11. **Review of Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee 2018/19**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Health and Community Protection which summarised the review and the achievements of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee during 2018/19. The report also provided information to aid the discussion of the Committee in order that the opinion of the Committee could be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as it had requested a review to be undertaken of the future of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

The Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee had met once since the elections in May 2019. During this meeting, the Chair was elected and the revised Health and Wellbeing Action Plan based upon the Council's three strand objectives and the identified 2019/20 priorities were scrutinised.

There was a Governance Review of the democratic structure of the Council taking place and this was due to continue for a further 12 months.

It was recommended that the review of the Sub-Committee should be considered in the wider Governance Review and therefore any recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the future of the Sub-Committee should be deferred for 12 months. This would also provide Members of the Sub-Committee with the opportunity to assess its value and contribute to the wider Governance Review.

Members were informed that the Sub-Committee had undertaken the following activities over the period:

2018/19:

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Update
- Annual Status Report – Air Quality Management

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- Scrutiny of the Promoting Health & Wellbeing in the Wider District – Focus on Mental Health priority
- Scrutiny of the 'Improved Housing Conditions' priority
- Scrutiny of the Health and Wellbeing Benefits of Warwick District Council's Direct Access Hostel
- Scrutiny of the Health and Wellbeing Approach 2018-19 Annual Update

2019/20:

- Update received on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Wave 1 (presented by the Associate Director – NHS South Warwickshire CCG and WCC)
- Training provided for the Committee
- Scrutiny of the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Action Plan.

Members of the Sub-Committee were concerned that should it be decided that the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee was no longer needed, its function would have to be performed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Members felt that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee agendas were already extremely busy and there was a shared concern that there would not be enough time and therefore attention given to the scrutiny of the health element within the District.

The Chair emphasised that it was important to keep the meetings of the Sub-Committee focused on those elements where it was within its remit to make a difference. Members recognized that a large majority of the issues were the responsibility of Warwickshire County Council and not that of the District Council.

In response to questions from Members, the Portfolio Holder for Health and Community Protection and the Head of Health & Community Protection explained that if agreed, the report would be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

It was therefore

Recommended to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that in light of the ongoing Governance Review of Democratic Structure of Warwick District Council, the work of the Sub-Committee continues for a further 12 months and its role and remit be considered as part of the wider Governance review.

Resolved that the work of the Sub-Committee and the Council against the Health and Wellbeing approach since the start of the 2018/19 municipal year, be noted.

12. Annual Status Report – Air Quality Management

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Health and Community Protection which updated Members on the local air quality management.

Appendix 1 to the report was the Warwick District Council Annual Status 2019 report.

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The Chair thanked officers for a very good report and for their hard work in producing it.

In response to questions from Members, the Portfolio Holder for Health and Community Protection, the Head of Health & Community Protection, the Environmental Protection Team Leader and the Safer Communities Manager explained that:

- one of the areas where the limits were exceeded was Castle Hill in Kenilworth;
- three additional diffusion tubes were added in this location in response to previous exceedances;
- the sites mentioned at page 42 in the report, Appendix A, were monitored because they had previously experienced a problem;
- Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council were working together to tackle the pollution levels;
- at the moment, there were no concerns regarding PM10 and PM2.5, which were both well below the permitted annual exceedances. However, the only way to keep on top was to keep monitoring them;
- PM2.5 were the ones of particular concern;
- the monitoring equipment was extremely expensive and it was owned by DEFRA;
- Warwick District Council was meeting its requirements in terms of monitoring;
- the devices referred to at the third bullet point, page 21 in the report, were body-worn personal devices, and volunteers would take bus, cycle and car journeys. The data generated would provide a database around behavioural change;
- the new diffusion tubes referred to at the sixth bullet point, page 21 in the report, were actual test tubes with chemicals and filter paper;
- the monitoring device on the Parade next to Tesco Supermarket in Royal Leamington Spa was situated at approximately 2.1 – 2.7 metres high;
- monitoring using the diffusion tubes was not a matter of placing one tube in, rather, changing a tube every two weeks for a whole year, and this was therefore a significant investment. Whilst Councillors could ask for additional sites to be monitored, the cost of it would also need to be considered when making a decision;
- a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) had been produced for Air Quality, which needed to be taken into consideration by applicants when bringing forward planning applications;
- it was up to the individual developer to do a software modelling exercise based on older data. This would then be looked at by officers, who could accept it or go back to the developer with their comments;
- the report was still a draft report because it had not yet been approved by DEFRA, which was the final verification process;
- the report was available online and with the Committee papers;
- the electric buses bid for route 57 had been unsuccessful, and officers were trying to submit other bids which hopefully would be more successful;
- there was a need to both change behaviours and provide the necessary infrastructure. The issue with many villages not being served by a reliable bus service remained;

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- Warwick University encouraged its students to use public transport rather than drive;
- a train stop at Warwick University would be beneficial and the Head of Health and Community Protection agreed to have a conversation with the relevant stakeholders; and
- it was important to keep an eye on the HS2 development and the potential impact it could have on air quality.

Resolved that the report and appendix be noted.

13. Health & Wellbeing Outside Bodies Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

Councillor Redford informed the Sub-Committee that the last meeting of Warwickshire County Council – Adult Social Care & Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been cancelled.

14. Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Committee Services which informed Members of the work programme for 2019/20, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and the current Forward Plan. The work programme should be updated at each meeting to accurately reflect the workload of the Sub-Committee.

Resolved that

- (1) policy on Regulating the Private Rent Sector – Health and Wellbeing Aspects and Physical Activity Promotion and Development reports be added on the Work Programme for 14 January 2020; and
- (2) the Head of Health and Community Protection will invite Ms Van de Venter, the Associate Director – NHS South Warwickshire CCG to attend the 14 January 2020 meeting if possible.

(The meeting finished at 7.15pm)

CHAIR
19 February 2020