

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

18 June 2019

Task Group and Programme Boards Representatives Updates

Purpose

To provide an update on recent task group and programme board activity and propose any decisions requiring Committee approval.

1. Homelessness Strategy Task Group

Membership:

Cllr David Halik

Cllr Deborah Halik

Cllr Gordon King

Cllr Pip Ridout

Cllr Tom Rounds

Cllr Graham Wright (Chairman)

Supporting Officer: Natalie Heritage

Terms of Reference:

1. To support the development of a Homelessness Strategy which aims to prevent and reduce homelessness in Wiltshire by considering:
 - a) Partnership working arrangements - which can help to facilitate a holistic response to the causes of homelessness and the accessibility of advice and information around homelessness and housing options
 - b) Projections of homelessness in the county
 - c) The availability of suitable and appropriate accommodation
 - d) Provision for the needs of vulnerable groups deemed as most at risk of homelessness
 - e) The reasons why individuals become either at risk of or homeless
2. To meet every 8 weeks or on an ad-hoc basis as appropriate, until the conclusion of the Cabinet's work in in drafting a Homelessness Strategy September 2019.

Recent activity:

The Task Group have met on 15 April and 20 May since their last update to Committee. 15 April saw the Task Group discuss their findings from their independent interviews with private sector agents and landlords with the Executive and Officers. Despite the fact that nothing was highlighted from these interviews

which Housing are not already aware of/working on, the Task Group took this as a positive sign that the service is operating well and is establishing good relationships with the private sector.

On 20 May the Task Group discussed how the Council provides a service both to those facing homelessness, or those who have been made homeless. The meeting touched on the provision provided by neighbouring Local Authorities and where Wiltshire's service features among this list. The Task Group will be conducting shadowing exercises with Housing Options in each of the three Council Hubs; to deepen their understanding of the reasons why individuals become homeless and how the Council responds to such needs. Housing are also looking to undertake a 'Mystery Shopping' exercise with the Housing Options teams on neighbouring Local Authorities and the Task Group are also going to participate in this activity.

The next meeting of the Task Group takes place on 10 June, where the Task Group will be interviewing the Council's Rough Sleeper Outreach Team to investigate the Council's service provision for rough sleepers.

2. Climate Change Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Allison Bucknell
Cllr Clare Cape
Cllr Tony Deane
Cllr Sarah Gibson
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Brian Mathew
Cllr Nick Murry
Cllr Fred Westmoreland
Cllr Graham Wright (Chairman)

Terms of Reference (draft):

The task group will be considering a set of draft terms of reference at their next meeting, which they will agree and provide to the Environment Select Committee at their next scheduled meeting.

Recent activity:

The task group on Climate Change met for the first time on Tuesday 4th June. At the meeting the members nominated and elected Cllr Graham Wright as the chairman of the task group. Following this an introductory presentation regarding the topic of climate change was provided for the task group from the supporting scrutiny officer. Members then began scoping their future investigations. This included considering the areas (such as waste and planning) that the task group could be effective in investigating the current progress and future potential for addressing climate change. Members have requested information on: where are we now; where we want to progress to; how we are going to progress; and what are the impacts in relation to these areas.

The next scheduled meeting for the task group is Thursday 20th June, where they plan to receive the requested information.

3. Late-Night Taxi Fares Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Derek Brown OBE
Cllr Brian Dalton
Cllr Matthew Dean
Cllr Peter Evans
Cllr Ian McLennan
Cllr Graham Payne (Chairman)

Terms of Reference:

In the context of the Salisbury recovery effort and reports of high late-night fares being charged in the Salisbury area,

1. To investigate whether the current schedule of late-night tariffs for Hackney carriages, as adopted by the Licensing Committee in 2014,
 - a) Is supportive of Wiltshire's night time economy (NTE)
 - b) Is comparable to, and competitive with, night time centres in adjoining counties
 - c) Provides a fair system across all parts of the county.
2. To make any evidenced recommendations for improvement as appropriate.

Recent activity:

The Licensing Committee considered the Task Group's final report at their 11 March 2019 meeting and agreed to set up a working group to consider the taxi tariffs across Wiltshire. The Committee signalled that they would now take ownership of the matter.

On 3 June 2019 Licensing Committee received an update on the working group's activity, which can be viewed here:

<https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/documents/s162340/Minutes%20pack%202.5.19.pdf>

Report authors:

Natalie Heritage, Senior Scrutiny Officer, T: 01225 718062 / E: Natalie.Heritage@wiltshire.gov.uk

Adam Brown, Senior Scrutiny Officer, T: 01225 718038 / E: Adam.Brown@wiltshire.gov.uk

Henry Powell, Scrutiny Lead, T: 01225 718052 / E: Henry.Powell@wiltshire.gov.uk