

# Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 November 2017 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Parkins (Chairman); Councillors Bromley, Mrs Cain, Mrs Falp, and Mrs Redford.

**Also Present:** Councillor Thompson.

## 8. **Apologies and Substitutes**

- (a) An apology for absence was received from Councillor Quinney; and
- (b) Councillor Bromley substituted for Councillor Mrs Knight.

## 9. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 10. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 11. **Health and Wellbeing Annual Update Report**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Health & Community Protection which provided an annual update of the progress being made in delivering the Council's Health and Wellbeing approach and on improving the health and wellbeing of the communities within Warwick District.

The Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Approach detailed the Council's three priorities:

- to embed HWB at a strategic level;
- to promote HWB to the wider community (Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities as sub-headings to this priority); and
- to address the HWB of our own staff.

The report sought to provide an update on the work being undertaken by the Council to deliver against these priorities and objectives (detailed in Appendix 1 to the report).

In response to questions from Members, the Head of Health & Community Protection, the Community Partnership Manager and the Localities & Partnerships Officer responded that:

- The Council ensured that health and wellbeing was embedded into every service area through meetings of the Health Officers Group which had representatives from every service area. This group met every six weeks to ensure that objectives were progressing.

## **HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

- The recent staff welfare event had proved very successful and another was planned in the New Year. Ten men had used the prostate cancer screening service.
- Councillors would be provided with details of future events, including sports events so that they could spread the word with their constituents.
- The Head of Health & Community Protection would circulate figures of staff accessing the Council's "Cycle to Work" initiative and cycling to work. (Councillor Bromley asked for the figures.)
- A video was available for all to view on the Council's website on the Dementia Friends programme.
- The Council was going to use grant funding to develop a District wide baby breast feeding support scheme, aiming to make its buildings baby feeding friendly and encouraging businesses in the District to do the same. The Council was hoping to achieve the Unicef Baby Friendly award.
- The South Warwickshire Health & Wellbeing Partnership was finally progressing. It had taken a lot of encouragement to bring all parties to the table, consequently progress had been slow. It was hoped that this body would be properly operating in a year, at which point it would be possible to consider whether it could take over the remit of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

The Chairman thanked the officers for taking questions and it was

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **12. Annual Status Report – Air Quality Management**

The Sub-committee considered a report from Health and Community protection which gave an update on the Council's progress towards achieving national air quality objectives.

The Council's strategy for delivering air quality improvements in its area were set out within the Council's Air Quality Action Plan and the report being considered by the Sub-Committee provided an update on the progress with the actions identified in the plan.

Within Warwick District, air quality was generally good. However, there were locations in the town centres where nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) levels regularly exceeded the national objective. This had led to the Council declaring five air quality management areas (AQMA's) with ongoing monitoring in these areas. These AQMA's were sited in Warwick town centre and Coventry Road, Warwick, Royal Leamington Spa and two small AQMA's in Kenilworth.

Vehicle emissions were the cause of NO<sub>2</sub> levels exceeding air quality objectives in all AQMA's. Consequently, any improvement was largely dependent on the cooperation of Warwickshire County Council to implement schemes aimed at reducing traffic congestion. Warwickshire Public Health also had a key role in promoting modal shift away from the car to encourage healthier lifestyles.

## **HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

Attached at Appendix 1 to the report was the 2017 Air Quality Annual Status Report; and at Appendix 2, a paper, giving a preliminary overview on clean air zones and taxi emissions.

In response to questions from Members, the Environmental Protection Team Leader responded that:

- The Council was holding discussions with bus providers about their plans to retrofit older bus models to make them more environmentally friendly, and to look at providing electric buses.
- The Council was considering adopting a policy for ensuring taxi were low emission. This was at a very early stage and a main consideration would be whether this would have any noticeable effect on air quality in the District. Other considerations would need to be the effect on drivers if such a policy was adopted.

Councillor Mrs Redford informed the Sub-Committee that she had asked the management of the HS2 project what would be done to ensure that dust from the building works would not cause problems as she had heard about when HS1 was being built in Kent. To-date, she had not received a satisfactory response, except to say that there would be a 24/7 call line to report issues.

Councillor Bromley offered to send the officer details of a scheme used in Germany to mitigate the effects of carbon monoxide and dioxide pollution in the atmosphere. Lichen and moss tunnels were used and these absorbed the offending gases.

The Chairman thanked the Environmental Protection Team Leader, and it was

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

(Councillor Mrs Cain left the meeting whilst discussions were ongoing during this item.)

### **13. Review of the work Programme and Forward Plan**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Democratic Services which informed it of its work programme for 2017 and the current Forward Plan for November to January 2018.

Councillor Mrs Redford advised that she always circulated notes of meetings of the WCC Adult Social Care & Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee she attended to Members. She would obtain an electronic copy of the latest minutes and circulate those. She had been appointed to a Task & Finish group at the County Council to look at GP provision. The Group was currently drafting a Scoping Document for approval but the Group had already discovered that this needed to be "pruned" and the focus to be mainly on coping with a shortage of GPs. The deadline to complete the whole project was March 2018.

Members were asked to send their suggestions/questions to Councillor Mrs Redford for the Task & Finish Group, either directly, or via the Head of Health and Community Protection.

## **HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

The Members then considered their Work Programme for the coming months and the Forward Plan.

**Resolved** that the following amendments be made to the Work Programme:

- (1) an update be provided to the March 2018 meeting on the South Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Partnership;
- (2) Cultural Services should be asked to provide a report on physical activity promotion and development to the March 2018 meeting;
- (3) All other items in the list "Items where a date is to be set" should be removed from the Work Programme because they have been dealt with sufficiently by other Committees, with the exception of the item for an external speaker from the Care Quality Commission. This would be requested in the next municipal year; and
- (4) a suitable date be agreed with Housing Services to provide a report for pre-scrutiny work on the "Policy on Regulating the Private Rented Sector" (Forward Plan Reference 880).

(The meeting finished at 7.30 pm)