

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

TASK AND FINISH GROUP – IMPACT OF HOT FOOD TAKEAWAYS

TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER, 2017 AT 3.00 P.M.

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

Present:

Councillor Miss. J. Cooper (Chairman)
Councillor A.R. Pearson
Councillor Mrs. H.M. Sutton
Councillor P.E. Woodhead

1. Apologies

None.

2. Notes

The Notes of the meeting held on 6 November, 2017 were agreed.

3. Items of Discussion

The following items formed part of the discussion with Members of the Task and Finish Group.

Findings of liaison/contact/research with other LAs

Dave Prosser-Davies the Food, Safety and Licensing Manager reported that information had been circulated from Councillor Woodhead which included a number of links to various articles that contained data concerning obesity. Councillor Woodhead summarised his findings and it was noted how other Local Authorities such as Waltham Forest were trying to work with fast food outlets by introducing the Good Food Award and also working around planning guidance to try and manage future planning applications.

It was highlighted that there were some difficulties with the definition of hot food takeaways given that cafes, sandwich shops and dessert shops did not fall under this classification although food to takeaway could be purchased from these outlets.

Members discussed the issue of hot food outlets near schools which could tempt schoolchildren to over consume fast food. It was noted that most fast food takeaways offered cheap food which was high in calories and fat and nutrient poor. It was clear that there was a link between deprivation and obesity levels but it was unclear in the research documents that it was primarily through fast food takeaways as unhealthy food could also be accessed at home and at work. It was noted that Sandwell Council, Dudley Council and Coventry City Council were all progressing with work in this area.

Dave Prosser-Davies reported that Hackney Council in conjunction with 'Shift' had undertaken some work and produced a document entitled 'Healthier Fast Food'. Shift would also be working with Birmingham City Council to try and help with the issues around fast food outlets.

Follow up on contact with Walsall MBC

Dave Prosser-Davies reported that he had contacted Walsall MBC who were undertaking work with fast food takeaways whose premises had been rated either 4 or 5 through their food hygiene inspections. He advised that 50-60 businesses had already signed up to work with the Council; however there was currently no evidence to suggest that any schemes implemented were working.

Liaison with County Scrutiny Officer

Dave Prosser-Davies reported that he had spoken with a Scrutiny Officer from Staffs County Council who had advised that it would be more practical to interview/ask questions of partners over two shorter days.

He advised that initially he had reported that he would liaise with experts to come along to the inquiry day; however he referred to the many research papers which provided statistics and information around obesity and food and commented that it may be better to email any questions to the people who had undertaken the research and focus on inviting local contacts to the Inquiry Day..

It was agreed that Dave Prosser-Davies would circulate some suggested contacts and general questions which could be asked of partners and local businesses including the CCG, other LAs, Planning and businesses. Members could then add to these.

Dave Prosser-Davies reported that he had planned to meet David Sugden, Public Health Commissioning Lead at Staffs County Council on 18 December to discuss the County's plans to form a compact with local partner agencies interested in trying to tackle the obesity issue.

Prioritising sources of evidence in Scrutiny (please refer to the document attached from the Centre for Public Scrutiny)

Dave Prosser-Davies referred to the document from the Centre for Public Scrutiny which provided guidance for Members on using evidence in Scrutiny which would enable informed decisions to be made.

Councillor Woodhead and Members discussed the choices people make towards food and how the Council could try and influence them by making environmental changes, although affordability and other factors played a part. It was noted that this was a complex area and Members would need to explore this. It was suggested that Members may wish to formulate some questions for the Council's partners to see what future plans would be put in place. It was also noted that the Council's Environmental Health department would be able to recommend some local businesses that Members could ask questions of.

Members discussed how the Planning process could play a role in placing restrictions on hot food takeaways, the work being undertaken by the Health and Wellbeing Board and how the obesity problem was higher in the District than in some parts of Staffordshire. This led to a discussion on health and fitness and

how some people lead a sedentary lifestyle which would impact upon their health. Better education was needed but it was also important to consider cost.

The following actions were agreed:

- Dave Prosser-Davies to circulate list of stakeholders / contacts to Members of the Group in order that questions can be formulated;
- Dave Prosser-Davies to circulate some draft questions to which Group Members could add their input;
- When questions have been formulated and checked, they can then be emailed to the appropriate stakeholders.

Meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.