

13 MARCH 2018

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held in The Bradbury Room, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Tuesday, 13 March 2018

- * Cllr S P Davies (Chairman)
- * Cllr D J Russell (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

- * D A Britton
- * Mrs L D Cerasoli
- * S J Clarke
- I C Coombes

Councillors:

- * Ms K V Crisell
- * A H G Davis
- * N S Penman
- * M L White

*Present

In attendance:

Councillors:

Mrs D E Andrews, Community Affairs Portfolio Holder
W G Andrews
J E Binns, Leisure & Wellbeing Portfolio Holder
Mrs J L Cleary, Housing Services Portfolio Holder
A D O'Sullivan

Officers Attending:

Mrs J Bailey, Mrs R Drummond, Miss G O'Rourke, C Read, Mrs M Sandhu and Ms M Stephens

Apologies

Cllr Coombes.

42 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2018 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by members in connection with an agenda item.

44 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

45 HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

The Panel received an update on the current strategies taking place across the Council in order to comply with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (“the Act”).

The Executive Head of Governance and Regulation reminded the Panel that the the Act which was due to come into force in April 2018, had modified and extended existing homelessness protections in a number of key ways:

- Improved advice and information about homelessness and the prevention of homelessness
- Extension of the period ‘threatened with homelessness’
- Introduced new duties to prevent and relieve homelessness for all eligible people, regardless of priority need and intentionality
- Introduced assessments and personalised housing plans, setting out the actions housing authorities and individuals would take to secure accommodation
- Encouraged public bodies to work together to prevent and relieve homelessness through a duty to refer.

In relation to the two penultimate bullet points, it was confirmed that with updates in technology and an increase in staff resource, Housing officers had been further enabled to undertake off-site work in seeking to help the most vulnerable within local communities, and prepare personal homelessness plans.

The Council had also established a multi-agency forum which would hold its first meeting on 28 March 2018. In addition, the Council had strengthened its severe weather protocol which had been put in practice during the heavy snow fall at the beginning of the month, with officers successfully placing 15 rough sleepers in temporary accommodation.

The Homelessness Task and Finish Group established by the Housing Portfolio Holder would hold its first meeting on 16 March, where it would undertake a comprehensive review of the Council’s approach to these issues.

The Panel would be kept updated on the findings of the Group.

46 CORPORATE FRAMEWORK

The Panel considered the Corporate Framework including service strategies.

The Corporate Framework set out how the Council intended to deliver its corporate priorities.

The Panel noted the strategies pertaining the Panel (as set out in paragraph 2 of the report) and the timetable for each.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

47 HEALTH AND LEISURE REVIEW

The Panel considered the scope of the Health and Leisure review of the future delivery options for the provision of the Council's five Health and Leisure Centres.

The Panel also considered the re-establishment of the Task & Finish Group with updated terms of reference. Members were informed that all services provided by the Health & Leisure Centres would be examined, including the benefits (both direct and indirect) to residents' well-being. It was hoped that the findings of the Group would be presented to the Panel in September.

The Panel agreed that a Task & Finish Group be established comprising of three members of the Panel, and five other members of the Council, to be appointed by the Chairman of the Panel.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) That the Health and Leisure Review Task & Finish Group be re-established with the scope of the Group being as set out in paragraph 3 of the Report to the Panel;
- (c) That the Group comprise of three members of the Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel and five other members of the Council, to be appointed by the Chairman of this Panel; and
- (d) That the Task & Finish Group presents their findings to the Panel in September.

48 DIBDEN GOLF CENTRE

The Chairman of the Task & Finish Group explained that since his last update in November, he, along with the Deputy Chief Executive had met with representatives of Mytime Active as part of the regular monitoring meetings. At this meeting they met the new, temporary Golf Centre Manager, Richard Neale.

The full Task & Finish Group subsequently met to discuss the investment and management of the Centre. The Group, in undertaking its scrutiny function, has invited Board members of MyTiime Active to a meeting, to provide an update on their view of the Centre's performance and the future direction of travel.

A further update would be given to the Panel following this meeting, with details on the Centre/Mytime Active's performance.

49 COMMUNITY GRANTS - REVIEW OF PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Panel considered the re-appointment of the Community Grants Task & Finish Group.

In January, the Community Grants Task & Finish Group, as part of their annual review of grant applications, recommended to the Cabinet, the payment of grants totalling £218,020. In addition, the Group also recommended that there be a comprehensive review of the community grants process and eligibility criteria in advance of the 2018 application deadline, in the light of the increasing number of

applications being received and the large sums requested by some organisations. Both recommendations were agreed by the Cabinet.

