

ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 APRIL 2016 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Dennis Drewett, Cllr Peter Edge (Vice Chairman), Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Jose Green, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Magnus Macdonald, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Linda Packard, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Bridget Wayman (Chairman) and Cllr Philip Whalley

Also Present:

Cllr Britton, Cllr Hill, Cllr Whitehead, Cllr Seed

8 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

9 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

It was noted that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016 be amended to include attendees.

Resolved:

To confirm as a true and accurate record the minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2015

To confirm as a true and accurate record the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016. Subject to the inclusion of attendees.

10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

11 Chairman's Announcements

Respect was paid to Cllr Jeff Osborn and his contribution to the Environment Select Committee, both as a member and a substitute in 2010/2011 and since 2014. Cllr Osborn's role as Chairman of the Balfour Beatty Task Group was

also highlighted and members of the Committee were advised that a Condolence Book was available for them to sign.

Cllr Killane, Chairman of Scrutiny, was then invited to speak. He drew attention to the outstanding service that Cllr Osborn had provided to scrutiny; outlining that Cllr Osborn's efforts had helped shape scrutiny into its current representation. It was noted that Cllr Osborn's contribution to Wiltshire Council would be sorely missed and sympathies were sent to Cllr Osborn's wife, Helen.

The Committee then held a minute's silence for Cllr Osborn.

The Chairman then made the following announcements and drew the committee's attention to the information contained in the agenda:

- **A303 Stonehenge Improvement**

The Chairman highlighted that a report detailing the Development Consent Order (DCO) had been considered by Cabinet on 15 March. She outlined that, although Highways England was the promoter, there would be a high demand on Council resources and this was likely to be a controversial project. Further reports would be taken to Cabinet, at those times further updates will be provided to the committee.

- **Housing Board Annual Report**

The Chairman explained that this report, to update on the activities of Wiltshire Council's Housing Board between December 2014 and November 2015, had been considered by Cabinet on 15 March.

Cllr Seed, Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding, updated that the Wholly Owned Subsidiary report would soon be brought to scrutiny. In addition, he informed the meeting that there had been a difference in the way that Wiltshire Council was encouraging developers to build and that affordable housing did not necessarily equate to social housing. He further explained that Wiltshire Council was seeking to widen the open market element of the housing register; because there was a desire to encourage low-cost ownership, as largely, Wiltshire residents did not qualify for social housing. It was stressed that Wiltshire Council was keen for tenant engagement in this planning process.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Seed for his contribution and reminded the committee that at 30 August meeting, the topic of housing would be explored in greater depth. The Chairman invited members of the committee to send any questions relating to housing to Natalie Heritage (Democratic Services Officer) ahead of the meeting, so they could be compiled to ensure responses could be provided at the meeting.

The Committee noted the rules on public participation and that there had been no questions submitted.

13 **Leisure Services**

John Goodall, Consultant in Public Health, was in attendance to present on Leisure Services and outlined that from January 2014 leisure had been incorporated as a wider part of public health and this move had been deemed beneficial; as leisure contributed directly to the health and wellbeing of the population.

Mr Goodall outlined that the overall health of the Wiltshire population was classed as 'good', especially in comparison to the national average and that deprivation in Wiltshire was lower than the national average too. He explained that the vision for leisure services was to help to improve the life expectancy of Wiltshire residents and to ensure that the population were well informed; in order to be able to make improved lifestyle choices.

Mr Goodall detailed that there were a range and diversity of clubs and activities, which accommodated for a wide range of ages and abilities within Wiltshire Council's leisure services. For example, there were groups and activities targeted at all ages; such as, walking football for older people or street dance for younger people. Indeed, he commented that young people targeted schemes often had an anti-bullying component added to them. Mr Goodall noted that there were approximately 3.5 million visits recorded per annum to Wiltshire Council leisure centres, yet that this figure was likely to be higher, as such a statistic was inevitably difficult to measure.

