

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 7 AUGUST 2020

Present:

Councillor Kevin Tait (Chair)
Councillor Oscar Gomez Reaney (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Nigel Barker
Councillor Roger Hall
Councillor Richard Welton

Councillor Joseph Birkin
Councillor David Hancock

Also Present:

Cllr M Foster	Cabinet Member & Portfolio Holder for Council Services
K Apps	Joint Housing Strategy & Growth Manager
C Mills	Leisure Operations Manager
L Pepper	Housing Options Team Leader
K Shillitto	Solicitor
J Green	Derbyshire County Council
S Veerman	Overview and Scrutiny Manager
D Stanton	Governance Officer

CSC/11/ 20-21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors L Deighton and J Lilley.

CSC/12/ 20-21 Declarations of Interest

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 interests declared at this meeting.

CSC/13/ 20-21 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 19 June 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CSC/14/ 20-21 Scrutiny Review and Scene Setting for the 2020/21 Scrutiny Review

James Green, the Public Health Lead from Derbyshire County Council for North East Derbyshire and Bolsover, and Chris Mills, Leisure Operations Manager, were present at the meeting to assist the Committee in scoping a review for the 2020/21 municipal year.

Members heard about the Healthy North East Derbyshire Action Plan, which had a focus on tackling obesity and mental health issues in North East Derbyshire. The Committee heard that there was a variety of external partners who were members of that group.

The Committee discussed the effects of lockdown on the District's children, which included the closure of services that may have had an impact on their physical and mental health.

Members noted that obesity was highly complex, and that there was often a number of factors that influenced physical health such as diet, access to green space and socio economic background. It was stated that cultural change and early intervention was crucial in tackling obesity. The Committee heard that there was targeted public health interventions and focused support for certain areas in the District, such as Clay Cross, where a Clay Cross Obesity Focus Group had been established. Members also noted the Government's recently published Obesity Strategy.

The Committee agreed that as a review on mental health had previously taken place it was better to focus the 2020/21 Scrutiny review on obesity in younger residents.

Members had a wide ranging discussion on what could be done to increase access to parks and green/open spaces, and the benefits that this could have on residents' physical health.

The Leisure Operations Manager then updated the Committee on the work of leisure services and the community base and partnership work the service was engaging with. The Officer also discussed the work the Council was doing in regards to the North East Derbyshire Healthy Partnership and the Action Plan.

The Committee heard that the Council had three leisure centres, alongside a Healthy Lifestyles Team, who regularly engaged with the community. Members noted that free swimming was offered to children under the age of 5, and that there were free courses and sessions available for young people.

Members also discussed the evidence that linked deprivation with obesity. The Officer informed the Committee that concessionary passes were available to residents, and that the authority did all it could to make the leisure centres affordable to those who experienced financial hardship. Members noted a number of projects which had been established, including PALS (Physical Activity and Lifestyle Support) and partnerships with MIND and Sport England.

The Committee agreed to focus the review on obesity in primary school children (aged 4-11). Members also wished to see where the Council was currently allocating its investment in tackling obesity. There was a consensus that the Committee could provide a potentially useful evaluation of resources and identify priority areas. It was agreed that the Joint Head of Streetscene would also be invited to a future meeting to discuss the District's green spaces.

RESOLVED – That the 2020/2021 Communities Scrutiny Review focus on obesity in primary school children.

**CSC/15/
20-21** **Previous Scrutiny Review**

The Joint Housing Strategy & Growth Manager and the Housing Options Team Leader were present at the meeting to update Members on progress made against the Action Plan on the previous Scrutiny review on Homelessness.

The Committee discussed the recommendations, and thanked the Officers for their hard work in implementing the Action Plan. Members agreed to close the Review Action Plan down.

RESOLVED – That the Action Plan be signed off as complete and the Review closed.

**CSC/16/
20-21** **Residential Parking Review**

RESOLVED – That the 2019-20 Scrutiny Review report be finalised and submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

**CSC/17/
20-21** **CCTV**

The Solicitor was present at the meeting to update Members on progress made on CCTV in Taxis.

The Committee was reminded that at the previous meeting, Members had been presented with the proposed changes to the wording of the Policy, alongside the technical specifications, and that whilst the Council was waiting on the Government's statutory guidance, preparatory work would be done on the surrounding documentation needed to implement the policy.

Members were informed that the Government had recently published the statutory guidance, and that a data protection assessment had been prepared in draft format. The Committee was advised that the CCTV in Taxis Policy would be incorporated into the Council's existing Taxi Licensing Policy and the draft format would be taken to the next meeting of the General Licensing Committee. Members noted that if approved, it would subsequently be sent out for public consultation, and then to a meeting of Council.

There was a consensus that there had been some misunderstanding in regards to the process, and the Committee discussed what they would like to see going forward.

The Committee asked for weekly updates to be provided to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, as well as the Cabinet. CCTV in Taxis was also requested to be a standing item on the Committee's future agendas.

Members requested that the current preparatory work be sent to them, and it was agreed that the draft Policy would be brought to the Communities

Scrutiny Committee on 9 October 2020, prior to it being sent to the General Licensing Committee on 22 October 2020.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

CSC/18/20-21 Forward Plan of Executive Decisions - 15 June to 15 July 2020

AGREED – That the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions – 15 June to 15 July 2020 be noted.

CSC/19/20-21 Scrutiny Work Programme

AGREED – that the Draft Work Programme 2020-21 be noted.

CSC/20/20-21 Additional Urgent Items (if any)

There were no urgent items to be discussed at the meeting.

CSC/21/20-21 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to take place on Friday, 9 October 2020 at 1.30 pm.