In order to ensure that the needs of the whole of the District were considered, it had been suggested that the remit of the Task & Finish Group be widened, and that new members be appointed to the Group, to ensure that the wider geographical area of the District was represented.

As such, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Task Finish Group be re-appointed with the extended terms of reference as set out above; and
- (b) That new members be appointed to the Group to ensure that the wider geographical area of the District was represented; and
- (c) That the Task & Finish Group comprise of 6-8 members, with appointments being confirmed by the Chairman of the Panel.

50 WORK PROGRAMME

It was suggested by Cllr Clarke, and agreed by the Panel, that strategic questions outlining the concerns of members in relation to crime and disorder, be drafted and sent to the Chief Inspector, in advance of his attendance at the Panel meeting in June. Panel members were asked to email Cllrs Clarke and Davies with any concerns, so that they could formulate these into questions to be submitted to the Chief Inspector.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Panel's work programme set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes be agreed; and
- (b) That members email Cllr Clarke and Davies with any concerns/questions that they wished to raise with the Chief Inspector in advance of his attendance at the Panel meeting in June 2019.

51 PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' UPDATES

The Panel's three Portfolio Holders gave the following updates: -

Community Affairs Portfolio Holder

- The Safer New Forest Partnership Group had had to cancel their scheduled meeting due to the extreme weather, but would meet shortly so that an update on their activities could be given at the next Panel meeting.

Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder

- The costs associated with the Health & Leisure Centres and subsidy funding by the Council was set out.
- The memberships in all the Centres had increased in the last year.
- Eling Tide Mill would be re-opening on 9 April 2018.

- New Milton Health & Leisure Centre would shortly be opening a new weights studio and Applemore would also be opening a new studio.

Housing Portfolio Holder

- The Council had recently purchased a hostel in Ashley, New Milton, with potential to extend the building and offer more, much needed, emergency accommodation to residents.

CHAIRMAN

Attachments: Appendix 1 (Minute 50)

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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2018/2019

APPENDIX 1

ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	LEAD OFFICER
13 MARCH 2018			
Homelessness Update	To consider the implications of the Act and steps to be taken by the Council including the establishment of the Homelessness Task & Finish Group.	Brief Verbal Update	Grainne O'Rourke
Leisure Service Review	To re-appoint a new Task & Finish Group with revised Terms of Reference	Report to Panel/Task & Finish Group appointment	Joanne Bailey/Manjit Sandhu
Community Grants – Review of process and Eligibility Criteria	To re-appoint the Task & Finish Group to review the current process and criteria in advance of receipt of the grant applications in Summer 2018	Report to Panel/Task & Finish Group appointment	Colin Read
Dibden Golf Centre	To receive the bi-annual update from the Chairman of the Task & Finish Group	Verbal update to Panel	Cllr B Andrews/Colin Read
19 JUNE 2018			
Health & Wellbeing Agenda	To consider health and wellbeing matters in the District	Report to Panel	Jamie Burton/Colin Read
New Forest Policing	To consider current Policing resources in the District	Presentation from Chief Inspector Rob Mitchell	Chief Inspector Rob Mitchell/Brian Byrne

ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	LEAD OFFICER
18 SEPTEMBER 2018			
Housing Allocation Policy Review	To consider the current policy and need for future changes	Report to Panel	Grainne O'Rourke
Sheltered Accommodation	To receive an update on current provision in the District and the re-modelling of current schemes.	Presentation to Panel	Grainne O'Rourke
Universal Credit	To consider the current situation and whether any local initiatives/joint working have been undertaken to assist local residents	Presentation to Panel	Ryan Stevens
Customer Strategy		Report to Panel	Rebecca Drummond
CCTV	To a review the benefits of the CCTV service going forward.	Report to Panel	Rebecca Drummond
20 NOVEMBER 2018			
Dibden Golf Centre	To receive the bi-annual update from the Chairman of the Task & Finish Group	Verbal update to Panel	Cllr B Andrews/Colin Read
Young People - Wellbeing	To understand the issues affect the wellbeing of young people living in the District (Mental Health)	Presentation to the Panel	Colin Read/Cllr Binns
Community Strategy			Rebecca Drummond/Manjit Sandhu
Housing Strategy			Grainne O'Rourke
Homeless Strategy			Grainne O'Rourke

15 JANUARY 2019

Community Grants Task & Finish Group	To consider Task & Finish Group findings	Report to Panel	Colin Read
Safer New Forest Partnership Plan	To consider inputting into the Plan.	Report to Panel	Rosemary Rutins/Brian Byrne

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