

**MINUTES OF THE ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 7PM, ON
WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Committee Members Present: Councillor N. Simons (Chair), K. Aitken, R. Bisby, S. Bond, R. Brown (Vice Chair), A. Ellis, John Fox, J. Howard, J. Howell, M. Jamil, I Yasin.
Co-opted Members: Parish Councillors Neil Boyce and James Hayes

Officers Present:
Rob Hill – Assistant Director, Community Safety
Vicki Crompton – Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Manager
Caroline Townsend – Head of Commissioning Partnerships and Programmes
Debbie McQuade – Assistant Director, Adult Social Care Operations
Adrian Chapman – Service Director, Communities and Partnerships
David Beauchamp – Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Councillor Steve Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

Agenda Item 6. Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service Update Report

Councillor Bisby declared that he was the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner but would continue to speak and vote on this item.

Agenda Item 8. Review of Vivacity Transition Arrangements

Councillor Simons declared a non-pecuniary interest on this item due to being a Board Member of Peterborough Limited. A limited dispensation had been granted by the Monitoring Officer to allow Councillor Simons to continue to speak, but not vote, on this item.

3. MINUTES OF THE ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2020

The minutes of the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 3 March 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. CALL IN OF ANY CABINET, CABINET MEMBER OR KEY OFFICER DECISIONS

There were no requests for call in to consider.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which recommended that Parish Councillor Neil Boyce be appointed as a non-voting co-opted member to represent the rural area. The report also recommended that Parish Councillor James Hayes be appointed as either a second Parish Councillor non-voting co-opted member or as a nominated substitute for Neil Boyce should he be appointed as the substantive Parish Councillor co-opted member. All appointments to be reviewed at the beginning of the next municipal year.

Councillor Jamil, seconded by Councillor Bisby, proposed that both James Hayes and Neil Boyce be appointed as non-voting co-opted members. This was UNANIMOUSLY agreed.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Appoint Parish Councillor Neil Boyce as a non-voting Co-opted Member to represent the rural area for the municipal year 2020/2021. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.
2. Appoint Parish Councillor James Hayes as a second non-voting Co-opted Member to represent the rural area for the municipal year 2020. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.

6. **DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE UPDATE REPORT (*CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ITEM 6. ONLY*)**

The report was introduced by the Assistant Director, Community Safety accompanied by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Manager. The report was presented to inform the Scrutiny committee of the new statutory obligation proposed in the 2020 DA Bill, and to seek the Committee's view on the proposal to provide governance for this via the established DASV partnership board and to update the Committee on the review of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Service.

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- It was noted that Peterborough City Council was a unitary authority and therefore had the functions of both a Tier 1 and Tier 2 Council.
- Members enquired about potential budgetary pressures caused by the new statutory obligation to provide accommodation. Officers responded that it was believed that the Government would provide funding to cover this but the details were not yet known. The Council participated in a working group with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- It was anticipated that two separate funding streams would be given to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils. Officers would aim to negotiate fair funding for both. The support of this Committee in achieving this goal was offered.
- The proposed legislation did not demand more than what the Council was already delivering and officers were confident that the required level of accommodation could be provided. Levels required in Peterborough were comparable with other areas. Clear guidance would be provided for every tier 1 or unitary authority area 1 2021.
- Members requested that they receive an annual report on the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service. Officers added that an annual report was already available and could be circulated to Members.

- Members requested that all Councillors were given the option of receiving counselling training to better assist residents.
- Members requested training information on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and contact details for relevant officers
- Officers stated that a monthly newsletter was available from the Service.
- There were no plans to re-instate the Women's centre in Peterborough. However, outreach centres were set up in useful places, e.g. children's centres. Women's Aid, the City Council and the Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services (PCVS) worked closely together.

The Assistant Director, Community Safety provided further updates on aspects of the report relevant to his service area.

- It was noted that limited funding would make it challenging to grow the service. Work would continue on achieving this.
- A Member commented that he worked with the Assistant Director to secure additional funding as part of his role as Acting Police and Crime Commissioner.
- There was adequate staffing to deal with increased demand for the Service caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. An early decision had been taken not to redeploy staff. Front line services had been protected and this would continue.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the statutory duty on Tier 1 local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation from April 2021, and to consider and comment on the proposal to provide governance for this statutory duty via the existing countywide Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board.
2. Note the impact of COVID-19 on the demand for domestic abuse services, and the proposed cessation of the Service review.
3. Request an annual report on the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service.
4. Request that all Councillors are given the option of receiving counselling training to better assist residents.
5. Request training information on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and contact details for relevant officers

7. CARE HOME SUPPORT PLAN

The report was introduced by the Head of Commissioning Partnerships and Programmes, accompanied by the Assistant Director, Adult Social Care Operations. The report provided an overview and update on the implementation of Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council's Local Care Home Support Plan.

