

Executive

Excerpt of the Minutes of the meeting held remotely on Thursday 22 April 2021 at 6.00pm, which was broadcast live via the Council's YouTube Channel.

Present: Councillors Day (Leader), Cooke, Falp, Hales, Matecki and Rhead.

Also Present: Councillors: Boad (Liberal Democrat Group Observer), Davison (Green Group Observer), Milton (Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee) and Nicholls (Chair of Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee and Labour Group Observer).

115. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made in relation to the Part 1 items.

Part 1

(Items upon which a decision by the Council was required)

116. **Health and Well-Being Strategy and Associated Processes**

The Executive considered a report from the Chief Executive which sought the approval of the new Warwickshire wide Health and Well Being Strategy, requested that Members noted the Director of Public Health's annual report, and sought support for the development and implementation of a South Warwickshire Place Plan concerning health and well-being issues.

Since October 2020, local government, health bodies and partner agencies had been working to develop a new Warwickshire wide Health and Well-Being Strategy for the period 2021 to 2026. This process had included public consultation, and the resultant Strategy was attached at Appendix A to the report. It was proposed that this be recommended to Council for approval and to form part of the Council's Policy Framework. An easy to read version which very effectively summarised the Strategy was attached at Appendix B to the report.

Alongside the Strategy, the Warwickshire Director of Public Health had recently published her annual report. It contained a number of recommendations to improve the health of the Warwickshire population and to reduce the inequality of health. These recommendations would require a separate consideration and report.

The health and social care system that had been established for the Coventry and Warwickshire sub region had two Health and Well Being Strategies – one for Coventry and one for Warwickshire and had also identified four places within its overall system; these being Northern Warwickshire (North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council areas); Rugby (Rugby Borough Council's area); Coventry (Coventry City Council's area); and South Warwickshire (Stratford upon Avon and Warwick District Council areas). These "places" reflected the different places that existed from a health geography perspective within the sub region.

It was expected that most of the work to deliver the Warwickshire Health and Well Being Strategy would need to be delivered at Place level. The overall

approach was to use the Kings Fund model as a framework within which agencies would seek to integrate tackling the pre-determinants of poor health as well as improving the health and social care sector services. There were several multi-agency groups which had been put in place over the past two years to try to take this approach forward.

Progress had been made in the past year on a South Warwickshire Place Plan, which focused on proposals involving the local health and social care sector led by South Warwickshire Foundation Trust (SWFT). However, discussions had led to the development of a proposal at Appendix C to the report, which would lead to a Place Plan for the population of South Warwickshire, spanning all four quadrants of the Kings Fund model and would integrate some of the existing multi-agency groups.

This approach, if agreed, would take the next year to put in place and would enhance joint working locally across a number of agencies for the benefit of the local community. There could also be potential organisational benefits in terms of sharing costs, premises etc. SWFT had also set up a South Warwickshire place website so that the joint work of agencies involved could be easily accessed.

The next year would see work on an action plan developed and that would involve the Council's services and projects. This process would then feed into the Councils' service area planning and budget setting processes.

The Council could decide not to adopt the Health and Well Being Strategy, but given the extent of work upon it, that was not a course of action that was recommended. In respect of the Annual Report from the Director of Public Health, there were no real alternative actions to consider at this stage.

The Council could consider not agreeing to the proposal at Appendix C to the report, but this would leave a multi-agency structure that was duplicating and overly burdensome on staff and Portfolio Holder time. Given the added emphasis to deliver the wider Strategy at a place level, then a more effective approach was needed as was proposed.

Councillor Falp thanked the Chief Executive for the amount of work he put into the report. She then proposed the report as laid out.

Recommended to Council that the Warwickshire wide Health and Well Being Strategy at Appendix A to the minutes, be agreed, and forms part of the Council's Policy Framework.

Resolved that

- (1) the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2020/21, be noted; and
- (2) the proposal to develop the South Warwickshire Place Plan concerning health and wellbeing matters, as set out at Appendix C to the report, be supported.

117. **Homelessness Strategy 2021-26**

The Executive considered a report from Housing. A homelessness strategy was a statutory document and the most recent for Warwick District was adopted in 2017 to run for three years, until 2020.

The report presented two complementary documents for adoption as the new strategy to direct work on homelessness for the period 2021 to 2026.

