

HEALTHY SAFE CLEAN & GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Healthy Safe Clean & Green Communities Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Friday, 13 September 2019 at 10:00.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Pat Cooper in the Chair

Councillors:- Anne Clarke, Natalie Hoy, Tom Munro, Evonne Parkin and Peter Roberts.

Officers:- Sara Gordon (Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager) (from Minute No. 0279), Joanne Wilson (Scrutiny and Elections Officer) and Alison Bluff (Governance Officer).

Also in attendance at the meeting, sat in the public gallery, were Councillors Mary Dooley (Portfolio Holder – Partnerships and Transformation) (left during Minute No. 0278 and Sandra Peake (Portfolio Holder – Housing and Community Safety) (left during Minute No. 0278).

272 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors David Downes and Janet Tait.

273 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

274 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

275 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS ON AGENDA

The Chair consented to a change in order of business to that stated on the agenda.

The Health and Wellbeing Framework 2017-2020 Update would be considered after the Post Scrutiny Monitoring – Review of Authority's Perception of Young People – Interim Report.

276 MINUTES - 2ND AUGUST 2019

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Natalie Hoy

RESOLVED that the Minutes of a Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee be approved as a correct record.

277 LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Committee considered the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document.

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Pat Cooper

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

278 POST SCRUTINY MONITORING: REVIEW OF AUTHORITY'S PERCEPTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE - INTERIM REPORT.

Committee considered a report which provided six month monitoring period information in relation to the Committee's review on the Authority's Perception of Young People.

Committee had agreed to undertake a review of the Authority's Perception of Young People as part of their 2018/19 work programme following consideration of a range of topics suggested at the Annual Scrutiny Conference.

The aim of the review was to establish the Council's current approach across frontline services when interacting with young people and to ensure the Council portrayed a positive image to them.

The review found that the Council was doing good work with young people and it had been slightly difficult to find what could be taken forward as detailed recommendations. However, two areas were picked up on and the Committee agreed two recommendations which would hopefully assist the Council in maintaining and further enhancing its positive approach when dealing with young people. Executive had approved the recommendations and the report acknowledged progress to date by officers implementing them.

To date, 1 out of the 2 recommendations had been achieved. The remaining recommendation was on track and would complete within the original twelve month monitoring period.

With regard to Recommendation 1.1, the Physical Activity & Sports Development

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Team had welcomed this recommendation and invited Members' feedback on any further ideas for marketing the different levels of leisure activity available to communities to encourage buy-in from across the District.

A Member acknowledged that there were many activities provided by the Physical Activity & Sports Development Team but felt they required more regular promotion on the Council's Bolsover TV website.

An example of one of the activities was Extreme Wheels and Members agreed that this had made a positive impact on young people in their communities. However, it was acknowledged that outdoor facilities were needed for Extreme Wheels and not all parishes had this provision.

In response to a Member's comment regarding funding, it was noted that match funding may be available to parish councils for some of the activities including Extreme Wheels. It was suggested that Members could raise this funding query at the Parish Council Liaison meetings.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer would also pass Members comments on to the Physical Activity and Sports Development Manager with a view to arranging an informal meeting with Members if necessary.

With regard to Recommendation 2, a survey had been undertaken across all 6 secondary schools within the District with the aim of gauging young people's views on how they currently accessed the Council's services and if there were any issues. Also how young people sourced information about the Council's services and activities and how they felt the Council could improve on how it communicated with them.

Overall, 174 respondents had completed the questionnaire from across 2 of the schools.

The survey showed that social media was the preferred method for young people to find out about local activities or services which the Council offered. Printed sources such as In Touch and the Parish Gazettes were less popular. Some responders would like to see more posters around their schools (notice boards) and other preferences were School Social Media and TV adverts, which would boost coverage of local activities or services. School take-up of Bolsover TV could be considered by the Council's Communications department in liaison with the schools. A further suggestion from the survey was to consider the use of a text alert service.

Members discussed the responses and other sources of advertising, for example, the use of banners and emails. Also, that the 2 televisions in the Go Active Cafe could be used periodically each day for the streaming of Bolsover TV. Extreme Wheels staff could hand out leaflets about other leisure activities to young people when they were out in the District and it was suggested that the Council had a dedicated Facebook page aimed at young people only to advertise the leisure activities.

The survey had further showed that 79% of respondents had confirmed that they found Council services easy to access.

