

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

21 OCTOBER 2021

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Tim Fleming (In the Chair)

Councillors: Gordon Cranney, Angela Falconer, Sue Little, Darren Price and Amy Prince.

Also present: Councillor Ben Clayton as substitute for Councillor Carl Richardson in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.

Frank Harrison and Evelyn Leck.

Officers: Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services
John Lovatt, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care
Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services
Leigh Keeble, Head of Community Hubs and Wellbeing
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

16. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carl Richardson

17. Declarations of Interest

None.

18. Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2021

Received.

19. Community Hubs Strategy – Consultation and Engagement Plan *(Assistant Director (Preventative and Community Based Services))*

Type of decision

Non-Key decision.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide details of the proposed Community Hubs consultation and engagement plan.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported that a report was submitted to Adults and Community Based Services Committee on 12th March 2021 outlining a proposal to develop a Community Hub Strategy that included the future of the library service. At that time it was anticipated that consultation would take place over the summer. However with the ongoing constraints of the pandemic and with the focus in the Community Hubs on the Support Hub and supporting vulnerable people and people who are isolating, subsequent staffing pressures has led to the consultation being delayed.

A programme of consultation and engagement would now take place starting in November 2021. The consultation tools would be located on the Council's Your Say Engagement Hub but there would also be a range of methods including face to face sessions, focus groups and paper questionnaires that would be used to ensure inclusive participation.

Members welcomed the wide range of consultation methods, particularly considering the wide range of users of the hubs and libraries. There was support for the services that operated from the hubs during the pandemic voiced by Members and the public with the home library service being particularly mentioned.

There was concern expressed in relation to the budget pressure that remained with Seaton Library with the Vice-Chair particularly praising the wide range of community services based there.

Decision

That the Community Hub Strategy Consultation and Engagement Plan, as reported, be approved.

20. Mental Health Post Covid Support Funding *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide the Adult and Community Based Services Committee with an update on the use of Mental Health Post Covid Support Funding.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services reported that as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic some non-recurring funding had been allocated across the Tees Valley by Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) which aimed to improve the wellbeing of the local community of all ages impacted by Covid 19. Additional resources were also identified within the Council's Covid Outbreak Management Fund to support mental health related projects, giving a total allocation of £205,000.

Guidance for applications (with clear criteria) was produced in partnership with TEWV in June 2021 and publicised across the voluntary and community sector. 26 bids were received requesting total funding of £493,316. All bids were scored against the identified criteria by the panel, with 10 successful bids allocated a total £204,335. Details of the successful applications and the funding they received were set out in the report.

The Director indicated that there was ongoing monitoring of the outcomes of the various projects and Members requested that a further report evaluating those outcomes should be submitted to a future meeting. Members also requested details of the criteria used with the applications received and the Director undertook to circulate that to Members after the meeting.

Decision

That the report be noted.

21. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 TO 2024/25 – Issues Referred From Finance and Policy Committee *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The purposes of the report was to enable Members to consider the savings proposals referred from Finance and Policy Committee and to determine the feedback they wish to refer back to Finance and Policy Committee.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services presented a detailed report to Members outlining the background to the current financial position the Council faced. At the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee on 13th September 2021 an updated MTFS report had detailed the forecast budget deficits for the next three years, including the impact of reducing the total deficit from £11.435m to £7.523m by increasing Council Tax up to the level of the forecast national Referendum Limit, including the 3% deferred Adult Social Care precept. Members had considered the issues detailed in the report and made detailed

recommendation to Council, which were considered and approved on 30 September 2021. A savings plan now needed to be developed to deliver total savings of £7.523m. The majority of this deficit was front loaded in 2022/23. To support the plan it was recommended that reserves were used to phase the deficit over the next three years as set out in the report.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Finance and Policy Committee were seeking the views of individual Policy Committees on the savings proposals for their areas. Accordingly, details of proposed savings for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 were summarised in exempt appendices which contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order 2006) namely: - Paragraph 1 - Information relating to any individual and Paragraph 2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual) the Director stated that they only represented 65% of the total three year deficit of £7.523m. If some of these proposals were not supported by Members this percentage would reduce and alternative savings would have to be identified.

Members agreed to move into closed session to consider the savings proposals set out in the exempt appendix to the report.

Decision

Details of the Committee's recommendations are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

22. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting would be held on Thursday 25 November 2021 commencing at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre.

23. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 24 – Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 TO 2024/25 – Issues Referred From Finance and Policy Committee – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation)

Order 2006 namely (paragraph 1) Information relating to any individual and (paragraph 2) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

24. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 TO 2024/25 – Issues Referred From Finance and Policy Committee *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely (para's 1 and 2)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The purposes of the report was to enable Members to consider the savings proposals referred from Finance and Policy Committee and to determine the feedback they wish to refer back to Finance and Policy Committee.

Issue(s) for consideration

Members considered the savings proposals set out in the exempt appendix to the report.

Decision

Details of the Committee's recommendations are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

The meeting concluded at 12.35 pm.

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 29 OCTOBER 2021