

## HEALTH & HOUSING POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting - 6 March 2014

Present: Mrs Woolveridge (Chairman)  
Mrs Burrows, Dr A Dhillon, Dr Matthews, Dr. Pope and Mrs Simmonds

Apologies for absence: Mr Pepler

### 35. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Policy Advisory Group held on 21 November 2013 were received.

### 36. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

The PAG received an outside body report from Cllr Pepler on the meeting of the Buckinghamshire Health Trust on 27 November 2013.

The PAG also received verbal updates on the following:

#### Age UK Buckinghamshire - Councillor Simmonds

The PAG noted that Age UK Buckinghamshire had opened a new shop in Aylesbury on the High Street.

#### Bucks CC Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee - Cllr Matthews

The Committee was due to discuss and agree the final report from the Urgent Care Inquiry Group at its next meeting.

#### Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospital Foundation Trust - Cllr Matthews

Cllr Matthews attended a consultation meeting on the how to improve services at Wexham Park Hospital. The Inspector, who was present at the consultation meeting, had carried out a number of service shaping visits to Wexham Park Hospital and confirmed that a team was due to visit the hospital next week.

#### L+Q Shires Neighbourhood Committee - Councillor Woolveridge

Councillor Woolveridge was unable to attend the last Committee meeting. The PAG noted that Councillor Woolveridge was due to attend, in the near future, a Residents Conference and would give a report to a future PAG.

### 37. PROPOSED ANTI DOG FOULING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The PAG received a report which set out a proposal for a project aimed at raising awareness of the antisocial nature of dog fouling and encouraging dog walkers to behave responsibly.

It was proposed that a project be developed along the lines of the successful initiative in Chiltern District Council in 2013 and to trial the format in one of the communities who had raised concerns regarding dog fouling i.e. Beaconsfield, Stoke Poges and Iver.

The project would be developed to incorporate the comments from the Health and Housing PAG on 21 November 2013 and would be based on a series of options which were set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

The PAG noted that a proposed budget of £3000 was being recommended to cover the initial events. It was envisaged that this sum would be available from funds for projects within the community safety budget tackling Anti-Social Behaviour.

The PAG noted that the Community PAG supported the proposals set out in the report at its meeting on 4 March 2014.

With regards to the options set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report, the PAG were in support of increasing enforcement as well as raising awareness. The PAG stressed the importance of a partnership approach, especially the involvement of Parish/Town Councils and PCSOs.

The PAG indicated its support for the proposal to develop a toolkit based on the initial project to be rolled out to other locations across South Bucks.

In response to a question, it was noted that whilst historically Environmental Health had received only a limited number of complaints specifically relating to dog fouling, there had been anecdotal evidence of a more unpleasant picture. Furthermore, over the last few months Environmental Health had been approached by a number of Parish and Town Councils asking for advice on ways to tackle dog mess in public open spaces.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that the Anti-Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign be supported at a cost of £3000 to be met from the existing community safety budget.

### 38. ENERGY SAVING ACROSS THE COUNCIL ESTATE

The PAG received a report which provided Members with an update on recent activity on reducing energy use and costs to the Council and outlined the key outcomes from the fact finding Energy Audit.

The Cabinet agreed at its meeting on 16 July 2013 to undertake an Energy Audit of the whole of the Council's estate portfolio in order to see if further cost and energy savings were possible. This audit was now complete. The PAG noted the numerous energy and cost saving measures which had been identified as part of the audit that could be implemented to enable the Council to reduce its energy use and costs (as shown in Appendix B).

The Cabinet also agreed, at its meeting on 19 November 2013, to spend £17,620 in 2014/15 investing in 'quick win' energy saving projects. Appendix A of the report set out the cost saving measures to be undertaken in the financial year 2014/15. The investment would yield a saving of £16,820 in 2015/16 and thereafter.

The PAG were advised that a further report setting out the longer-term proposals for investment in energy efficiency/cost savings would be presented at the next Health and Housing PAG.

With regards to the savings shown in Appendix A, the PAG were advised that the Council would be able to show how much energy had been saved in 2015/16 and thereafter from the Greenhouse Gas Report which the Council completes annually.

The PAG were also advised that the predicted saving for behavioural changes, set out in appendix A, had been calculated based on the advice of the Energy Saving Trust and the experience of other local authorities who had made savings through changing behaviour.

#### **RESOLVED** that

1. the one year savings for the works, which had previously been agreed by Cabinet, and the findings of the Energy Audit be noted.
2. a further report be presented at the next Health and Housing PAG setting out the justified business case for longer-term energy and cost saving investments.

39. **STOKE POGES MEMORIAL GARDENS - COLONNADE**

The PAG received a report regarding the proposal to replace the existing timber structures in the Colonnade at Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens.

The PAG noted the structural engineer's report, attached as Appendix A, which concluded that it would be necessary to replace all the timber structures due to the 'extremely poor condition' of the timber work.

Initial enquiries suggest that the replacement of the timbers would cost up to £60,000. On 10 February 2014, the Cabinet agreed the Council's capital programme for 2014/15 and approved a growth item of £60,000 for the replacement work subject to a detailed report being presented to the Health & Housing PAG.

Officers have asked the structural engineer to prepare a specification for the work so that it can be tendered. Whilst the contract can be awarded early in the new financial year, it was anticipated that the work would not be carried out until the autumn in order to avoid damaging the wisteria and other climbing plants which were supported by the timbers.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

40. **SIGNING OF DECLARATION ON TOBACCO CONTROL**

The PAG received a report which asked Members to advise the Portfolio Holder on whether to recommend to Council, via the Cabinet, that the Council signs the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control.