Attention was drawn to the Cabinet decision made in December 2015, which would ensure that 'Places for People' leisure centres would become in-house centres; it was highlighted that this would allow Wiltshire Council to have greater flexibility in delivering its current services.

Cllr Seed added that GPs had raised interest in becoming a part of the Health and Wellbeing centres and that nearly 4000 GP referrals were made to Wiltshire Council leisure centres, under the programme known as 'Active Health'. Cllr Seed highlighted that such an example showed a clear and proper integration of services and this was in line with the Council's aim. It was confirmed that the financing of the 'Active Health' referral programme was financed by central government and that, occasionally, participating individuals would have to pay a fee; however, it was stated that Public Health also provided a grant to help fund the 'Active Health' scheme.

There were a number of questions raised by committee members regarding the leisure provision for areas where it was unlikely there would be a Health and Wellbeing Centre. It was confirmed that the leisure provision was countywide

and open to all Wiltshire residents and activities were, and would be, offered in existing leisure centres, as well as Health and Wellbeing Centres.

The Committee congratulated Leisure Services on the range and diversity of activities available to Wiltshire residents and welcomed Leisure Services' move to public health; as this change could be seen as positive, due to the greater offer of activities and the increased engagement with the public that this service was offering. It was highlighted that Walking Football was over-subscribed for retirees in Calne and Leisure Services were complimented on the free swimming sessions that were available in Wiltshire. Cllr Seed responded that an investigation had showed that free swimming in the holidays was a good investment for the community and it was hoped that the Council would be able to maintain such an offer.

It was explained that due to the fiscal savings that Wiltshire Council had to achieve, the Leisure Services budget had been reduced. The general consensus was that, if Wiltshire demonstrated a healthier population, then spending on health would inevitably reduce and future savings could be seen. It was noted that for Area Boards there would be a separate grant for Health and Wellbeing Services, and it was pointed out that such a service did not necessarily purely encompass one being active as, for example, there were also health and wellbeing benefits to reducing social isolation within the community.

Following questions from the Committee, it was explained that there were two Heads of Service; David Redfern who was responsible for in-house centres and Louise Carey, who was responsible for 'Places for People' centres, as well as the independent sites within Wiltshire.

The committee expressed interest in receiving an update on the implementation of the vision for the Leisure Service and further data, identifying the number of people undertaking leisure activities. It was explained that work was being done to compile this data set more closely.

Resolved:

That an update report from Leisure on implementing their vision (Helping people in Wiltshire to live longer, healthier lives, while addressing health inequalities), including statistics on the number of individuals participating in leisure activities within Wiltshire, would be received by the committee in a year's time.

14 **Library Service**

Cllr Seed, Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding, introduced the report. He outlined that Wiltshire Council had the same number of static libraries (31) that it had had in 2009. A review of mobile library services took place in 2015 as part of delivering corporate savings targets, and following

extensive consultation with local communities; the number of public mobile libraries was reduced from 4 to 2. New timetables were introduced that retained 90% of the original stops. Joan Davis, Head of Libraries, Heritage and Arts, stated that the timetables would be reviewed in October 2016. It was explained that a mobile library stop needed to have at least 3 people per stop, for the stop to be maintained as a part of the mobile library service.

Cllr Seed informed that book lending had decreased by 5% and that Wiltshire Council's aim was to allow its communities to be involved in the libraries as much as possible. Cllr Seed drew attention to the Corsham Library, housed at the Springfield Community Campus, and highlighted that this library was unstaffed outside library operating times and therefore, had had its opening hours extended for the past 18 months. He reported that the Corsham Library had been operating well for the community; indeed, it was stressed that since the Corsham library had been opened at the Springfield Campus, theft had decreased.

Laurie Bell, Associate Director Communities and Communications, commented that Wiltshire libraries should not be under-estimated in their power to help and improve health and wellbeing. She noted that Wiltshire's libraries had been helping older people with digital literacy and that there were a range of activities run out of the libraries; which helped to ensure that all individuals in the community could feel included.

