

## **HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 0930 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:- Councillors T. Cannon, Mrs P.A. Cooper, H.J. Gilmour, C. Moesby, T. Munro, K.F. Walker and D.S. Watson.

Officers:- L. Cheong (Scrutiny Officer – Acting), A. Bashir (Policy Officer (Equality & Diversity)) (to Minute No. 0382), D. Bonsor (Housing Needs Manager) (to Minute No 0383) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

Councillor S. Peake in the Chair

### **0376. APOLOGY**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor J.E. Bennett.

### **0377. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

### **0378. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **0379. MINUTES – 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

Moved by Councillor T. Munro and seconded by Councillor C. Moesby

**RESOLVED** that subject to the correction of Councillor T. Munro's name in the list of Members present at the meeting, the Minutes of a Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee be approved as a correct record.

### **0380. LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE**

Moved by Councillor H.J. Gilmour and seconded by Councillor T. Munro

**RESOLVED** that the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private be noted.

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### 0381. CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2017 (QUARTER 2 – 2017/18)

#### **H 01 - Deliver a minimum of 8000 hours of positive activity through community based culture and leisure engagement per year.**

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 2 - At this stage of the year the target figure was 4000 hours, actual performance to date was 6024 - substantially exceeding the target.

A Member requested that a breakdown of the different activities undertaken be included in the third quarter report.

#### **H 02 - Increase participation/attendances in leisure, sport, recreation, health, physical and cultural activity by 3,000 per year.**

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 2 – The target for the year to date was 150,000 attendances. Actual to date was 179,900 - well ahead in quarter 2 exceeding expectations.

A Member felt that although it was excellent that the target was being exceeded early in the year, he felt that it may need to be looked at for the following year as to whether the target had been set high enough at the outset.

Another Member felt that although the success of customers using the leisure facilities at the Arc in the first year may have been under estimated caution should be taken not to over set the target next year due to a finite number of people using the facilities.

The Scrutiny Officer – Acting agreed to request information on the basis for how the target was set.

The Policy Officer (Equality & Diversity) noted that although the target was currently being exceeded, next year, the target would be increased by 3,000 as per the heading of the target.

#### **H 03 - Deliver a health intervention programme which provides 900 adults per year with a personal exercise plan via the exercise referral scheme.**

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 2 – At 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017; 542 clients at a number of different locations including Go Active @ The Arc, Shirebrook Leisure Centre and Welbeck Road Doctors Surgery.

(BDC was commissioned to deliver a health intervention programme by Derbyshire County Council Public Health. The scheme covered two programmes, the Derbyshire Integrated Wellbeing Approach and Bolsover Wellness Plus. A combined figure of 1000 referrals had been set from these two programmes).

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### **H 04 - Tackle childhood obesity through the delivery of a child focused health intervention programme to all Key Stage 2 year groups by the end of each academic year.**

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 2 of the current financial year saw the Five:60 programme's first term of the new academic year with a new tranche of pupils. The programme would be delivered to all key stage 2 pupils within the 28 schools in the Bolsover Schools Sports Partnership.

### **H 05 - Support 417 inactive 16+ individuals per year & increase their activity levels to more than 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity per week.**

This target was reported as being on track.

Members were asked to note that as the Funders had changed the criteria of the project during the course of the Corporate Plan period and it no longer reflected the original Corporate Plan target, it had been agreed at the quarterly Budget and Performance meeting in October 2017, to recommend to Executive that the target be monitored for information only.

The project update position (year 3, Q3: 820 individuals 'engaged' during the project period (Dec 2014 to September 2017). 'Engaged' refers to individuals who the officer has consulted with, signposted to activities or who have tried activities.

Additional outcome targets had been set for stages 2 and 3 of the project. (No outcome target had been set for year 3 of the project). These were:

- Establish a community group that identified and controlled ownership of a local health issue.
- Create a shared vision for the identified health issue.
- Facilitate the group to mobilise positive change of the health issue.