The Health and Wellbeing Board has asked that all the local authorities in Buckinghamshire to consider signing the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control. In signing this declaration the Council would be sending a message out to its local communities regarding its commitment to improving local public health for all of its residents.

The PAG were in support of the Council signing the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Council, via the Cabinet, that the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control be signed.

41. **UPDATE ON AIRPORTS COMMISSION'S INTERIM REPORT**

The PAG received an information report which provided an update on the Airports Commission's Interim Report, published in December 2013. The report set out the main conclusions of the Interim Report and the Commission's next steps.

The PAG were advised that the overall recommendation in the Interim Report was that one net additional runway would need to be in operation in the south east by 2040 with the likelihood for the need for a second additional runway to be operational by 2050.

The Airports Commission intend to carry out a detailed study on their current proposed locations for the first runway, covering three options at Heathrow and Gatwick airports. The PAG noted that the maps illustrating the Heathrow Hub option and the Heathrow Airport's own proposal for a second north runway were attached as Appendix A.

The PAG noted that the Council's response to the Appraisal Framework, attached as appendix B, was agreed by Full Council on 25 February 2014. The final report by the Airports Commission was due to be published in the summer of 2015 and that a public consultation on the shortlisted options would commence towards the end of 2014.

The PAG were advised that the Sustainable Development PAG was due to receive presentations on the Heathrow Airport expansion options at its meeting on 13 March 2014.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

42. **HOUSING SERVICES UPDATE**

The PAG noted the following updates with regards to Housing Services:

- Homelessness - there were 8 people in B+B as at 6 March 2014.
- 26 families were in Temporary Accommodation within L+Q stock as at 6 March 2014.
- 10 New Affordable Homes have been completed (April - Dec )
  - 4 affordable rent
  - 6 shared ownership/shared equity (your choice)
- 18 affordable rented new build and 3 buy back affordable rented to be completed by 31 March 2014.
- Total of 28 against target of 24 affordable homes.
- Disabled Facilities Grant budget currently on track for full expenditure.
- Shared Housing Service due to start from 1 April 2014 and all posts had been appointed to the team, which would be led by Michael Veryard.
- Implementation Plan for the Housing Shared Service to be developed by the Housing team and project managed by the Housing Manger with completion by November 2014. The plan to identify the various work streams and timescales required to enable the phased delivery of the shared Housing service in accordance with the business plan.
- As part of that implementation the team were working on delivering the changes to the Bucks Homes Choice modules enabling a self-assessment tool to be implemented and a homelessness module to monitor and record statistics and provide the data for returns and covalent.
- Green Deal Together (GDT) now established and holds all the necessary consents required to trade. Awaiting the outcome of the bid to DECC on the Community Bid for hard to treat properties. GDT to be launched on 1 May 2014.

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

43. **ENVIRONMENT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The PAG received a report providing an update on the Environment Health Improvement Plan.

The PAG wished to express their thanks and appreciation to all those staff who worked to help residents during the flooding.

It was noted that the environmental implications of the Western Rail Access to Heathrow (WRAtH) still needed to be added to the Plan.

The PAG were advised that since the Plan was produced, there had been number of food poisoning cases reported at a premise in South Bucks. The source of the problem had since been identified and all the necessary steps to rectify the problem had been taken.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

44. **AIR QUALITY PROGRESS REPORT**

The PAG received a report which informed Members about the South Bucks District Council's Air Quality Report for the 2012 calendar year reported to DEFRA in 2013.

The PAG noted that the Air Quality Report did not identify significant changes in emissions sources in the District, and monitoring data showed that air quality in the district was generally good. The highest pollution levels in the District were found adjacent to the motorways. These areas were declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2004.

A number of key points of progress have been made against the Air Quality Action Plan. The PAG were advised that the Air Quality Action Plan would be updated in the coming months and that a further report would be submitted to a future PAG.

**RESOLVED** to note that

1. South Bucks District Council has submitted its 2012 Air Quality Report to DEFRA. The report concluded that three monitoring locations outside of the AQMA exceed the Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide. However, it was calculated that there were no exceedences at the nearest receptors in these locations.
2. the objective level for PM10 was not exceeded in 2012.

45. **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

Members noted that the following items contained information which was not available to the press and public:

- Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens - Contract Extension
- Leasing Scheme to Provide Temporary Accommodation

46. **STOKE POGES MEMORIAL GARDENS - CONTRACT EXTENSION**

The PAG received a report which asked Members to advise the Portfolio Holder on a request for the extension of the current contract with Gavin Jones Ltd for grounds maintenance at Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens.

In response to a question regarding paragraph 5.1 of the report, a further explanation was given regarding the amount of work and cost involved with carrying out a tender exercise.

The PAG were in support of renewing the contract for a further three years from December 2014 and delegating authority to the Director of Services to agree any necessary legal documentation.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that

1. the contract with Gavin Jones Ltd for grounds maintenance at Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens be renewed for a further three years from December 2014.
2. authority be delegated to the Director of Services to agree any necessary legal documentation.

47. **LEASING SCHEME TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION**

The PAG received a report which advised Members of a potential initiative to provide homeless families with an alternative to Bed and Breakfast by enabling six empty houses to be used as temporary accommodation.

The PAG noted that if the initiative was implemented it would ease the pressure on the Council to use Bed and Breakfast as temporary accommodation for 2 to 4 years with the possibility of an extension. The initiative would be subject to a further report to Health and Housing PAG, which would contain a detailed proposal and would seek recommendation to Cabinet for a decision to go ahead.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) the report be noted.
- 2) a business case and operational plan be presented to a future PAG.

The meeting terminated at 7.17 pm