It was explained that the Library Service needed to save 25% of its current budget and this was aiming to be achieved through a management restructure, back office reductions and the year's book stock fund. The stock fund was detailed as being used to purchase not only new books for loan, but also a range of other materials and services related to library provision; such as DVDs for income generation, newspapers, online information services, catalogue data and RFID self-service tags, as well as inter-lending service subscriptions. It was hoped that in the following year money would be able to be placed back into the book stock fund, in order to ensure that the fund would be sustainable.

Cllr Seed noted his admiration for how Wiltshire Council Libraries had approached such a wholesale reorganisation and commended the 750 volunteers of Wiltshire's libraries.

Following the identification of a discrepancy between the budget book and the report with regards to the Book Fund, it was confirmed that the report presented to committee was accurate and that the Book Fund would be reduced by 50%; as it had been felt that any further reductions to the fund would be inappropriate. It was highlighted that the total figure for Library Service savings, as agreed at Full Council, had not changed.

Following questions from the Committee, it was confirmed that, as seen with the Corsham Campus, Wiltshire residents were making use of facilities and services that they had not previously traditionally interacted with. It was noted

that the wishes of communities had been taken into account when relocating, or not, libraries into the Health and Wellbeing Centres. It was further clarified that on Wiltshire Council's libraries' webpages and on posters within the libraries, donations of recently published books in good condition were invited. It was highlighted that the public had engaged well with the scheme; as 5000 donations had been received in the previous year.

Resolved:

That

- i. The Committee noted the content of the report;**
- ii. An updated breakdown of the 2016/17 budget for the Libraries, Heritage & Arts Service would be provided to the Committee at its next meeting;**
- iii. An update on the success and progress of the new Calne Library model, including a breakdown of usage for each library in Wiltshire and an update on the review of the Library Service would be provided to the Committee in early 2017.**

15 Update on the Local Highways Investment Fund 2014 - 2020

Cllr Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, was in attendance to introduce the report on the Local Highways Investment Fund 2014-2020. He highlighted that a resilient road network was being identified for Wiltshire and that the report demonstrated that Wiltshire Council had been making progress in this respect.

Cllr Whitehead outlined that the report detailed the definition of a pothole and he drew attention to the fact that Wiltshire had received an additional £866,000 for 2016/17; in order to fund the repairing of potholes within the county. It was noted that all work on Wiltshire's highways was based on prioritisation and members were encouraged to use the Wiltshire Council App. Cllr Whitehead commented that, by having improved transport routes in Wiltshire, this would help to reduce the number of HGVs travelling through Wiltshire towns and villages.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that residential areas were the current priority of the Highways Team. It was highlighted that, overall, towns and city centres were in good condition and that footways would be focused upon, once residential roads had been improved. It was outlined that a report would be brought to the Committee's October meeting; which would detail road collision data and those present were informed that this information would also be placed on the Council's website and circulated to the Area Boards.

The Chairman and Cllr Whitehead both thanked Officers for their diligent work, especially so in the transition to the new highways contract.

Resolved:

That the Committee note:

- i. the work completed so far in connection with the ‘Local highways Investment Fund 2014 – 2020’, and the progress being made in improving the county’s roads;**
- ii. the proposed ‘Wiltshire Resilient Road Network’;**
- iii. the positive results of the recent HMEP Peer Review, and that progress on implementing its recommendations will be reported to a future meeting of this Committee**

That the following information be included in the report to be presented to the Environment Select Committee on 25 October:

- i. data on road collision;**
- ii. road conditions in the county, and work carried out in each Area Board**

16 Budget 2016/17

The Committee was invited to consider the budget set for 2016/17 for the service areas within its remit and to agree how it wished to consider this information at further meetings to monitor, throughout the financial year, the implementation of savings and generation of income where appropriate, alongside considering customer satisfaction and the impact on service areas.

