

Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2014 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Wreford-Bush (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Falp, Gill, Illingworth, Kinson OBE, and Mrs Knight.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Copping.

21. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

22. **Health Issues in Respect of the Local Plan**

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager was asked to give Members of the Sub-Committee a short talk on what the Council had tried to do in respect of health and wellbeing within the Local Plan. It was hoped that the Local Plan would be submitted by late January/early February, although it was still at the stage where it was possible to make amendments.

Health and wellbeing was a thread that ran throughout the policy framework, together with the infrastructure delivery plan necessary to support health issues. Amongst health and wellbeing themes running through the Local Plan were:

- where new development was to take place, to limit the need for car use;
- healthy lifestyles;
- a quality environment;
- dealing with deprivation and encouraging regeneration;
- enjoyment of green space and open spaces;
- allocation of land for medical facilities and ensuring easy access;
- to encourage the development of sports facilities and protect ones already in existence;
- safe and convenient routes for walking and cycling;
- public meeting places;
- healthy and cohesive communities;
- the right mix of housing; and
- an aim to protect the natural resources, such as air quality and to reduce noise pollution, and where there was an impact, an aim to seek mitigation.

It was recognised that health impacts on the Local Plan were complex. It was also recognised that if the Council implemented a Supplementary Planning Document on Health Impacts for future developments, this would be heavily challenged by developers.

The Local Plan sought to address the health issues raised by Public Health such as:

- to prioritise active travel;
- to promote healthy housing, e.g. to reduce the impacts of noise;

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- to target child obesity, e.g. the control of hot food takeaways near schools.

In respect of infrastructure, the Local Plan addressed the siting and number of GP surgeries, transport and local hospitals. The area was well provided. Money had been set aside for investment in GP surgeries to support the growth figures in the Local Plan. A new ward block would be provided at Warwick Hospital as well as the expansion of services in Stratford upon Avon.

There was a concern that in respect of transport, people were too focused on the car and not enough on sustainable modes of transport. A study (Atkins) had provided evidence that it was possible to put more emphasis on sustainable transport modes. Transport corridors were being examined, together with an integrated approach to improve road junctions for all modes of transport, particularly where there were air pollution problems.

It was noted that in order to apply pressure that would not be so easy to challenge in respect of Section 106 agreements with new development, the sooner the Local Plan was implemented the better. However, the Council could not expect these contributions to make the development unviable and where there was a shortfall, alternative sources of funding would have to be found.

Representatives present at the meeting from the South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group Patient and Participation Group offered their Group's help, especially in agreeing a figure for S106 contributions from developers, as their Group often could provide more readily available data that was necessary when a S106 figure was requested.

The Chairman thanked the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager for the information he had provided and answering questions.

23. **The Work of the South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Patient & Participation Group**

Representatives from the South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Patient & Participation Group (3PG) gave the Sub-Committee a talk on the work handled by them. These representatives were:

- Mr C Quinney – Deputy Chairman of 3PG
- Mr J Davies – Member of 3PG's agenda setting group
- Mr B Franklin – Member of 3PG
- Mr A Matthews – Member of 3PG

3PG in broad terms was a two way conduit between the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the patients of its member GP practices. Issues arising from the GP patient group meetings would be brought to 3PG for wider discussion, and, if appropriate, action by the CCG. The CCG in turn would inform 3PG on what it was doing or going to do, and 3PG would pass this information along to the patient groups.

The representatives from 3PG gave examples of work they had undertaken.

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Members of the Sub-Committee asked the Committee Services Officer to contact the local NHS England Area Team to get a copy of its strategy.

Additionally, Members requested that the use of S106 money for health issues be put on the Sub-Committee's work programme.

24. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2014 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

25. Work Programme

The Committee considered a report from Democratic Services on the Sub-Committee's work programme.

Future of Health Scrutiny at Warwick District Council

At the November meeting of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee, it had been resolved to seek approval from Overview & Scrutiny Committee to postpone the report on the future of health scrutiny until after the new Council had formed. The Chairman had duly raised this at Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 December and the Sub-Committee's recommendation had been rejected. It was, therefore, decided that the report would still be delivered to Overview & Scrutiny in March 2015. Furthermore, in discussing the matter at Overview & Scrutiny, it became clear that the direction from the parent committee was very much in favour of a full committee approach for health scrutiny as the way forward.