Current groups included:-

- Creswell Boxing Fitness - Community owned fitness class.
- Nature Explorers - Voluntary led family walking group.
- Community Fishing - voluntary led initiative to enable people to take up fishing independently.
- Whitwell FC - Working with club to work with the community in order to grow members and volunteers based on what is important to them.
- Community Allotment - Enabling local people with a passion for growing and gardening to utilise the allotment space donated to the community.

The Chair requested that a breakdown of the age profile of the people taking part in the activities be provided in the third quarter report.

### **H 07 - Assist partners in reducing crime by delivering 12 Crime Cracking events in the community each year.**

This target was reported as being on track.

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Quarter 2 – Five Crime Cracking events held in the quarter engaging with approximately 250 people;

13.07.17 - CVP Eats and Treats event at the Post Mill Centre, South Normanton  
15.07.17 - Friends of New Bolsover Big Lunch Picnic at Carr Vale Park  
12.08.17 - Emergency Services Day at the Post Mill Centre, South Normanton  
08.09.17 - Public Health SHIP event on Shirebrook Market Place  
27.09.17 - Residents reassurance/awareness event at St Michael's Drive,  
South Normanton

- Year to date: 6 events held.

It was noted that the crime cracking events were multi agency promoted events and where held to encourage people to report crime/incidents etc.

A Member requested that the event held in quarter 1 be listed in future reports and also that Member's thanks be relayed to the organiser of the events.

### **H 09 - Achieve a combined recycling and composting rate of 49% by March 2019.**

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 2 - It was estimated that 4,113 tonnes of recyclable\compostable waste would be collected between July and September 2017 yielding a combined recycling rate of 48.1% (estimated based on 2016 data). The information would be updated when qualified WDF data was available at ending December 2017.

(Quarter 1 Actual - 4,335 tonnes of recyclable\compostable waste was collected between April and June 2017 yielding a combined recycling rate of 46.9%).

A Member queried if the litter collected by the litter pickers in the District was sorted for recyclable materials at the depot, for example, cans and bottles. He requested clarification on this to be provided to Members at the next meeting.

### **H 10 - Sustain standards of litter cleanliness to ensure 96% of streets each year meet an acceptable level as assessed by Local Environment Quality Surveys (LEQS).**

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 2 - LEQS's established 3% of streets and relevant land surveyed for litter fell below grade B cleanliness standards resulting in 97% meeting the target standard. Combined Q1 & Q2 figures indicate that 1.5% have fallen below the required standard resulting in 98.5% meeting the standard and achieving the 96% overall target.

### **H 11 - Sustain standards of dog fouling cleanliness to ensure 98% of streets each year meet an acceptable level as assessed by Local Environment Quality Surveys (LEQS).**

This target was reported as being on track.

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Quarter 2 - LEQS's established 0% of streets and relevant land surveyed for dog fouling fell below grade B cleanliness standards resulting in 100% meeting the target standard. Combined results for Q1 & Q2 had resulted in a combined 100% meeting the target over the period.

Members felt concern about the measurement of the target as the issue of dog fouling in the District was of great concern to residents and Members – this was the reason for the Committee carrying out the Review of Enforcement. Members felt that the standard being used to make the assessment, or even the national standard, may not be appropriate.

A Member queried if the same streets were assessed each year for the target or if it moved around the District, so the whole District was covered over the target period. The Policy Officer (Equality & Diversity) would request clarification from the Assistant Director of Streetscene.

### **H 12 - Annually undertake 10 local environmental enforcement and educational initiatives in targeted areas to deal with dog fouling, littering or fly tipping.**

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 2 - Seven enforcement/educational initiatives were delivered during the second quarter. One at Creswell, one at Carr Vale, one at Langwith, one at Bolsover, two at Shirebrook and one at Barlborough

Target achieved for 2017/18 – 11 initiatives undertaken (seven in the current quarter and four in the previous quarter).