Resolved:

- i. That the ‘Budget 2016/17’ be maintained as a standard item on the Environment Select Committee’s agenda and that any reports provided to the Committee by Officers, be considered alongside the relevant extract from the Budget Papers to enable members of the committee to effectively scrutinise the implementation of savings and generation of income, where appropriate, alongside customer satisfaction and the impact on service areas;**
- ii. That members of the committee would inform the chairman, ahead of meetings, of any areas of the budget relating to the Environment Select Committee they would specifically welcome further information on, to enable inclusion of these in the forward work programme for the committee.**

17 Resident Engagement Task Group

Cllr Britton, Chairman of the Resident Engagement task group, was in attendance to introduce the report of the task group. He explained that the overall aim of the task group was to investigate how Housing Associations engaged their residents and whether there were any further opportunities for engagement. Cllr Britton highlighted that he was appreciative of the time Housing Associations had given to the task group.

It was outlined that three objectives had been decided; the first related to how residents were engaged, the second centred on regarding tenants as a valuable resource and the third focused on how one could increase tenant satisfaction. It was relayed that it was important that Housing Associations promoted themselves as an organisation with an ethos of resident engagement and that tenants were given the widest opportunity possible to contribute, however, Housing Associations needed to be mindful that only the smallest amount of individuals would be most likely to engage. It was noted that Wiltshire's Housing Associations had a focused approach to resident engagement and this should be applauded.

Cllr Britton congratulated Adam Brown, Senior Scrutiny Officer, for his sterling service to the task group and the high quality of the task group's report.

In response to questions, Cllr Britton confirmed that, often, residents had a desire to engage with their housing estate, but not with their Housing Association as a whole and therefore, this was an area where a resident community group would be beneficial. It was stressed that tenants were encouraged to fully use IT; as this would allow them to engage further through the process of surveys.

Some members of the Committee expressed their appreciation for the report and commended the task group for its comprehensive work in a relatively short period of time. It was noted that the role and work of Housing Panels was important in helping to further engage residents.

Cllr Seed, Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding, welcomed the detailed report and signalled that a further update and report on resident engagement would be provided to the Committee in 12 months' time.

Resolved:

That

- i. The Committee endorsed the report of the task group and the 11 recommendations within it;**
- ii. The response from the Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding would be provided at the next meeting of the Environment Select Committee;**
- iii. A further update and report on resident engagement would be provided to the Environment Select Committee in a year's time.**

18 **Task Group Update**

The Chairman drew attention to the reports contained in the agenda pack. It was highlighted that another member would be selected to join the Highways and Streetscene Task Group.

Cllr Evans explained that the task group would meet to review the outcome of the consultation on 20 April 2016 and that, at that meeting, the task group would also consider how best to engage with members of the public and the different groups who had actively engaged with the consultation.

Cllr Green updated that the Waste Service Changes' task group visit to HRCs had gone well. It was also noted that it was important for members to communicate and publicise that fly-tipping was an illegal activity. Cllr Green also took the opportunity to thank all the officers and witnesses that had engaged with the task group for their outstanding contributions.

19 **Forward Work Programme**

No comments were received on the Forward Work Programme.

20 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

21 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 7 June 2016.

(Duration of meeting: 10:30-13:28)

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Public Health and Leisure Services

