

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2021

Present:

Councillor Kevin Tait (Chair)

Councillor Lilian Deighton
Councillor Pam Windley

Councillor Philip Wheelhouse

Also Present:

A Bashir	Improvement Officer
D Cowley	Customer Services Coordinator (Team Leader)
K Hill	Customer Services Advisor
D Stanton	Governance Officer
A Bond	Governance Officer

CSC/ Apologies for Absence **30/2**

1-22 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Birkin, J Lilley, T Lacey and R Hall.

CSC/ Declarations of Interest **31/2**

1-22 Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interest, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

There were no declarations of interest.

CSC/ Minutes of Last Meeting **32/2**

1-22 RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 3 September 2021 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

CSC/ Communications Provision for People with Disabilities **33/2**

1-22 The Improvement Officer gave a presentation which outlined the current communication provisions in place for people with disabilities.

Committee heard about the range of measures that the Council had in place such as subtitles on leisure centre screens, bespoke British Sign Language (BSL) videos as well as the BSL interpreter service, and the reasonable adjustments form. Members also heard that the Council had been given an 89% accessibility rating when audited by Skilltide.

Members had a wide ranging discussion over the measures highlighted. In particular they asked how often Members and staff received equalities training. They heard that equalities training was delivered during induction training sessions and that staff were also required to undertake refresher training every two to three years.

Members also discussed other forms of sign language and heard that at present the Council only made use of BSL.

The Improvement Officer stressed the importance of keeping pace with technology and equality assessing web pages and documents.

CSC/ Scrutiny Review

34/2

1-22

(a) Approval of Project Plan and Timetable

It was confirmed that the Committee had agreed to review the Council's Out of Hours Service to ensure that it was fit for purpose and provided an appropriate provision for residents and their needs.

Members were informed that a list of questions for interviewees would be brought to the next meeting.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Project Plan be approved.
2. That the Timetable be approved.

(b) Consideration of any Documentation

Members considered figures that represented the number of reactive service requests by year, that were raised for officers in Environmental Health to respond to, and were specifically relevant to the type of reactive work an out of hours team may be involved in.

The Improvement Officer spoke to Committee about bench marking and the ability to compare data across multiple councils. This could help to counter misleading information caused by factors such as different demographics.

Members discussed the documentation and requested further clarification on the figures. Members had probing questions such as; what was the split between in and out of hours, were these joint figures for both North East Derbyshire and Bolsover District Councils, and were the figures for the financial or calendar year. The responses would be provided to the Committee at its next meeting.

RESOLVED – That the documentation be noted.

CSC/ Forward Plan of Executive Decisions

35/2

1-22

RESOLVED That the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions be noted.

CSC/ Scrutiny Work Programme

36/2

1-22 It was agreed that the figures highlighted in Agenda Item 5b Consideration of any Documentation would be brought to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Work Programme be noted.

CSC/ Additional Urgent Items (if any)

37/2

1-22 Committee discussed the meeting format going forward and agreed that a hybrid approach would be adopted. Members would meet formally when a decision was required, otherwise they would meet in an informal manner.

CSC/ Date of Next Meeting

38/2

1-22 The next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee will take place on Friday, 10 December 2021 at 1.30pm.