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members asked if the COVID-19 pandemic had caused people to delay seeking care. Officers responded that this had been noticed in the self-funding market but not for Local Authority Care to the same extent. This situation would continue to be monitored. An increase had been seen in home support and live-in care support and concerns had been raised from families regarding care homes. A balanced approach to responding to people's needs was required, taking into account the financial impact.

- Members asked if staff recruitment was providing difficult. Officers responded that no feedback had been received to suggest this was the case. There had been an influx of available funding. There were however pressures around sick pay when staff were self-isolating and the increased use of agency staff.
- There was adequate bed capacity in nursing and residential care, although capacity had been tight for a few months. The area of greatest concern had been residential beds for people with dementia but this situation had since improved.
- Members asked why 17 care homes had opted out of infection control training. Was this training mandatory and were some care homes choosing not to engage with the Care Home Support Plan? Officers responded that Care Homes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough had welcomed additional training. Cambridgeshire County Council had been instrumental in providing this. Infection training was mandatory in law.
- Members asked what was being done to prevent spreading the virus to care homes following discharge, especially in light of pressure on hospital bed capacity approaching the winter. Officers responded that a great deal had been learnt over the course of the pandemic. The discharge of a patient into a care home would not be supported without a test. All acute trusts had to conduct testing and the Council ensured this testing took place in a timely manner. Multiple tests would also take place when required. Processes were robust and there was a desire to avoid a repeat of the situation that took place in March and April. At the time, Local Authorities had been asked to block-purchase beds in care homes to free up hospital capacity. However, there had since been investment in reablement and intermediate care to enable patients to retain their independence at home where possible.
- Work had been done to ensure a robust supply of high-quality PPE and ensure Care Homes could access PPE from the national supply if needed.
- Testing in Care Homes nationally was not currently meeting expectations although the situation was improving. There were local backup plans with some providers having set up their own private arrangements. 82% of care homes had signed up to national testing portals.
- Members raised concerns that some private care providers did not have the resources to fully undertake the required work when people were discharged from hospital. Officers responded that this was true between April and June but the situation had since improved, e.g. through Multidisciplinary (MDT) and clinical support for care homes, support from the Council's contract and brokerage teams and approval for social care support exclusively for care homes. The Council's offer was now robust and Care Homes could access additional resources if they were struggling.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note and comment on the contents of this report.

8. REVIEW OF VIVACITY TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

The report was introduced by the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships, accompanied by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation which set out the arrangements for transitioning Vivacity services to the Council following their decision to terminate the contract the Council has with them.

The following updates to the report were also provided:

- Section 4.2 - The Vivacity contract had been extended and would now end on 30 September. This made it easier to deal with the administration of payslips and memberships.

- Section 4.6.1 - The Key Theatre would be re-opened with a Christmas Season instead of a pantomime. Peterborough Museum would re-open on November 11. Building work was currently underway to ensure it was COVID-secure.
- Section 4.7.1 - The Council were working with the Werrington and Bushfield facilities to ensure the safety of children when they re-opened for Community use.
- Section 4.8.1 – Arrangements were still being made between Vivacity and third parties regarding services that did not form part of the Council's Contract. The hydrotherapy pool was still closed due to difficulties with social distancing. A decision was yet to be made on this.

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members praised the legacy of Vivacity and the hard work of the Service Director and Cabinet Member during the transition period.
- The new arrangements were planned to last for a year following the handover in to order to arrive at a conclusion regarding future arrangements although this was not set in stone. The aim was to show customers that there was a great future for Culture and Leisure in the City. Members commented that there should not be a deadline for this decision to be made by.
- Members requested regular updates on the progress of the Council's new Culture and Leisure Operator from the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships.
- Members commented that there had been concerns among residents and staff regarding delays in announcements regarding the future of Vivacity and it was positive that these announcements had now taken place.
- It was confirmed that the Jack Hunt pool would re-open on 1 October for community use. Officers would confirm details with Members and confirm schedules with Members and the Media.
- Members asked if the City College and Peterborough Limited had sufficient resources to run services. Officers responded that services were transferring with a critical budget but they were confident as they could be that the budget was in good order. An investigation would take place to see if there were more efficient ways of running services. A caveat was that it was currently unclear whether the public would return fully to using fee-paying services in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Peterborough Limited and the City Council were entrepreneurial organisations which informed discussions regarding the Lido, which would be opening again in 2021. There was the possibility of attracting funding for opening the facility all year round.
- Members requested that the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships confirmed re-opening plans for the following:
 - Jack Hunt Pool
 - Swim schools
 - Football and Cricket pitches
- The Cabinet Member stated that the swim school and use of pitches was being reviewed. These decisions depended on whether social distancing could eventually be relaxed so they were commercially viable, especially facilities such as the splash park.
- There was a clear opportunity for links between Aragon Direct Services and the Leisure services to be operated by Peterborough Limited. This could help to address environmental challenges. Initial discussions had taken place regarding this and it was agreed that the Service Director would keep the Committee updated.
- Members commented that they would like to see the Council continue to operate culture and leisure services directly.

