

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

30 JANUARY 2020

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Sue Little (In the Chair)

Councillors: James Brewer, Carl Richardson, Stephen Thomas, Barbara Ward, and Mike Young.

Also present: Councillor Jim Lindridge as substitute for Councillor Amy Prince in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.
Councillors Marjorie James and Ann Marshall.
Frank Harrison and Evelyn Leck.

Officers: Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Catherine Grimwood, Performance and Partnerships Manager
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

43. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Amy Prince and Gordon and Stella Johnston.

44. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Cr Richardson, Thomas and Ward declared personal interests.

45. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2019

Received.

46. Council Plan 2020-23 (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee the opportunity to consider the proposals that fall under the remit of the Committee for inclusion in the Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 which is currently out to consultation.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services reported that following consultation in the second half of 2019 on priorities for the new Council Plan, a draft plan had now been prepared and was open to consultation for a period of five weeks. This would include reference to all Policy Committees, partner groups and organisations and a Members' Seminar.

As a whole, the priorities identified in the Council Plan aimed to improve opportunities for adults in the town. However, the actions set out under the strategic priorities 'Developing a healthy Hartlepool by working with our communities to improve the health and wellbeing of our people' and 'Improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers' would be of particular interest to this Committee. The Committee was, therefore, requested to consider the consultation draft and provide feedback which will inform the preparation of the final Council Plan.

A Member questioned how the Council Plan had been prepared. The Director stated that the Plan had been drafted collectively by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) with the Director specifically involved in the development of strategic properties 4 and 6 – "Developing a healthy Hartlepool by working with our communities to improve the health and wellbeing of our people" and "Improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers".

There were some questions raised around economic regeneration which the Director stated would be considered by the Regeneration Services Committee, though Members could also feed comments in to the Finance and Policy Committee and there had also been a Members Seminar the previous day on the proposed Council Plan.

Members commented that some of the issues referred to in the plan required some comparator information showing how the council had progressed during the life of the previous plan and what the situation was now, and also how success would be measured. The Director stated that there was statistical information gathered on a wide range of services and health issues with the majority falling under the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board and covered in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. In the measures of smoking and obesity mentioned by Members, the Director stated that Hartlepool did not perform well on those measures when compared to other areas, although there were strategies to deal with both under the Health and Wellbeing Board.

A Member commented that there was no mention of the effects that austerity had had on the town and particularly the effects on the older generation, and only limited reference to the housing needs of older people or people with disabilities. There was also little acknowledgement of the digital agenda, and the potential to make better use of technology to support people to live independently in their own homes.

A Member commented that the Plan in its current format was representative of the 'silos' council still worked with. There should be a more cross-cutting cradle to grave approach taken highlighting how each service interacted at the different stages of life. There was little on how the local authority would build the right workforce to tackle the needs of the vulnerable in the town. The plan in this form was anachronistic.

A Member who had attended the Seminar questioned how the Council would be able to measure its success and report this back to the public. There needed to be targeting of those that used our services in all venues to talk to them and ask them how they would measure our success. The Director stated that Adult Services did survey people who use services annually and carers bi-annually. While accepting they were a small percentage of the overall town population they did reflect the people the services were aimed at. Feedback from people accessing services is also captured through compliments, complaints and consultation events on specific issues. Once the plan was agreed there would be performance measures developed beneath each of the priorities.

A Member did feel that consultation was not getting to the elements of the public whose feedback was really needed. The Council also had opportunities when it had a 'captive audience' such as the summer free swims programme. This could provide an opportunity to speak to young people and their parents / grandparents to promote messages around fire safety, healthy heart checks and other preventative interventions. It was also suggested that consultation documents could be included in Hartbeat or the Council Tax annual bills in order to reach each household.

The Director undertook to take the members comments on board and ensure they were reported back to Finance and Policy Committee through the minutes of the meeting. The Chair indicated that following the end of the consultation period the final Council Plan would be submitted to Finance and Policy Committee on 16th March 2020 for agreement and referral to Council on 19th March 2020.

Decision

That the report be noted and that the Committee's comments be reported to the Finance and Policy Committee.

47. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 27 February, 2020 at 3.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

The meeting concluded at 10.05 am.

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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