

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY WELL BEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP held on Tuesday 23 July 2013 at 2.15pm

Present

Councillors: Mrs H Bainbridge, E J Berry, Mrs S Griggs, M R Lee, Mrs J Roach (substituting for Mrs N Woollatt) and P F Williams

Apologies

Councillors: Mrs S M Fox and Mrs N Woollatt

Also Present

Councillors: R M Deed, R L Stanley, N A Way and K D Wilson

Also Present

Officers: A Tregellas (Head of Communities and Governance), L Reeves (Head of Customer First), M Parish (Licensing and Community Safety Manager) and S J Lees (Member Services Officer)

14 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Honorary Alderman Mrs Susan Meads attended the meeting in relation to the item on the Tiverton Tourist Information Centre. She asked whether the Council was intending to use the already excellent volunteer support within any new arrangement that it approved. She also stated that she hoped there would not be a reliance on smart phones to access information as this was not an accessible medium for pensioners living in rural areas.

The Head of Communities and Governance informed the Group that a report would be presented to the Cabinet on 1 August outlining two options regarding the future of a Tourist Information Service in Tiverton. She confirmed that both options included a need for volunteer support.

15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 May 2013 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had the following announcements to make:

- i. She was pleased that the 'Liverpool Care Pathway for the Dying Patient' had been abolished since it had attracted a great deal of controversy and in her view was an inhumane way of treating those at the end of their lives;
- ii. There had been an article in the Telegraph newspaper concerning the 'Lonely Lives of the Elderly', she was astonished that this appeared to be

new news to the Government whereas it had been a significant issue within rural authorities for a very long time.

17 **CORPORATE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY**

The Group had before it a report * from the Head of Environmental Services requesting that it recommend to the Cabinet the approval of the changes to the Corporate ASB Policy. This had been amended to take account of minor changes to the service delivery and had been amended in preparation for new anti-social behaviour legislation due in late 2014.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Statistically, Mid Devon was a very safe place to live and it was felt that the Local Action Groups were instrumental in that being the case;
- Concern was expressed that council tenants displaying anti-social behaviour were treated differently to private tenants. The Licensing and Community Safety Manager agreed to investigate this with the Housing Department and the Community Safety Officer to check that policies were being adhered to in a fair and correct manner.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that:

- (a) the revised ASB Policy Document be approved; and that
- (b) a report be presented to the next Community Well Being Policy Development Group meeting setting out how anti-social behaviour is dealt with from council tenants and private tenants.

(Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Roach and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Griggs)

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

18 **TIVERTON TOWN CENTRE'S CCTV SYSTEM**

The Group had before it a report * from the Licensing and Community Safety Manager (LCSM) detailing a proposal to set up a new management group for Tiverton town centre's CCTV system and the terms of reference that would relate to that group.

The LCSM described a recent incident using the CCTV cameras to apprehend somebody snatching an elderly person's handbag. The system was funded by both Tiverton Town Council and the District Council but whilst the budget was minimal the results were very effective.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that the terms of reference for the Tiverton Town Centre CCTV Management Group be approved with the proviso

that one of the elected Members from the District Council be appointed from the Community Well Being Policy Development Group.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

19 **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY AND ACTION PLAN**

The Group had before it a report * of the Head of Communities and Governance updating it on the progress made against the Safeguarding Children and Young People Action Plan. It also updated Members on changes to the new Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adult Policy and Procedures and the focus for 2013/14.

She explained that Devon County Council (DCC) had recently received a very poor Ofsted report with four of the key areas being judged as 'inadequate'. DCC were now under special measures and had been assigned an inspector to help rectify the poor result. They would receive another inspection from Ofsted in 12 month's time and they would be looking to see what partner agencies were doing. She further explained that whilst DCC were the local authority with the legal requirement to safeguard children the district council's requirement was to pass any concerns to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). It also had a responsibility to disseminate Devon Safeguarding Children Board information to district council staff working on the frontline and having involvement with children during the course of their work.

It was **AGREED** that the Safeguarding Incident Reporting Form should be copied to each elected Member as many would not know how to access this from Sharepoint. It was also suggested that a Member briefing on this subject take place as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that the revised Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Action Plan be approved.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

20 **TIVERTON TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE UPDATE**

The Head of Communities and Governance provided the Group with an update in relation to the Tiverton Tourist Information Centre, this included:

- Bids had been invited from any interested parties to run a tourist information service within Tiverton. Three had been received but one had had to be discounted at an early stage as the business plan had not been nearly as robust as the other two;

- The emphasis had been on needing to attract bids that were more commercial and less reliant on district council grants;
- Both the proposals received were particularly keen to provide a service to people who did not have smart phones or internet access;
- A report would be presented to the Cabinet on 1 August outlining the process that had been followed as well as the two options that the Cabinet would have to choose between. The report outlines the strengths and weaknesses of each option as well as giving details about the financial arrangements, risks and benefits to Mid Devon District Council. It would be up to the Cabinet to decide which bid to approve;
- The Council needed to make sure that council tax payers were getting the best value for money;
- Concern was expressed regarding the current Tiverton Information Centre building being left vacant and boarded up for a lengthy period should the Cabinet approve a particular option meaning the service would be located elsewhere. The current building was in a prominent position being at one of the main entrances to the town. The Cabinet Member for Community Well Being stated that he hoped that this would not be case but that one possibility would be to re-let it for community use. Nothing had been decided yet and Members of the Group were encouraged to attend the Cabinet meeting on 1 August to take part in the debate prior to a decision being made.

21 HEALTH UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY WELL BEING

The Cabinet Member for Community Well Being informed the Group that the New Devon Clinical Commissioning Group had organised a health summit meeting in the New Hall that evening starting at 5.30pm. Anybody with an interest in health was encouraged to attend and voice their views and concerns.

On 26 June 2013 the Eastern Locality Board of New Devon Clinical Commissioning Group had approved a plan in accordance with the wishes of Tiverton residents to have an Urgent Care Service rather than a Minor Injuries Unit at the Hospital. The NHS was now deciding whether that decision could be implemented.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The different experiences of patient care within Tiverton Hospital;
- 'Bed-blocking' at the RD&E and the suggestion that some closed wards ought to be re-opened to help with rehabilitation;
- More strategic planning needed to take place;
- NHS statistics regarding district hospitals needed to be treated carefully.

22 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING – 17 SEPTEMBER 2013**

In addition to the items already listed in the work programme the following items were identified for the next meeting:

- To hear from Age UK and Unite regarding the seed funding that the District Council had provided and what they had achieved or hoped to achieve with this.

(The meeting ended at 4.00pm)

CHAIRMAN