- Members requested that the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships responds to Members' concerns regarding lack of enforcement of Vivacity's system of retaining deposits when sporting facilities were left in an untidy condition. The Service Director added that he had a personal commitment to tackling littering and the Council always aim to take action to address it where possible.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note and comment upon the progress being made to secure the safe transition of services from Vivacity and:

- Requested that the Democratic Services Officer adds the Peterborough Cultural Strategy and Active Lifestyles Strategy to the relevant Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes.
- Requested Regular updates on the progress of the Council's new Culture and Leisure Operator from the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships.
- Requested that the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships confirms re-opening plans for the following:
 - Jack Hunt Pool
 - Swim schools
 - Football and Cricket pitches
- Requested that the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships responds to Members' concerns regarding lack of enforcement of Vivacity's system of retaining deposits when sporting facilities were left in an untidy condition.
- Requested that the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships keeps the committee updated regarding the development of links between Aragon Direct Services and Peterborough Limited's new Culture and Leisure operator.

9. PROPOSAL FOR TASK AND FINISH GROUP TO PROMOTE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AMONGST COUNCILLORS

The report was introduced by the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships which set out the proposed detail for the Task and Finish group agreed at Full Council on 29 July, to focus on aspects of equality and diversity amongst councillors.

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The Committee requested that the Labour Group Representative pass on the Committee's suggestion to the Labour Group Leader that Cllr Yasin be appointed as the Labour member of the Task and Finish Group.
- Some Members expressed scepticism regarding the likely success of a Task and Finish Group in changing behaviour unless the Code of Conduct was changed and enforced. The Service Director responded that the Task and Finish Group could bring forward any recommendations it saw fit and officers would provide whatever support was necessary. Changing the Constitution would be supported if necessary and the Monitoring Officer had been suggested as a potential adviser to the group.
- In response, Members commented that they had not a chance to debate the motion at Council and were interest in Members' opinions.
- Members commented that the text of the Terms of Reference was somewhat unbalanced and required additional development to ensure all important issues were considered by the group. The text had been taken straight from the motion and there had been no opportunity to debate the wording at Council due to running out of time.

- Some Members felt there needed to be a major shift in the culture of the Council. This required the commitment of every party.
- A Member commented that they had learnt a great deal from being in the Civil Service, who had a great deal of information available that could be used to support the Task and Finish Group. The Service Director agreed to investigate what was available.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- Agree to the formation of a time-limited cross-party scrutiny Task and Finish group
- Agree the Terms of Reference for the proposed Task and Finish group
- Agree that the outcomes of the task and finish group should be presented back to the Committee at the relevant meeting
- Request that the Labour Group Representative pass on the Committee's suggestion to the Labour Group Leader that Cllr Yasin be appointed as the Labour member of the Task and Finish Group.

10. REVIEW OF 2019/2020 AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2020/21

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which considered the 2019/20 year in review and looked at the work programme for the new municipal year 2020/21 to determine the Committees priorities. The report also asked the Committee to consider if further monitoring of recommendations made during 2019/20 was required.

There were no comments by members.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. Consider items presented to the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee during 2019/20 and makes recommendations on the future monitoring of these items where necessary.
2. Determine its priorities and approves the draft work programme for 2020/2021 attached at Appendix 1.
3. Note the Recommendations Monitoring Report attached at Appendix 2 and consider if further monitoring of the recommendations made during the 2019/2020 municipal year is required.
4. Note the Terms of Reference for this Committee as set out in Part 3, Section 4, Overview and Scrutiny Functions and in particular paragraph 2.1 item 2, Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee and paragraph 3.4 Crime and Disorder as attached at Appendix 3.

11. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Chairman introduced the report which invited Member to consider the most recent version of the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and identify any relevant items for inclusion within the Committee's work programme or to request further information.

It was noted that a more recent version of the Forward Plan (Key Decisions from 25 September 2020) had been published since the publication of this Committee agenda and it was this version that would be referred to. This version of the Forward Plan had been emailed to Members.

Members requested a briefing note on the following Non-Key Decision: **Leisure Facility Options Appraisal**

ACTIONS AGREED

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. Consider the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions
2. Request a briefing note on the following Non-Key Decision: **Leisure Facility Options Appraisal.**

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11 November 2020 – Joint Scrutiny of the Budget

17 November 2020 – Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Chairman

7pm – 8.47pm.