

Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2015 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors D'Arcy, Parkins and Mrs Redford

Also Present: Councillors Mrs Falp, M-A Grainger, Mrs Knight and Quinney.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Edgington.

1. **Substitutes**

There were no substitutes.

2. **Appointment of Chair**

In the absence of any nominations for the position of Chairman for the municipal year, a chairman was appointed for the meeting only. The business of appointing a Chair for the Municipal Year would be carried forward to the next meeting.

Resolved that Councillor Parkins be appointed as Chair for the meeting.

3. **Co-option of Councillors on to the Sub-Committee**

Resolved that Councillors Mrs Falp, Mrs Knight and Quinney be appointed as co-opted Members of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Knight declared an interest because of the "Beat the Streets" item on the Work Programme.

5. **Review of the Work Programme**

The Sub-Committee considered its work programme for 2015/16.

Following on from discussion of items for the Work Programme it was

Resolved that:

- (1) a representative for mental healthcare be invited to a future meeting to talk about the Council's role;
- (2) Mr Glen Burley, Chief Executive of Warwick Hospital be contacted to build a picture of the costs of the night-time economy on hospital resources (casualties, alcohol related incidents, etc);

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- (3) Councillor Grainger would speak to the Safer Communities Manager to decide who would be the best representative to invite to a future meeting to talk about the night-time triage initiative operating in Coventry;
- (4) Councillor Quinney will monitor the Sexual Health Service, and report back to the Sub-Committee if a report is required; and
- (5) the Committee Services Officer will find out the name of the person who is responsible for the sexual health service at Warwickshire County Council.

6. Air Quality Action Plan Update

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update on the progress of the Air Quality Action Plan, which had been available to view on the Council's website since September 2015. The Sub-Committee was informed that work was in progress to obtain five electricity powered vehicles for the Council's use on a two year trial. The Council was also close to launching its Cycle to Work scheme in the New Year, which would provide loan funding for staff to purchase bicycles to cycle to work and to use on official Council business. The loan repayments would be deducted at source from salary payments.

In response to questions, Members were informed that:

- The Council was focussing on improving bus services in Royal Leamington Spa, Warwick and Kenilworth. People who lived in rural areas would still have to focus on using cars; any initiative to improve rural bus services would need to come from Warwickshire County Council, representatives of which would need to speak with the bus service providers.
- An initiative to make owners of diesel cars pay more for parking was a possibility, but it was not high up in the parking strategy.
- Research made on the optimum concentration of dwellings that made bus routes viable would be circulated to Members.
- There was a misconception that diesel emissions from lorries caused the most pollution in towns; but following a low emission feasibility study commissioned by DEFRA three to four years ago, it was discovered that diesel family vehicles were the worst polluters. A suggestion to "buy-out" diesel cars with petrol models had not found much favour. Town centre bypass routes for HGVs would be considered but in the case of Warwick, it would be difficult. Other initiatives such as restricting delivery times would also be considered.
- There was a need to encourage employers to instigate employee car share schemes, but the difficulty with this initiative would be flexible working hours.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

Resolved that the review of the annual progress report be scheduled into the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee's Work Programme for its first meeting around June 2016 and annually thereafter.

7. **Health & Wellbeing Strategy Update**

The Health & Wellbeing Lead (H&WBL) gave a verbal update to Members of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee on the progress of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy. He gave examples of the work that was currently being undertaken:

- **National Workplace Wellbeing Charter** – a peer review scheme to assess the ways in which the Council fostered the health improvement of employees. Subject areas had to demonstrate the Council's commitment, attainment and excellence including leadership, smoking, alcohol, physical activity mental health and absence management. One piece of evidence, for example, was the provision of opportunities to receive the flu jab at Riverside House. Also, how the Council reviewed staff absenteeism and also "presenteeism" (which could arise as a result of bullying and harassment).
The Council was being assessed the following week to see how well it looked after its staff in these respects.
- **Dementia Friendly Community** – a report recommending that the Council become a member of the County Dementia Action Alliance had been drafted. The H&WBL had trained as a Dementia Champion and had a programme of enabling staff to become Dementia friends.
- **Walking** – schemes such as 'Beat the Streets' had been investigated and many found to be costly. 'Walking for Health' was delivered by Ramblers (ex Ramblers Association) and commissioned by Macmillan Cancer Care. It depended on trained volunteers to train walk leaders and to lead walks. The H&WBL had now trained as a Walk Leader and would be further trained as a Cascade Trainer. 'Measured miles' had been established in partnership with, and around, Warwick Hospital. More were to follow, based on the health hubs. These might provide the focus for 'Walking for Health' walks.
- **HIWEB** (Health & Wellbeing Improvement Board) would be succeeded by a Financial Inclusion Partnership to be developed by the Community Partnership Team.
- **Healthy Warwick & Stratford Projects** – the 29 tenders were to be evaluated and the Contracts awarded soon.

The Health & Wellbeing Lead was asked to send a link for Members to find the Work Place Wellbeing Charter and the Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

(Councillors Grainger, Mrs Knight and Quinney all left the meeting during discussion of this item.)

(The meeting finished at 7.28 pm)