

## HEALTH & HOUSING POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting - 24 June 2014

Present: Mrs Woolveridge (Chairman)  
Dr A Dhillon, Dr Matthews, Mr Pepler and Dr. Pope

Apologies for absence: Mrs Simmonds

### 1. MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the meetings of the Policy Advisory Group held on 6 March and 25 March 2014.

### 2. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

The PAG received outside body reports from

- Cllr Woolveridge - L&Q Shires Neighbourhood Committee
- Mr Pepler - Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust
- Mrs Cranmer - Padstones
- Mr Martin Holt, Head of Housing, on behalf of Mrs Woolveridge - Healthy Communities Partnership and  
- Green Deal Together

The PAG also received verbal updates on the following:

- Dr Matthews - Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee: Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals Foundation Trust

### 3. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

The PAG received a report which informed Members of the incoming Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) powers and the likely implications for the Council, the Community Safety Partnership and South Bucks residents.

In providing an overview of the new powers the report explained the following:

- Community Trigger (Anti-Social Behaviour Review);
- Community Remedy;
- Criminal Behaviour Orders;
- Injunctions to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance;
- Closure Notice and Orders;
- Community Protection Orders;
- Public Space Protection Orders; and
- Police Dispersal Powers

An appendix to the report outlined the key issues that would need to be taken into consideration in implementing the new powers which came with enforceable penalties as explained in the report which went on to identify the delegations that would need to be made to officers to ensure the powers were enforced.

It was also noted, when implementing the new powers officers would take due regard of government guidance as and when provided.

The report concluded by referring to the need to develop a publicity strategy to support implementation and to provide training to staff.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, which welcomed the new powers and supported the proposals in the report, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that authority to exercise the Council's functions and enforcement powers under the Anti-Social, Crime and Policing Act (whether as part of joint arrangements or otherwise) be delegated to the Head of Health and Housing, including but not restricted to:-

- a) appointment of authorised officers
- b) in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, securing injunctions to prevent nuisance and annoyance
- c) the issue of closure notices and securing of closure orders
- d) the issue of community protection notices
- e) the implementation of public space protection orders.

#### 4. FLOODING UPDATE

The PAG considered a report seeking changes to the Housing Financial Assistance Policy to enable householders and businesses impacted by flooding to access assistance through the Government's Flood Repair and Renewal and Business Support.

Flooding in South Bucks District occurred as a result of a period of intense rainfall which lasted from 30 December 2013 until approximately 21 February 2014. Whilst the number of properties flooded in South Bucks was limited, the impact to the authority in terms of resources was significant. Sandbags and flood sacks were provided to several locations and assistance was provided to several businesses impacted by flooding or surcharging sewers.

The Government has announced various schemes to support residents and businesses impacted by flooding, including the creation of a Repair and Renewal Grant and a Business Support Scheme. The Repair and Renewal Grant will enable homeowners and businesses whose properties have been flooded to access up to £5,000 to pay for measures to improve a property's ability to withstand future flooding. The grant would require the Council to vary the current Housing Assistance Policy to enable businesses and homeowners to access up to £5,000 for the flood resistant measures.

Additionally the Government would provide money to support small and medium sized businesses in flood affected areas that have been affected by flooding and have suffered a significant loss of trade. South Bucks would be seeking to secure funding from the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) to offer the Business Support Scheme.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, which was supportive of the proposals, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that the amendments to the Housing Financial Assistance Policy as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved to enable the Repair and Renewal Grant to be provided to businesses and homeowners

#### 5. INTRODUCTION OF DOG CONTROLS AT BURNHAM BEECHES

The PAG received an information report on the introduction of a Dog Control Order by the Corporation of London at Burnham Beeches.

The Corporation of London are in the process of introducing a Dog Control Order for Burnham Beeches, and have recently commenced a formal public consultation, which closes on 14 July, with the intention of enacting the Order during 2014.

