



Minutes

Name of meeting	HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	TUESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2011 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Margaret Webster (Chairman), Ian Stephens, George Cameron
Co-opted (non-voting)	Paddy Noctor (LINK), Cllr David Williams (Hampshire Police Authority representative)
Officers Present	Ian Anderson, Steve Beynon, Mark Howell, Zoryna O'Donnell, Suzanne Wixey, Marian Jones
Cabinet Members	Cllr Roger Mazillius
Apologies	Cllrs Ivan Bulwer, John Hobart, Arthur Taylor

1. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Adult Social Care, Health & Housing Scrutiny Panel meeting held on [9 December 2010](#) be confirmed.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this stage.

3. [Terms of Reference](#)

The panel was reminded of its revised terms of reference as agreed by full council on 19 January 2011.

RESOLVED:

THAT the terms of reference be noted.

4. [2011/12-2013/14 Budget Strategy](#)

The Strategic Director of Community Wellbeing & Social Care gave a presentation on the key points of the budget strategy within the panel's remit, covering adult social care, housing, cultural services and community safety.

a) Adult social care

The Strategic Director highlighted both the additional investment proposed for adult social care and the proposed areas of savings. The adult social care budget was proposed to increase from £53.3m in 2010/11 to £ 57.4m in 2011/12. Three major public consultations had taken place in respect of a) the eligibility criteria, b) charges, and c) the future of Westminster House. As a result of the consultation it was now proposed to explore further ways of making Westminster House more cost-effective and transferring it to either a social enterprise model or a private or voluntary sector organisation. £2.1m of funding would flow from the PCT to the local authority to support investment in social and health care, and discussions were taking place with the PCT about how this money should be used. In addition, the NHS would assume responsibility for 30 days post discharge care, although the final guidance on this was awaited and the exact impact on the local authority's responsibilities was not yet known.

Various options for savings had been considered and rejected. These included a) only charging for some services, b) retaining traditional models of service delivery, c) continuing with block contracting arrangements, and d) the local authority being a provider of adult social care. Notice had been given in respect of the two home care block contracts.

The Strategic Director was of the view that, if the recommendations to Cabinet were agreed, the services proposed were sustainable. With regard to personal budgets, it was anticipated that 100% of clients will have been assessed by March 2012, a year ahead of the Government's target. The speed of agreeing personal budgets had not been a significant factor in the overspend. An extra £2.2m had been included in the budget to meet demographic demand and this, together with the proposals to reduce costs and generate more income, should ensure that there was adequate funding. The income generation figures had been predicted using the best information available and some testing had also been undertaken. The financial situation would be closely monitored to check that it performed as expected and ensure that any potential problems were identified at an early stage.

b) Housing

It was proposed to maintain the housing budget at the current level, subject to a share of the management review savings and allocations for inflation, and no significant changes were proposed. Options for savings not proposed were reduction in the level of expenditure in Supporting People, ceasing the housing options and advisory service, and reducing the disabled facilities grant budget. The panel was pleased to note the good management evidenced and supported the rejection of the options described for savings.

c) Cultural services

The key savings related to libraries and the consultation on the library proposals was due to end on 7 February. The proposed budget reduction had been reduced since earlier budget drafts and the Strategic Director was pleased by the expressions of interest already received in respect of both existing libraries and areas where there was currently no library. It was currently planned to close five libraries and it was hoped that all the libraries would become community hubs.

The favoured option was for the retention of two main libraries run directly by Isle of Wight Council plus others run by volunteers and other not-for-profit arrangements. The Strategic Director recognised that it would be important to support communities in taking over libraries. The Cabinet would need to decide where libraries should exist in the light of the consultation results and what support was appropriate to facilitate the take over of existing libraries or creation of new ones. Books were available to be provided to any new locations. The cabinet member was of the view that, if a local community was clearly very keen but needed more time to develop its proposals in full, members would be prepared to allow a reasonable amount of time for this. The mobile library, which would continue, was due to replace its vehicles in 2012 and its routes were being reviewed in the light of the eventual location of libraries local.

A review of the Ventnor Botanical Gardens was underway to find ways to ensure their future as a major tourist attraction and botanical garden of note, whilst remaining affordable. The Gardens' future was not seen as being managed by the local authority, and support would be provided to develop a suitable successor body. Discussions were taking place through the Ventnor Botanic Garden Advisory Board and the timescale for changes was believed to be adequate.

Discussions were also taking place regarding options for the museum and archive service, although these were at an early stage due to other priorities. Consideration needed to be given as to the display, storage or disposal of items, and a key issue was the location of the artefacts. There was no demand from the public to see a high percentage of items and therefore off-Island storage could be an option for some items. However, to preserve items in good order would be expensive wherever located. The panel was keen that as many items as possible should be available for public view and suggested that, as and when the options were more certain, local residents and organisations should be consulted, as there may be opportunities for items to be displayed in local museums etc.

d) Community safety

The £6.2m of investment shown in the presentation included some work in the Economy & Environment Directorate and around half of that figure related to the Community Wellbeing & Social Care Directorate. A number of service reviews had already taken place and savings were being delivered. The Strategic Director outlined further options for savings which had been considered and rejected, including outsourcing of the dog service, restructuring externally funded Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and Get Sorted, and closing the CCTV control room.

With regard to domestic abuse, the local authority was looking at ways that different agencies could work together to raise awareness and tackle the problem, such as linking the safeguarding boards, and the Domestic Abuse Forum had been resumed. Greater awareness could increase demand for assistance and funding was a continuing issue.

There was no scope to increase the number of community support officers. However, they worked closely with Neighbourhood Watch schemes and Isle of Wight Council members and town and parish councillors were also urged to work closely with the officers.

The interface between Adult Social Services and the NHS was being improved, and the authority worked closely with the Police regarding CCTV. The feasibility of a common 'blue light' control room had been explored but the capital infrastructure costs precluded this. The Chief Executive stated that it was proposed to have more youth workers on the streets rather than in youth centres and this would hopefully reduce the level of public nuisance.

RESOLVED:

THAT the following recommendations be submitted to Cabinet:

- a) The adult social care expenditure and income should be monitored robustly throughout the year, and in particular the outcome of the changes in charges.
- b) Parish or town council should be consulted before the disposal or off-Island storage of any archive or museum item.

5. **Forward Plan**

The panel was made aware of the relevant items within its remit that were contained within the Forward Plan for February 2011 to May 2011.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Forward Plan be noted.

6. **Members' question time**

Cllr Stephens asked a question about the use of equality impact assessments. The Strategic Director stated that the equality impact assessments for the three Adult Social Care consultations were detailed, robust and credible, and similar assessments would also be undertaken for all the other areas which were the subject of the recommendations to cabinet. The Strategic Director agreed to provide a more detailed response about the methodology of the assessments to the panel outside of the meeting.

CHAIRMAN