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The Scrutiny & Elections Officer advised the meeting that the results from the survey would be provided to the Council's Communications Manager and would also be included on a future agenda of the Youth Council

A further 6 month monitoring report would be presented to Committee at its meeting on 6th March 2020.

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Anne Clarke

RESOLVED that (1) progress against the review recommendations be noted,

(2) the findings of the review be made public in accordance with Part 4.5.17(3) of the Council's Constitution,

(3) officers continue to implement the recommendations and submit a final report in six months' time highlighting any exceptions to delivery.

(Scrutiny & Elections Officer)

279 HEALTH & WELLBEING FRAMEWORK 2017-2020 UPDATE.

The Council had implemented an Employee Health and Wellbeing Framework 2019, with themes and activities for each quarter. It also included national campaigns, for example, Cervical Screening Awareness Week and World Mental Health Day.

A number of health and wellbeing initiatives had been undertaken including access to an Employee Assistance Programme offering 24/7 confidential telephone and on-line support over a number of topics (this support was also available to relatives of employees); Committee considered a report which provided an update on progress with regard to the Council's Employee Health and Wellbeing Framework 2017-2020.

The Framework had been agreed in October/November 2017 and set out how employees would be supported to ensure a healthy, motivated and high performing workforce to achieve the Council's aims and priorities.

An action plan which formed part of the Framework, detailed 3 key aims;

- Create a Healthy Work Environment
- Develop a supportive Workplace Culture
- Encourage employee engagement in healthy lifestyles

Work continued with Senior Management Team, Service Managers, trade union representatives and external partners such as Public Health and Derbyshire County Council, to ensure employees were receiving the right information and access to the information that they needed.

health checks; nutrition/healthy eating workshops and facilitating access to Council Leisure facilities.

A key indicator of employee health and wellbeing was attendance at work. During 2018/19 the sickness absence out-turn figure was 8.7 days per employee - this was a

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slight reduction on 2017/18 of 9.3 days but marginally higher than the target of 8.5 days per employee. Actions were being taken to address sickness absence and these included; HR link officers working directly with service managers and providing monthly sickness analysis reports; action plans produced for service areas to assist Managers in awareness of actions required and support needed for employees concerned; regular sickness absence management training each quarter; regular review of Occupational Health Provision.

Organisational Development (OD) covered a range of work streams that contributed to employee health & wellbeing. The Work Well Group had proven successful in generating ideas and implementing activities, yet more could be done to support this group and link actions into the wider corporate agenda. A strategic group led by the HR & OD Manager had been formed to ensure a holistic and corporate approach to Organisational Development.

An Employee Survey had been recently carried out and the Human Resources and OD Manager would provide the results to Committee at a future meeting.

As Members could see from the report, significant work had been undertaken in the last twelve months to develop and positively progress employee health and wellbeing and more work was still work to be done. The importance of health and wellbeing was growing across both councils with all employees recognising that they had a responsibility for their own wellbeing and that they could play a key role in supporting the wellbeing of others.

In response to Member's questions, the Human Resources and OD Manager noted the following;

- The cost of sickness absence to the Authority would soon be included in quarterly performance reports and this information could be provided to the Committee in future.
- In relation to the Employee Survey, mixed responses had been received from staff regarding their working environment and individual action plans had been produced for Managers.
- The suitability of an outside eating area for staff at lunchtime would need to be looked at.
- In most of the sickness absence cases regarding stress, these were related to incidents outside of work.
- Cost would need to be taken into account regarding team building exercises.

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Anne Clarke
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The Human Resources and OD Manager left the meeting.

280 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

Committee considered their work programme 2019/2020.

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Committee considered and agreed the final scoping document for their Review of the Council's Approach to Mitigation of Air Pollution. The scoping document would include a motion which was put to Council on 11th September 2019, regarding 'poor air quality and the detrimental effect on the wellbeing of young residents and their life opportunities' to form part of the focus of the Review.

Representatives from Friends of the Earth would also be invited to speak to Committee on any work they had carried out with other local authorities in the East Midlands.

As part of evidence gathering for the Review, an informal meeting would be arranged with Environmental Health officers invited to speak to Members on work which was being carried out in relation to air pollution in the District. It was agreed that this meeting would take place on 2nd October 2019 at 2pm.

Moved by Councillor Pat Cooper and seconded by Councillor Tom Munro
RESOLVED that the Work Programme be noted

The meeting concluded at 1135 hours.