The report explained the proposed controls to be imposed as follows:

Schedule 1. Failure to remove dog faeces. This Schedule will apply to the whole of Burnham Beeches under the ownership of the Corporation of London.

Schedule 2. Failure to keep a dog on a lead in an area so designated. This Schedule will apply to maximum 130 hectares of Burnham Beeches under the ownership of the Corporation of London and includes a maximum lead length of 5m.

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Schedule 3. Failure to put and keep a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer. This Schedule will apply to a minimum of 90 hectares of Burnham Beeches under the ownership of the Corporation of London.

Schedule 4. Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded. This Schedule will apply to the existing small, fenced area (approx. 250m<sup>2</sup>) around the Beeches Café.

Schedule 5. Taking more than a specified number of dogs on to the land. The proposal for this Schedule is that a maximum number of 4 dogs will be specified.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### 6. GREENHOUSE GAS REPORT 2013/14

The PAG received a report which sought members views on the draft Greenhouse Gas Report for submission to Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). The report also highlighted the Councils recent energy and cost savings and Reduction Targets.

The Greenhouse Gas Report is produced annually, and follows a prescribed format. The report must be submitted to DECC by 31<sup>st</sup> July and posted on the Council's website. The fourth draft Greenhouse Gas Report has been produced and was attached as appendix A to the report.

Overall carbon emissions have continued to reduce with an approximate average reduction of 4.6% year on year. This was slightly under the expected 5% year on year emissions reduction target set by the Council during 2013/14. Whilst the Council has not met the target for 2013/14, given the forthcoming energy savings measures, the likelihood was that the Council would meet the rolling target for 2014/15.

A further report would be produced for the September PAG on how further energy saving measures would assist with continuing cost reductions.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, which was supportive of the proposals, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that the DRAFT Greenhouse Gas Report along with continuing the 5% year on year reduction target within the Report at Appendix A, prior to the report being presented to DECC and uploaded on to the Council's website be endorsed.

### 7. HOUSING SERVICES UPDATE

The PAG noted the following updates with regard to Housing Services

- Shared Housing Service which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 with Michael Veryard taking on the post of Housing Manager;
- Bucks Home Choice;
- Homelessness;
- Private Sector Housing and Disabled Facilities Grants;
- Affordable Housing ;
- Housing Related Support (Supporting People) contracts;
- Assurance Review of Homelessness and Housing Allocations (tiaa).

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UPDATE

The PAG received a report providing an update on Environment Health. The PAG were pleased to note of that 10 of the aims were on target.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

9. EXEMPT INFORMATION

Members noted that the following item contained exempt information which was not available to the press and public for the reasons given under each minute heading.

10. LEASING SCHEME TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

(Schedule 12A part 1 (paras 3 and 4) - because of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)

When the PAG considered a leasing scheme to provide temporary accommodation at its meeting on 6th March 2014 it was minuted:

“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”.

However, as officers worked with Thames Valley Police (TVP) and Bucks Housing Association (BHA) to progress the scheme, it was established that BHA would need to enter into a lease with TVP by the beginning of June 2014 in order that the Association could have the minimum 12 month lease period that it required to make the scheme viable. Otherwise, BHA would have to withdraw and the scheme could not proceed.

In view of the urgency of the situation and the potential benefits identified for the Council, the Director of Services used the powers delegated to him to enter into an agreement for the provision of temporary accommodation with BHA in partnership with TVP.

The scheme will run as a pilot for an initial period of 12 months, to assess its effectiveness in supporting the Council in fulfilling its temporary accommodation duties.

The PAG noted the progress and implementation of the scheme to return six vacant properties back into use as temporary accommodation for homeless households and were in support of the action taken by the Director of Services to enter into the “Agreement for the Provision of Temporary Accommodation” with Bucks Housing Association.

**RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet that the action taken by the Director of Services to enter into the “Agreement for the Provision of Temporary Accommodation” with Bucks Housing Association be endorsed.

The meeting terminated at 7.23 pm