A Member requested clarification on whether the target was actually two separate targets, i.e., 'undertake 10 environmental enforcement' and '10 educational initiatives'. The Scrutiny Officer – Acting would request clarification and report back to Members.

### **H 15 - Reduce energy use in sheltered housing schemes by 10% by March 2019.**

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 2 - Work at Victoria House is underway. An Open Day for residents and local councillors went well and showcased the development. Architects are surveying future schemes.

2016 / 17 Baseline for annual gas usage for 1 year is 3.9 million Kwh.

### **H 16 - Replace each year 200 gas fired back boilers in our Council houses with more efficient 'A' rated combi boilers**

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 2 - the following numbers of boilers were fitted;

- 49 fitted by BDC operatives
- 104 fitted by contractor

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= Year to date 153 boilers fitted.

### **H 17 - To deliver the Building Resilience Programme by September 2019**

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 2 - Two members of the programme team had been recruited with the final post at interview stage. The seven strands of activity were progressing with internal and external delivery partners and the evaluation process had been finalised.

Moved by Councillor H.J. Gilmour and seconded by Councillor T. Munro  
**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

*The Policy Officer (Equality & Diversity) left the meeting.*

### **0382. HOMELESSNESS BRIEFING – PRESENTATION BY THE HOUSING NEEDS MANAGER**

The Housing Needs Manager gave a presentation to the meeting which provided details of the new Homelessness Reduction Act which would come into force in April 2018.

The change in the law meant local authorities would have to give advice and support to anyone at risk of homelessness regardless of whether they were deemed to be in priority need or not.

In exchange, anyone at risk of homelessness would be required to cooperate with a tailored package of measures (a personal housing plan), such as debt advice or family mediation, either to help them stay in their existing home or find a suitable new home.

The Housing Needs Manager advised Committee that the Homelessness Reduction Act was the biggest change in legislation since the initial act in 1977.

#### **Background Information**

In 2015, legislation was introduced in Wales which required councils to take steps to help anyone at risk of homelessness, regardless of need.

A mystery shopping exercise was carried out in 16 local authorities by the homeless charity, Crisis and the findings showed that the quality of housing advice available to homeless households was generally poor and sometimes unlawful. Additionally, the mystery shoppers found the treatment of homeless people by councils to be unacceptable.

The House of Commons Select Committee undertook an inquiry with a final report containing far-reaching recommendations – this was published in July 2016. Alongside the report a Homelessness Reduction Bill (HRB), which aimed to improve the support and advice offered to all homeless people, was produced.

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In 2002 local authorities had a statutory duty to produce a homelessness strategy. In 2016, Bolsover officers had developed a North Derbyshire Homelessness Strategy in partnership with NEDDC and Chesterfield Borough Council, which provided clear focus and direction to enable the Council to prevent homelessness as effectively and efficiently as possible in partnership with neighbouring authorities as well as other partner agencies such as advice and support providers. The Housing Needs Manager would provide Members with the Action Plans from the joint Strategy.

In the forthcoming months, Housing officers, working with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), would be carrying out work to implement the new duty, which would be based on the learning from Wales.

In response to a Member's question, the Housing Needs Manager confirmed that housing officers carried out school projects aimed at year 11s, visiting local schools to give talks on homelessness and budgeting etc, which would hopefully give young people an insight into the consequences of becoming homeless.

The Housing Needs Manager gave further detail of Government grants which would be provided to councils in the first year only to help with the transition to the new Act.

Members thanked the Housing Needs Manager for an informative presentation and looked forward to feedback and an update on the Act at the March 2018 Committee meeting.

*The Housing Needs Manager left the meeting.*

### **0383. WORK PLAN 2017/18**

Committee considered their Work Plan 2017/18.

With regard to the Enforcement Review, it was agreed that the findings from surveys and benchmarking be put back to the December 2017 meeting.

The Housing Needs Manager to provide an update/feedback on the Homelessness Reduction Act at the March 2018 meeting.

The formal meeting concluded at 1115 hours and Members then met as a working party to continue their review work. The working party concluded at 1140 hours.