In light of the above, the Committee Services Officer spelt out the options in respect of a full committee approach for health scrutiny and sought guidance from Members of the Sub-Committee on the preferred way forward.

The Head of Health & Community Protection advised Members that the formation of a full Scrutiny Committee could not be supported by the Corporate & Committee Services, without additional resources. If the meeting was required in the same night as Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee and Overview & Scrutiny Committee, then the resource implications were greater.

Members stated that the preferred approach would be for a Health Scrutiny Committee to handle pre-scrutiny of Executive reports and scrutiny of strategic issues. Scrutiny of Executive reports the night before Executive met would remain the province of Overview & Scrutiny and Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committees.

Employee Smoking Policy Review

The Sub-Committee considered a draft report from the Health & Wellbeing Lead that once it had gone through the full approval process, would be presented to the Employment Committee at its next meeting for approval and implementation. The draft report updated the Council's Smokefree Policy to take into account the use of e-cigarettes or nicotine containing products. The Health & Wellbeing Lead had asked the Sub-Committee to

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pre-scrutinise his report to open the debate when there was still time to revise the policy before the final report to the Employment Committee was published.

The Chairman informed Members that he had been asked to participate on a discussion on this issue on Radio Coventry & Warwickshire.

Sub-Committee Members advised the Health & Wellbeing Lead to clarify in more detail that a "voke" device was not an e-cigarette and therefore the report should show that where a voke had been medically prescribed, its use was permitted. The end of paragraph 6.1 in the draft policy needed clarification.

(Councillor Mrs Falp left the meeting at the end of discussion on the Employee Smoking Policy Review.)

Warwick District Council Health Strategy Update

The Health and Wellbeing Lead informed the Members that since the last meeting, he had attended meetings to or for the purposes of:

- monitor the progress of "Healthy Warwick" grant project at Garden Organic;
- advance the Warwickshire Smokefree Alliance;
- plan for this year's No Smoking Day;
- plan the "affordable warmth" strategy;
- discuss with Human Resources the Health & Wellbeing Action Plan for 2015. He would submit a report to Employment Committee and the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee;
- progress County "Food for Health" at Ryton Organic;
- Dementia Friendly WDC with DF Warwickshire who were seeking to include us in their strategy;
- Public Health/Regulatory Services Joint Seminar;
- Induction of a cohort of new staff and the importance of Health and Wellbeing;
- Tutor group for UK Public Health Registration; and
- Emergency planning exercise.

The Health & Wellbeing Lead was asked to bring to Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee a report/action plan on the possibility of running a "Walking Scheme" within the District as per the details Councillor Mrs Knight sent to him of a scheme in Reading, and to liaise with the walking experts at Coventry and Warwick Sports.

The Health & Wellbeing Lead also informed the Sub-Committee that he was working with Warwick Hospital on funding in respect of the "measured mile".

Warwick District Health Improvement & Wellbeing Partnership (HIWEB) Update

The Health & Wellbeing Lead informed Members that key players within HIWEB had attended a meeting and had agreed a form of words for the Terms of Reference to go forward to involve the voluntary sector. Councillor Wreford-Bush would be included in the HIWEB mailing list.

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Update from Councillor Kinson on the Warwickshire County Council Adult Social Care & Health O & S Committee

Councillor Kinson gave the Sub-Committee an update on matters that had been discussed at the Warwickshire County Council Adult Social Care & Health O & S Committee since his last update. These included:

- obesity for all ages;
- Healthy eating for children and schools;
- Sexual abuse
- Care and nursing homes (13 complaints were being examined in Warwickshire); and
- "111" service

Following consideration of the Work Programme, it was

Resolved that:

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the use of S106/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money for health issues be added to the work programme; and
- (3) a report/action plan on the possibility of running a "Walking Scheme" within the District as per the details Councillor Mrs Knight sent to the Health & Wellbeing Lead of a scheme in Reading, and to liaise with the walking experts at Coventry and Warwick Sports be added to the work programme.

(The meeting finished at 6.15 pm)