

Cannock Chase Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the
Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Held on Tuesday 15 June 2021 at 4:00 p.m.
In the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Cannock

Part 1

Present: Councillors:

Buttery, M.S. (Chairman)
Newbury, J.A.A. (Chairman)

Crabtree, S.K.	Smith, C.D.
Fisher, P.A.	Sutton, Mrs. S.M.
Layton, A.	Thompson, Mrs. S.L.
McMahon, J.B.	Wilson, Mrs. L.J.
Preece, J.P.T.L.	

Also present: County Councillor P.M. Hewitt, Staffordshire County Council

1. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor L. Arduino.

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations

No declarations of interests in additions to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests were made.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March, 2021 be noted.

4. Statutory Health Scrutiny Items

Update – Staffordshire County Council’s Health and Care and Overview Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman reported that he and County Councillor P.M. Hewitt had attended a meeting of the Health and Care and Overview Scrutiny Committee at the County Council last week. A report from that meeting had been circulated yesterday via the Senior Committee Officer to Members of this Committee. Members could also visit the County Council’s website for information on their recent meetings.

5. Introduction to the Role of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

All Officers introduced themselves as part of the presentation. Those Officers who would lead on the Scrutiny Committee were Nirmal Samrai, Joss Presland and Dave Prosser-Davies.

The background was given on Local Government Scrutiny which was formally introduced into the Local Government Act 2000.

Officers explained the role of Scrutiny and how it should work effectively. The role of the Committee was discussed and whilst the Committee would not be able to make decisions, it could advise and give recommendations to Cabinet, Council and other Committees as appropriate.

The Committee could review and scrutinise current policies, decide if the policies were delivering the intended outcomes and develop new policies – influencing policy decisions before they were implemented. They could hold the ‘Executive’ to account and invoke the ‘call-in’ procedure prior to a decision being implemented, or review it afterwards.

A slide was then shown that provided information on the monitoring, reviewing, and scrutinising the performance of the Council in relation to the discharge of the Council’s functions.

The role of the external partners was discussed along with the remit of the Committee and how the work programme would be developed with information on how a review would be undertaken and the stages involved.

6. End of Year PDP & Recovery Performance Information

Consideration was given to the End of Year Priority Delivery Plans and Recovery Performance Information for Community Wellbeing (Item 6.1 – 6.22 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

In response to a Member question concerning the timescales to commission the Citizens Assembly, the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles reported that the Council were currently out to tender. He advised that he would speak with his colleagues about the current situation and advise the Member accordingly.

Members noted the End of Year PDP & Recovery Performance Information.

7. Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021-22

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 7.1 – 7.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles presented the report and advised Members that there were 3 further meetings of the Committee and possibly task and finish groups that could meet depending on the work programme items agreed. He suggested that Members may wish to choose 1 or 2 items from the following suggested reviews outlined:

Suggested Reviews:

- **Enviro Crime**
The Food Safety and Licensing Manager outlined details around this potential review. This service was high profile for the public/Members, and the Committee could influence the way in which the service was delivered. There were many resources put into this service and outcomes could be improved for residents.
- **Housing Repairs Reporting and Programming**
The Head of Housing and Partnerships outlined details around this potential review. She reported that there were around 12,000 repairs carried out yearly. She explained the process and the reporting mechanism for repairs and considered that this could be carried out more efficiently and effectively.
- **Leisure Concession Scheme (IHL)**
The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles outlined details around this potential review. He explained that this scheme had been implemented for some time and was regularly assessed, however he considered that the Committee may wish to consider this area in more detail.
- **Housing Assistance Policy, inc. Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)**
The Food Safety and Licensing Manager outlined details around this potential review. He advised that there had not been a significant take up of the grants. The grants enabled residents to remain in their home by helping fund adaptations and offering financial assistance. He considered that the Committee may wish to consider this as a review by identifying any areas that may need to be improved.
- **Waste and Recycling**
The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles outlined details around this potential review. He reported that recycling targets had been achieved over the past few years although quite recently with the pandemic it had been difficult. He explained that residual waste had increased, and recycling had dipped and considered whether this should be an area for the Committee to consider.

Member Discussion

Members were then invited to consider and ask questions about the proposed reviews outlined above.

A Member referred to the recent Carbon Literacy training that had been undertaken and asked if the (pledges) suggestions made at the training event around the carbon footprint within the District could be an area of work for the Committee to consider.

In response to a Member question regarding the Carbon Literacy training, the head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles reported that the training was on-going. The first training session was held remotely last year, and consideration was being given to holding the next one face to face. The first session was 'hybrid' in conjunction with Manchester University. Whilst the training went well, the University was approached to see how the training could be improved and given to new Members of the Council.

He then referred to the previous comment regarding the pledges made and reported that these would be forwarded to the Carbon Literacy Trust, if they were agreeable with them, certificates would then be issued.

A Member referred to the waste and recycling review and highlighted that this was an essential service. He reported that this was an important year for the waste and recycling service in terms of a new contract. He then discussed Government advice around waste and collection services and reported that the Council were currently in the middle of the league table.

A few Members referred to the Enviro Crime review and discussed this with the Committee. It was considered that this would be an ideal area for consideration along with the Housing repairs reporting and Programming review as these were often areas highlighted by residents.

The Food Safety and Licensing Manager provided Members with further details around the potential Enviro Crime review. He explained that the review could entail areas of work around illegal waste, fly-tipping, dog waste, and those that accept payment from people and dispose of waste illegally. He explained that this was very broad ranging, however Members could decide to focus on specific ones.

Work Programme Items for 2021-22

Following discussion, the following work programme items for 2021-22 were agreed:

- Enviro Crime
- Waste & Recycling

The meeting closed at 4:50 pm

CHAIRMAN