

## HEALTH & HOUSING POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

### Meeting - 10 December 2014

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

Apologies for absence: Dr. Pope and Mrs Simmonds

Absent: Mrs Burrows

#### 23. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Policy Advisory Group held on 25 September 2014 were received.

#### 24. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

The PAG received outside body reports from

- Cllr Woolveridge on the meeting of the L&Q West Neighbourhood Committee on 12 November 2014
- Cllr Pepler on the meeting of the Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust on 24 September 2014

Cllr Matthews reported that she had not heard anything further with regard to future governance arrangements for Wexham Park Hospital. Frimley Hospital Trust had taken over the Hospital with effect from 1 October 2014 as a result of which the Board of Governors, of which Cllr Matthews was a member as the Council's representative, no longer existed. In an effort to obtain more information, it was suggested that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny be asked to consider inviting a representative from the new Trust to attend a future meeting of the Committee in order to receive, amongst other things, information regarding the governance arrangements and performance monitoring.

#### 25. PORTFOLIO BUDGETS 2015/16

The PAG considered a report seeking approval for the draft revenue budget and fees and charges schedule for 2015/16 for the Health and Housing Portfolio. The report outlined the context of the overall financial position facing the Council for the coming year.

In considering the report the PAG particularly noted the following inflation assumptions:

- Salaries inflation from April 2015 of 1%;
- Contracts inflation 2% (unless different rate specified within contract);
- Business rates 2.3%;
- Gas -10% (saving on new contract), Electricity 12% and water 5%;
- Other expenditure heads 0% and
- Income 2%.

The PAG also noted that the 2015/16 budget of £663,000 was a decrease of £35,000 on the current year's approved budget due to reasons set out in paragraph 6.4 of the report.

The PAG were made of aware of the risks within the budget, the main risk relating to homelessness expenditure which was demand driven and sensitive to the general economic climate.

After questions and answers about detailed items in the budget, the PAG agreed to advise the Portfolio Holder to approve the draft revenue budget and fees and charges schedule for 2015/16 for submission to the Cabinet. In connection with pest control and in particular the item relating to the discretionary free pest control service available to those in receipt of an income related benefit, it was noted that the budget figure of £3,000 had been omitted and would be retained.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder has **APPROVED** for submission to the Cabinet:

- 1) The 2015/16 revenue budget of £666,000
- 2) The 2015/16 fees and charges

## 26. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

The PAG received a report which advised Members of the issues around homelessness in South Bucks that have been identified to date in the shared housing service implementation and how these would be taken forward in developing the Council's revised Homelessness Strategy.

Appendix 1 to the report provided a summary of the current position in South Bucks against the Ten Local Challenges set by the Government for all local authorities to adopt and the next steps to be taken. Once the same exercise has been undertaken at Chiltern District Council, Officers would identify those themes and issues which were common to both districts and those which differ in order to support the development of a joint homelessness strategy. The joint strategy would accommodate shared priorities and specific action plans for Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council respectively.

Appendix 2 of the report provided an overview of key homelessness statistics for South Bucks District Council over the period April 2014 to October 2014.

Following a discussion regarding the issue of ex-service personnel becoming homeless, the Housing Manager explained that whilst this was not an issue in South Bucks at present, the Council would monitor the situation.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## 27. HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT PLAN 2014-16

The PAG considered a report on the Health and Safety Enforcement Plan 2014/2016. Members were asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on whether to recommend the adoption of the plan.

Local authorities are expected to draw up a Health and Safety delivery plan which sets out the authority's commitment to the national priorities and to target interventions to areas of greatest risk. The Council's Health and Safety Enforcement Plan 2014/2016, as attached to the report, has been drawn up in a similar format to previous plans and sets out the commitment to providing a comprehensive health and safety advice and enforcement service.

The PAG advised the Portfolio Holder to recommend the adoption of the plan to Cabinet.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio holder has **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that the Health and Safety Enforcement Plan 2014/2016 be adopted

28. **FOOD SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2014-16**

The PAG considered a report on the Food Service Delivery Plan 2014/2016. Members were asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on whether to recommend the adoption of the plan.

A major requirement of the Food Standards Agency's Framework Agreement is for every local authority to draw up a Food Service Delivery Plan in a common format. The Council's Food Service Delivery Plan 2014/2016, as attached to the report, has been drawn up in the format required by the Framework Agreement and sets down the Council's commitment to providing a comprehensive food advice and inspection service.

The PAG advised the Portfolio Holder to recommend the adoption of the plan to Cabinet.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio holder has **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that the Food Safety Delivery Plan 2014/2016 be adopted

29. **HEALTH AND HOUSING SERVICES UPDATE**

The PAG received a report providing an update on Health and Housing Services.

After noting the update, the PAG discussed the negative impact of the Government's announcement that it will be changing national planning policy on Section 106 contributions to exempt developments of 10 homes or fewer was likely to have.

A concern was raised by a member of the PAG that there was a proposal in the M4 'smart motorway' consultation document for a depot to be built in Iver. In addition to this, there was a proposal to build sidings in Langley as part of the HS2 project. The Head of Healthy Communities undertook to look into these issues further and to report back.

The Head of Healthy Communities also confirmed that he would be writing to Thames Water regarding the problems over drainage.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

30. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A poster by the South Central Ambulance Service promoting the work of the Community First Responders was circulated at the meeting. The PAG requested that the information be put on the Council's website.

The meeting terminated at 7.14 pm