John Goodall
Consultant in Public Health
Wiltshire Council

Public Health

Health
Improvement
Health Protection
Healthcare services



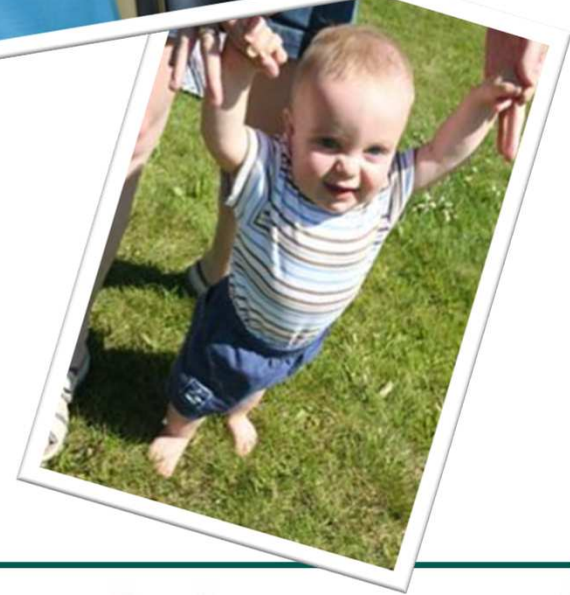
Public Health is the science and art of promoting and protecting health and well-being, preventing ill-health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society.

Public Health Team includes:

- Health Protection
- Emergency Planning, Resilience and Response
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Leisure Services
- Licensing, trading standards, food safety
- Public Health Intelligence
- Community Safety and ASB
- Pest control
- Children health improvement
- Adult health improvement
- Environmental Health

In Wiltshire...

- Life expectancy has risen to 80.6 years for males and 83.9 years for females.
- Wiltshire's CVD mortality rates are below those of the South West and England nationally.
- The health of people in Wiltshire is generally better than England average.
- Deprivation is lower than average.



However, in Wiltshire...

- Male healthy life expectancy is 68.5 years
- Female healthy life expectancy is 66.7 years
- 63.6% of adults are overweight or obese
- 21.4 % of adults are inactive
- 17.6% of adults smoke
- About 260 early deaths from CHD & stroke a year.
- Over 15,800 people have Coronary Heart Disease.
- Over 9,900 people have had a stroke or TIA.
- Over 71,900 people have hypertension.
- Over 22,600 people have diabetes.

What can we do?

- A great deal of cardiovascular disease is caused by poor lifestyle choices:
 - Smoking
 - Diet
 - **Lack of physical activity**
 - Alcohol

Health Benefits of Physical Activity (1)

- Whatever your age, there's strong scientific evidence that being physically active can help you lead a healthier and even happier life.
- The Chief Medical Officer recommends that adults undertake **150 minutes (2.5 hours) of moderate activity per week**, in bouts of 10 minutes or more. The overall amount of activity is more important than the type, intensity or frequency.
- **Physical activity includes everyday activity** such as walking and cycling to get from A to B, work-related activity, housework, DIY and gardening. It also includes recreational activities such as working out in a gym, dancing, or playing active games, as well as organised and competitive sport.

Health Benefits of Physical Activity

people who do regular physical activity have:

- up to 35% lower risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- up to 50% lower risk of type 2 diabetes
- up to 50% lower risk of colon cancer
- up to 20% lower risk of breast cancer
- 30% lower risk of early death
- up to 83% lower risk of osteoarthritis
- up to 68% lower risk of hip fracture
- 30% lower risk of falls (among older adults)
- up to 30% lower risk of depression
- up to 30% lower risk of dementia

Source: NHS Choices:

Leisure Services

Vision for Leisure Services:


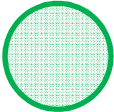
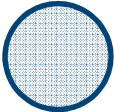
- Help people in Wiltshire to live longer, healthier lives, while addressing health inequalities

