

**Cannock Chase Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the**

**Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

**Held on Tuesday 30 November 2021 at 6:00 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.
Haden, Mrs. P.K. (Substitute)		Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
McMahon, J.B.		Wilson, Mrs. L.J.

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

**14. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Thompson and S. Crabtree.

(Notification had previously been received that Councillor P. Haden would substitute for Councillor S. Thompson).

**15. 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.

**16. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

**17. 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.

He also reported that he had recently received an email from Councillor A. Beach regarding issues surrounding primary care services. The Chairman read out the following:

“I am sure that many Councillors, like myself, will have received numerous complaints recently from residents regarding access to primary care services. Residents have concerns around lengthy call waiting times to contact their surgery, the lack of face-to-face appointments and waiting times to see or speak to their GP or other health practitioner.

Examples given include patients waiting for over an hour in a call queue to speak to a receptionist and getting cut off before speaking to someone. This situation obviously presents a risk to patients in need of assessment and also a strain on emergency services. This poses a particular difficulty for Cannock Chase residents who no longer have access to the MIU which has been closed since early 2020.

I feel it would be helpful to all councillors if we were to invite the current Chair of the Clinical Commissioning Group, Gary Free, to a Scrutiny Committee as soon as is practical, to understand how GP services are managing the transition from pandemic services to the return to the provision of normal service. It would also be helpful to invite the Director of Primary Care, Lynn Millar and the CEO and Accountable Officer, Marcus Warnes”.

A Member referred to the Covid-19 pandemic and reported that there had been a lack of capacity to deliver services. He suggested that there were ideas of how improvements could be made, although it was not known who could help with this in the coming months.

He advised that this was an area that the County Council had discussed and whilst the Committee could invite the Chair of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), there was no requirement for him to attend.

Members then discussed the issues that many residents faced, one of which was being able to see a GP for a face-to-face appointment as it was not always easy to explain symptoms during a telephone call or a virtual conversation.

The Chairman requested that the Chair of the CCG be invited to a future meeting. He also advised that he would speak with Jeremy Pert, Chair of the Staffordshire County Council’s Health and Care and Overview Scrutiny Committee to see if there was any update that could be provided to the Committee.

**Resolved:**

That the Chair of the CCG Dr Gary Free be invited to a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

**18. Supporting Health and Wellbeing PDP Quarter 2 2021/22 Performance Update**

Consideration was given to the Supporting Health and Wellbeing PDP Quarter 2 2021/22 Performance Update (Item 5.1 – 5.25 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

*2.1.5 Encourage and support people of all ages to have active and healthy lifestyles to improve and maintain their physical and mental wellbeing*

A Member expressed his concern around obesity. He was concerned that exercise was not the main factor for people to focus upon but that also of living a healthy lifestyle and consuming healthier foods. He discussed how a celebrity chef had helped an area of the country and was keen to see the Council promoting healthy cooking, especially as people now tended to rely more on fast food. However, he was concerned with the number of fast-food outlets within the town.

The Food Safety and Licensing Manager discussed the Staffordshire Everyone Health Project and advised that the Council were supporting the County with the project and working on the Cannock Chase Can Project to try and support people's behaviours.

He also reported that the Council had recruited a Health Improvement Officer who would join the Council on 6 December. It was hoped that the person in post would help with making some progress in these areas.

Members discussed restricting fast-food outlets, and it was noted that the Council had some control through Supplementary Planning Documents. However, the Committee had previously undertaken a review which showed that there was no evidence to suggest they worked.

Members noted the Supporting Health and Wellbeing PDP Quarter 2 2021/22 Performance Update.

#### **19. Update on Dual Stream Dry Mixed Recycling – post April 2022**

An update was received from the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles.

He gave a presentation and discussed the move from co-mingled to dual stream dry recycling (April 2022). He discussed with the Committee the changes in the way recycling would be collected and showed Members the new weighted recycling bags.

He reported that the bags were either fully recyclable plastic, or part recyclable. The scheme would first be rolled out and established and then additional bags would be available to residents. Households with more than 6 people would be allowed additional capacity as with other waste streams.

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles in response to a question advised that wrapping paper should not be recycled due to the colour dyes used, this included Christmas wrapping paper. He would also check about shredded paper being recycling.

A Member discussed the issue around contamination of paper/cardboard in blue bins asked what was being proposed to try and alleviate this. The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles advised that it would be more visible to see contamination in the bin, therefore it would be left and not collected. He hoped that once established the changes would be welcomed by residents as they would be more beneficial by allowing additional capacity and hopefully this would lead to improving the quality of dry mixed recycling.

A Member discussed the County initiative whereby a scheme was implemented to subsidise compost bins. The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles discussed the

County composting scheme which was available across the District. He highlighted however that cardboard needed to be shredded well, if not, it became an insulator.

## **20. Recommendations from the EnviroCrime Scrutiny Review Working Group**

The Food Safety and Licensing Manager referred to the previous meetings of the EnviroCrime Scrutiny Review Working Group and outlined the suggestions that Members wished to take forward. Those suggestions were:

- Consideration to be given to what other Local Authorities are implementing to tackle the issue of dog fouling
- To consider how social media can be used to engage better with businesses
- How further information can be provided to businesses and residents on how to dispose of trade waste, and promotion of the bulky waste service
- To consider supplying dispensers for dog waste, and consider whether this should be adopted by the Council or each Parish/Town Council
- Environmental Protection and Environmental Services to work together in bringing certain issues such as abandoned vehicles and fly posting under one service, although this may be considered under shared services
- To consider third parties undertaking some enforcement work into dog fouling/littering to increase fixed penalties

In response to a question from a Member concerning the process of the Committee, the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles advised that a report would be submitted to the next Committee scheduled in March. Should members agree with the recommendations, this would then go forward to Cabinet.

It was suggested that a further meeting of the Enviro-Crime Scrutiny Review Working Group be arranged to refine the proposed suggestions, with the Committee meeting in March and receiving recommendations (if any) from both Working Groups.

### **Resolved:**

That a further meeting of the Enviro-Crime Scrutiny Review Working Group be arranged in January/February 2022.

## **21. Health and Wellbeing Work Programme Update – 2021/22**

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles reported that a further meeting of the Waste and Recycling Working Group had been arranged in January, and a further meeting of the EnviroCrime Scrutiny Review Working Group would be arranged for January/February time. Any recommendations from the Groups (if any) would go to the next Committee in March and if agreed, forwarded to Cabinet.

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm

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CHAIRMAN