

REPORT TO THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

Report No.8

Date of Meeting	19 TH July 2007
Title of Report	Council Involvement in Health Issues
Link to Corporate Priorities	To promote vibrant, safe and inclusive communities Consultation & Communication
Public Report	YES

Summary of Report

The report identifies the current responsibilities that this Council has to address the health agenda in North Wiltshire and highlights a range of opportunities where this Council could have further meaningful involvement in respect to health issues linked to both its employees and the wider community.

Officer Recommendations

Request that a Member and Officer Working Group is established to explore ways in which the Council could become better involved in the health agenda and subsequently make recommendations to the Executive in respect to the Council's future level of engagement in health issues.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
YES	NONE	YES	YES	YES

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In January 2007, the Council's Executive committee invited Overview and Scrutiny to undertake research and explore ways in which the Council could become better involved in the health agenda. This was first considered by Overview and Scrutiny in March of this year and a decision made to reconsider that matter under the new Administration.
- 1.2 There is currently a disjointed approach to how the Council engages in the health agenda, especially that which relates to the National Health Service (NHS) and the impact this has on the community of North Wiltshire.
- 1.3 A review would also provide an opportunity to clarify matters in respect to officer and other resources.
- 1.4 The report largely relates to those matters identified in the original report to Executive and subsequently to Overview & Scrutiny, which may be found in Appendix 1.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1 **Option 1:** Request that a Member and officer Working Group is established to explore ways in which the Council could become better involved in the health agenda and subsequently make recommendations to the Executive in respect to the Council's future level of engagement in health issues.
- 2.2 **Option 2:** To note the situation and recommend no change to Executive.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 A report (contained in Appendix 1) was first considered by Executive on 18 January 2007. Executive resolved the following:
 - 1) **Requests the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake research to explore ways in which the Council could become better involved in the health agenda and subsequently make recommendations to the Executive in respect of the Council's future level of engagement in health issues; and**
 - 2) **Consider a bid of £4,000 as part of the 2007/08 growth bids process and an officer resource to be incorporated into the re-organisational proposals, to ensure that the Council can fulfil its obligations under Healthier Wiltshire.**
- 3.2 Overview and Scrutiny subsequently considered the report on 1st March 2007, when they resolved:

The issue be addressed as a matter of urgency by the Committee, following the District Council Elections in May.

4 Update

- 4.1 There have been a number of developments since the report contained in Appendix 1 was last considered.
- 4.2 Executive has given approval for North Wiltshire District Council to be a signatory to the Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire 2007-2010 (Executive 15/3/07).

- 4.3 Activities within the Health block which the Council has signed up to deliver with its partners, include:
- Use employers as focus for other campaigns and workplace policies
 - % WiSB employees eating 5 fruit and vegetable portions a day
 - Numbers of employers achieving Health Food awards
 - Improve recreation and sports facilities and access in target communities where rate of participation lowest and deprivation highest
 - Develop community programmes which encourage greater use of existing facilities in clubs and elsewhere
 - Develop active ageing programme for older people
 - Review and standardise (best practice) GP exercise referral programmes
- 4.4 In the Older People Block, activities/partnership working includes:
- Develop and promote directory and website for information on physical activity opportunities for older people
- 4.5 Under the new Administration, Member appointments have been made to the Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Cllr Sheila Parker) and an observer to the Wiltshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) Board Meetings (Cllr Bob Causer).
- 4.6 Under the new Administration it is unclear whether health issues, as described in Appendix 1 fall within any specified Executive responsibilities, rather it a cross cutting issues with relevance within Customers & Partners, Community & Wellbeing and Leisure & Economy portfolios.
- 4.7 The bid of £4k in the 2007-08 budget process (see 3.1 above) was not prioritised.
- 4.8 It would appear reasonable to suggest that matters identified under the LAA and the 'Exemplar Employee' programme responsibilities which fall under 'Healthier Wiltshire' should be awarded a priority and addressed under this budget. Currently this is not the case.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The organisational health budget allocated to the Human Resources Team only addresses those health issues related to employees. For 2007/08 this budget was reduced to £3,000 (from £7k). The funding is not available for the non-employee initiatives, some of which are listed at 4.3 above for example.
- 5.2 If the Committee wish further funds to be made available, there are two different processes:
- For 2007-08, a recommendation to the Executive is required, who, if they agreed, would have to re-allocate existing resources;
 - For 2008-09, a recommendation to the Executive to include the bid for further funds to be part of the 2008-09 budget process.

6 Community and Environmental Implications

- 6.1 Any decisions related to this report will have an impact, directly or indirectly on local people. Health is an issue that impacts on everyone, whether it is related to service provision or individual health and wellbeing.
- 6.2 The recent Local Government White Paper, 'Stronger and prosperous communities' proposes that there should be improvements in local partnership working with the health sector and other partners, suggesting that there should be more visible local leadership on health and well-being.

7 Human Resource Implications

- 7.1 It might be appropriate for a nominated lead officer to be appointed to proactively co-ordinate all elements of health related work within the Council, rather than the current situation where issues are picked up in a rather ad hoc manner and as resources allow.
- 7.2 Members will need to consider staff resources to ensure that any budget is effectively utilised.

8 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 Two Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken and published on the Council's web site which would have an impact on this work:
- ✓ Development of the Primary Sport Programme, club development, alternative sporting opportunities, Anti-social behaviour initiatives, Health initiatives.
 - ✓ Community Planning, Community Area Awards, Partnership Working
- 8.2 The assessments concluded that there was no adverse impact on any particular sector of the community in terms of the seven strands of equality and diversity.

9 Risk Analysis

- 9.1 There is significant risk that unless Members adopt a systematic approach to addressing health issues, to include the allocation of staff resources, and an appropriate budget, the Council will be at risk of being unable to fulfil their responsibilities to the community and their employees, most especially those currently related to 'Healthier Wiltshire' and those which fall within the LAA.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1 - Council Involvement in Health Issues
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Government White Paper – Stronger and prosperous communities

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Council Involvement in Health Issues	Executive 18 January 2007	E142
Council Involvement in Health Issues	Overview & Scrutiny 1 January 2007	O125

