

Cannock Chase Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Held on Tuesday 14 September 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. (Vice-Chairman)

Arduino, L. Preece, J.P.T.L.
Beach, A. Smith, C.D.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M. Thompson, Mrs. S.L.
Crabtree, S.K.

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

8. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.B. McMahon, Mrs. S.M. Sutton and Mrs. L.J. Wilson.

9. 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.

10. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

11. Statutory Health Scrutiny Items

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

The Chairman reported that recent meetings of the County’s Health and Care and Overview Scrutiny Committee could be accessed through their website.

The Chairman also reported that a letter had been written to the CCG concerning the Minor Injuries Unit at Cannock Chase Hospital.

12. Quarter 1 PDP and Recovery Information

Consideration was given to the Quarter 1 PDP and Recovery Information for Supporting Health and Wellbeing (Item 5.1 – 5.21 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Members noted the Quarter 1 PDP and Recovery Information.

13. Health and Wellbeing Work Programme 2021-22 - Update

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles advised Members that a short presentation would be given which would outline the topics for each of the Working Groups. He was also keen to ensure that Members were happy with the proposals being suggested.

The Food Safety and Licensing Manager gave a summary regarding Envirocrime which covered:

- Main Workshop Presentation Content
- What is “Envirocrime”
- Possible areas for Scrutiny
- Questions to consider

Members were then invited to ask questions.

A Member asked what other examples there were of Envirocrimes.

The Food Safety and Licensing Manager advised that some Local Authorities (LAs) had different powers to tackle problems. However, he discussed the use of wheelie bins and highlighted how other LAs were using bags for waste. He suggested that if Members were keen to see what other LAs did to prevent such problems, some research would be required prior to the first Working Group meeting.

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles referred to this and suggested that Members may wish to consider the issue which was becoming more common with people leaving their bins out on their streets.

A Member asked what was considered as the main issue currently with Envirocrime.

The Food Safety and Licensing Manager reported that fly-tipping was currently an issue and approximately 400-500 complaints were received each year. He advised that with evidence around 200 would be pursued through Environmental Health and would be investigated. He explained that this was becoming a crime as people would pay for the removal of rubbish and then it was being disposed of within the area. He explained that it was difficult to catch offenders, and fly-tipping was detrimental to the area and impacted the environment. He also discussed with Members the improvements that could be made with the service currently offered to remove white goods, however this could also increase costs.

The County Council Member asked if the Council had any comparable data with other LAs to determine if the Council’s stats were better/worse. He also discussed enforcement and asked about investment for items such as cameras to try and catch the perpetrators.

The Food Safety and Licensing Manager reported that mobile CCTV had been deployed in certain areas, however this had not had much success. He advised that the Council did carry out benchmarking exercises and more detailed information would be presented to the Working Group. He reported that many LAs in the West Midlands were experiencing difficulties.

The Waste and Engineering Services Manager gave a summary regarding Waste and Recycling which covered:

- Background
- Communications – Annual Calendar etc.
- Additional Services
- Contamination
- Areas to Consider/What's Next
- Questions for Scrutiny

Members were then invited to ask questions.

A Member referred to the presentation and asked about the removal of communal bins. He also referred to the dry recycling contract and asked about the segregation of food waste. He was keen to know if other LAs could be contacted with a view to enquiring about costs, services and how this was implemented.

The Waste and Engineering Services Manager referred to bring recycling sites located on supermarket car parks. She explained that the sites were not being used correctly and items were being fly-tipped such as clothing. Regarding the segregation of food waste, this was an area currently being considered.

Members discussed the situation regarding communal bins and the ways of ensuring that people were not depositing incorrect items in them. They also discussed schemes such as composting and how people could be encouraged to do this. The Waste and Engineering Services Manager commented that the Council were trying to communicate where they considered there were issues, however this could be looked at further.

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles referred to the situation with communal bins and reported that in some cases the 240Ltr bin had been removed and a smaller bin introduced which was shared between two residents, which in turn had reduced contamination. However, this was a trial although it could be discussed further.

In response to a Member question, the Waste and Engineering Services Manager provided information on dual stream recycling. She explained that the Council would be moving to using two separate containers for cardboard and paper as of 2022.

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles reported on the waste disposal partnership with other LAs. He also explained that the market was reducing for co-mingled waste and only one provider had produced a quote which had significantly increased. It was therefore agreed that moving forward the Council should consider dual stream recycling.

A Member asked what the current situation was with the procurement of bags. The Waste and Engineering Services Manager reported that the Council now had a specification for a weighted bag which would be waterproof, with Velcro to seal them and a capacity of around

50/70Ltrs. The bag design was similar to that of Stafford Borough Council's. However, Lichfield, Tamworth and East Staffs would all be going the dual stream route next year and the Council would jointly procure with them. Quotations were still being received and a meeting was scheduled for tomorrow.

In response to discussions, a Member highlighted an additional topic for discussion and suggested investigating separate food waste collections in the district. He also suggested that discussions could be had with other local authorities in the region which had been offering the service for many years such as Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Sandwell Council.

Following discussions, the Chairman asked Members which of the Working Groups they would like to attend. The Working Groups would consist of the following Members:

Envirocrime Scrutiny Working Group

- Councillor L. Arduino
- Councillor A. Beach
- Councillor M. Buttery
- Councillor Mrs. S. Cartwright
- Councillor J. Newbury
- Councillor D. Smith
- Councillor Mrs. S. Thompson

Waste and Recycling Scrutiny Working Group

- Councillor A. Beach
- Councillor M. Buttery
- Councillor Mrs. S. Cartwright
- Councillor S. Crabtree
- Councillor J. Newbury
- Councillor Mrs. S. Thompson

The meeting closed at 4.50 pm

CHAIRMAN