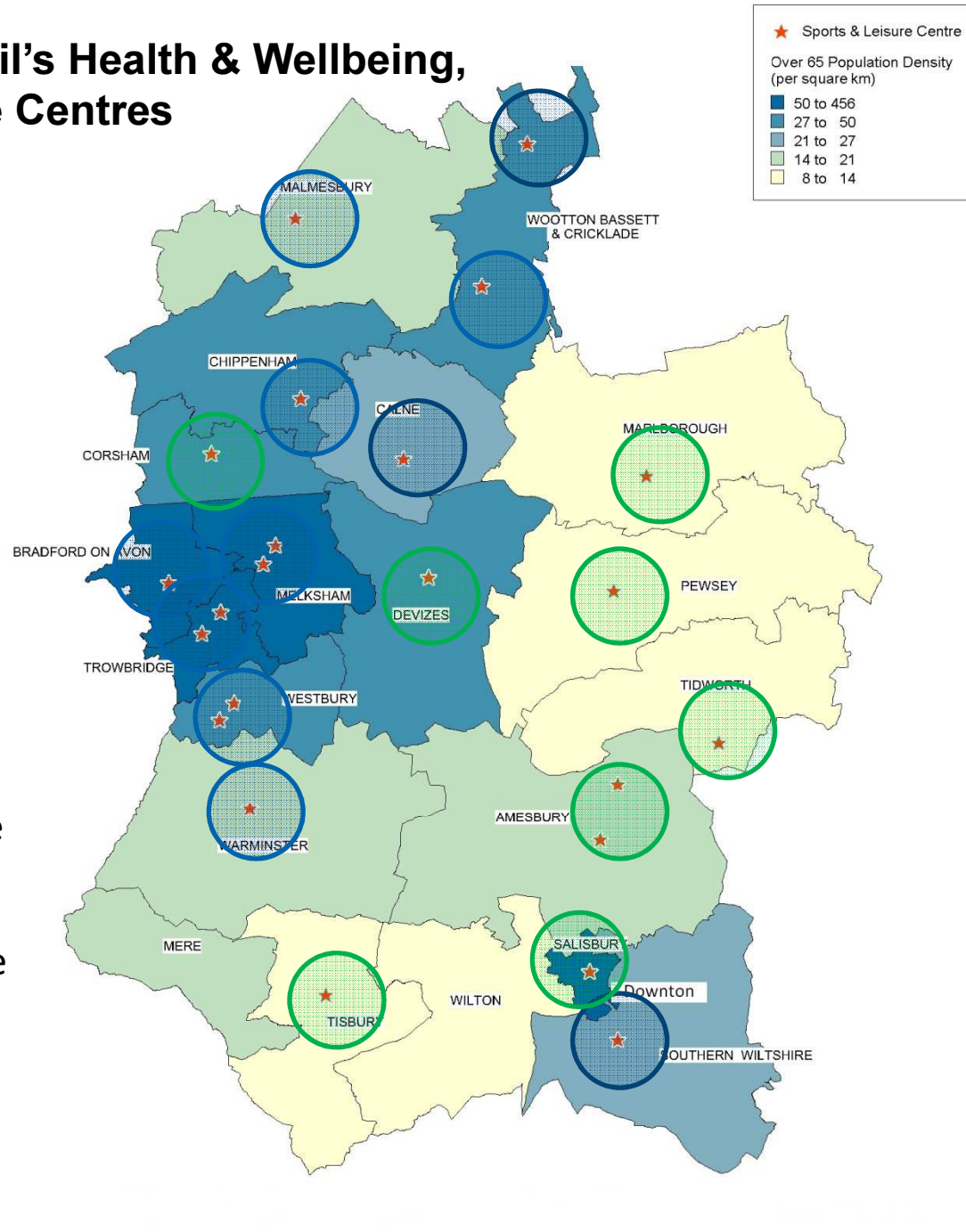
Objectives:

- Contribute to health improvement and reduction in health inequalities
- Increase participation in community sport and physical activity and reduce inactivity
- Develop a strong sporting infrastructure to improve the health, well-being and skills of people and communities
- Identify opportunities that will inspire people to take part in sport, active recreation and health related activities
- Identify opportunities to increase the volunteering workforce

Delivered through universal and targeted activities and services

Wiltshire Council's Health & Wellbeing, Sport, & Leisure Centres

-  PfP site
-  WC site
-  Indep



Some Wiltshire physical activity opportunities:





Questions