In accordance with the Homelessness Act 2002, Local Housing Authorities had a duty to carry out a review of homelessness in their District from time to time and to prepare and publish a strategy in response to the findings. A homelessness review needed to consider, for that District:

- (a) the levels, and likely future levels, of homelessness;
- (b) the activities which were carried out for the purpose of: preventing homelessness; securing that accommodation was or would be available for people who are or may become homeless; and providing support for people who are or may become homeless, or who had been homeless and needed support to prevent them becoming homeless again; and
- (c) the resources available to the authority, the social services authority, other public authorities, voluntary organisations and other persons for such activities.

The Homelessness Strategy should have then be directed towards ensuring sufficient and satisfactory provision for preventing homelessness, and for securing accommodation and support provision for people who become homeless.

The previous review was carried out in 2016 and the strategic response was incorporated into the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2017-20. During 2020, a new homelessness review had been undertaken and the results of this, together with the forward plans for dealing with the issues identified, were incorporated into the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

A number of broader cross-cutting themes linked to homelessness had been identified over recent years that could better be addressed by a partnership response at a County level. The Council therefore worked with the County Council and the four other District and Borough Councils in Warwickshire to produce a joint countywide Homelessness Strategy: "Preventing Homelessness in Warwickshire: a multi-agency approach, 2021-2023". This work was assisted by the Strategic Homelessness Board that, as well as the Councils, included:

- HM Prisons & Probation Service;
- p.h.i.l. (Preventing Homelessness Improving Lives);
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire;
- South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust;
- Warwickshire Police;
- Warwickshire & West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company; and
- Warwickshire Cares.

The joint Countywide strategy sat alongside, and was complementary to, this strategy in providing a comprehensive and holistic approach to the issues of homelessness and rough sleeping for Warwick district and beyond. It covered a shorter period of time, reflecting the greater degree of complexity of the issues and uncertainty involved in such a partnership approach, which had not been tried before. However, it was this "Warwick-only" strategy, as it was based upon a homelessness review, that was strictly speaking the statutory document with the joint strategy in a supporting role.

Homelessness was a dynamic issue, influenced by Government policy and legislation. Impacts could be felt immediately or might take more time to bed in. Responses to changes driven by external factors such as the 'Everyone in Initiative', needed to be swift to enable measures to be put in place that tackle the issues at hand and ensure that homeless people got the support and services that they needed.

In terms of alternative options, not adopting a new strategy had been considered, but this had been rejected because a homelessness strategy was a statutory obligation.

The option of developing the whole strategy on a countywide basis was considered. However, given the demographic differences between the five Council areas of Warwickshire, it was considered that such a document would be too unwieldy. It was therefore more appropriate to have a countywide strategy focussing on the key issues that could better be addressed on the wider geographic scale, alongside the localised strategy tackling the District issues. A decision on whether to renew the countywide strategy in 2023 would be taken closer to the time, once an assessment of its success has been carried out.

The option of developing a strategy for South Warwickshire was considered but not adopted at this time because currently the two areas experience quite different housing market and service pressures and the required service provision needs to reflect this. The countywide strategy above already picked up and highlighted those issues that could best be dealt with across borders.

The option of having separate strategies for homelessness and for rough sleeping had been considered. However, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had indicated a strong preference, and a potential future statutory requirement, for combined strategies. To have produced separate strategies could therefore jeopardise funding bids for future central government housing and homelessness programmes.

Councillor Matecki proposed the report as laid out.

Recommended to Council that

- (1) the "Warwick District Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-26" attached as Appendix One to the minutes; be approved.
 - (2) the "Preventing Homelessness in Warwickshire: a multi-agency approach, 2021-23", attached as Appendix Two to the minutes, be approved as a
- Item 10 / Page 4

supplementary and complementary strategy; and

- (3) authority be delegated to the Head of Housing Services, in consultation with the Housing and Culture Portfolio Holder, to review and amend the action plan of the strategy from time to time during the lifetime of the strategy.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Matecki)
Forward Plan Reference 1,183

123. **Public and Press**

Resolved that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below.

Item Numbers	Paragraph Numbers	Reason
124	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Part 1

(Items upon which a decision by Council is required)

124. **Costs Associated with the Specification Upgrades at Oakley Grove Phase II**

The Executive considered a report from Housing.

The recommendations in the report were approved.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Matecki)
Forward Plan Reference 1,182

(The meeting ended at 7.01pm)