

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**17 July 2017**

Present:

Councillors: Haines (Chairman), Ford (Vice Chairman), Brodie, Clarence, Colcough, Connett, Dennis, Dewhirst, Eden, Golder, Gribble, Hayes, Hocking, Hook, Jeffery, Keeling, Kerswell, Matthews, Mayne, Morgan, Nutley, Orme, Parker, Peart, Price, Prowse, Thorne and Winsor.

Apologies:

Councillors Smith and Winsor.

Other Members in Attendance:

Councillors Bullivant, Goodey, Hellier-Laing, Hockin, Lake and Russell.

In Attendance:

Neil Aggett – Monitoring Officer  
Sue Aggett – Business Lead Environment Health & Well Being  
Chris Braines – Waste & Cleansing Manager  
Kathryn Chidzey – HR & OD Business Partner  
David Eaton – Environmental Health Protection Manager  
Liz Gingell – Corporate Performance Officer  
Maureen Pearce - Team Leader Design & Heritage  
Amanda Pujol – Housing & Health Business Manager  
Simon Thornley – Spatial Planning Business Manager

### **56. QUESTIONS UNDER ARTICLE 5, 5.8(I)**

The following questions were submitted by Cllr Hook and the answers provided by the Leader of the Council:

**Question 1**

Will the Leader explain how Teignbridge DC is represented on the Health & Well Being Board?

**Answer:**

*The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established Health and Wellbeing Boards as a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.*

*Each top tier and unitary authority is required to have its own health and wellbeing board, so, in Devon, the County Council is the lead authority.*

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*Although not obliged to do so, Devon County Council's H & WB has invited a District Councillor and officer representative. The current district Council representative is Cllr Philip Saunders (West Devon) and the officer, Jeremy Mann from North Devon.*

### **Question 2:**

How do we have any control over our opinions being represented on this board?

### **Answer:**

*It is a county council led forum and there are a number of avenues open to councillors. These include making representations through elected county councillors, responding to specific consultations about items being discussed by the H&WB board or via the District council representative.*

*It is also possible for the Council's own O&S Committee to examine relevant issues.*

### **Question 3:**

Is our delegates' attendance record published? If so, what is it?

### **Answer:**

*Agendas and minutes are published on the DCC website, together with some statistics are available on the county council website about general attendance.*

### **Question 4**

Can we have a regular report back, if only in writing via the Members Newsletter, from our representative?

### **Answer:**

*The meetings are open to the public and are webcast. Copies of reports and decisions are already available to view online. I am happy to arrange a link in the Members' Newsletter if it is felt helpful.*

### **Supplementary Question**

*Could we please receive regular feedback via the Members' Newsletter.*

### **Question 5**

Similarly, can we be provided with written reports from all our representatives on external bodies?

### **Answer:**

*The Council is represented on scores of bodies. I am content with current practice where significant matters are brought back to our chamber for discussion where required. I think that informing the chamber about issue and concerns in our communities is a responsibility of all 46 of us and not just representatives on outside bodies.*

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### **Question 6**

South Hams and West Devon Councils are in an advanced stage of planning what appears to be the formation of a new politically united local authority, covering the two district areas. Would the Leader agree that this appears to be the creation of a Unitary Authority by any other name?

### **Answer:**

*I do not think it is a unitary authority by another name as a unitary authority would need to encompass all County Council functions.*

### **Question 7**

Does he have a view on such a development locally?

### **Answer:**

*South Hams and West Devon have a track record and previously expressed intention to work together.*

### **Question 8**

Does he have any similar plans for secret talks with any neighbouring local authorities along similar lines?

### **Answer:**

*I do not believe South Hams and West Devon have been secretive. I suggest you view their website which has a public statement and look at the history of their joint working.*

### **Question 9**

Will he give this council an assurance that no such talks will take place without engagement with all parties and groups represented in this chamber?

### **Answer:**

*Should any re-organisation type proposals emerge they would need Council approval.*

### **Question 10**

We will shortly be having a presentation on safeguarding. Sadly, all the evidence shows that hate crime of a racial/ethnic nature has increased significantly since last year's referendum. Our local MP has recently been censured by the Prime Minister for her racist comments. Will the Leader join with me in condemning without reservation those offensive comments and convey to Mrs Morris this council's strong disapproval of her provocative language?"

### **Answer 10**

*The MP has said the comment was unintentional and she apologised unreservedly for any offence caused. She will be aware of public comment. Any censure remains a question for the Conservative Campaign Headquarters.*

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### **Supplementary Question**

*As community leaders we are against any comments of a racist nature and are disappointed that the Leader has not taken a firm stand against this. Could he please make a statement to disassociate himself, and this Council, from the comments of our MP?*

### **Question 11:**

What has been the cost to the Council Tax payer of Teignbridge to move on and clear up after visits from Travellers over the last 4 years?"

### **Answer:**

*The Council does not record the clear up costs as they cannot be recovered.*

## **57. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record.

## **58. PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Consideration was given to a report which provided performance data for Quarter 4 (1 January to 31 March 2017) on the Teignbridge Ten (T10) programmes. Each T10 project had actions with performance indicators and/or projects which monitored their progress against targets and milestones.

Members were advised that the report to be considered in September would include the opportunity to review targets for performance indicators (PI's).

Consideration was then given to the report which provided detail on actions being taken to rectify performance, during discussion, particular reference was made to:-

- (a) CSROH 1.1 – provide gypsy and traveller pitches according to identified need in Plan Teignbridge. The Housing & Health Business Manager advised that 3 pitches had received planning approval and would be delivered in 2017/18 to meet the annual target.
- (b) CSROH 3.4 – number of households placed into temporary accommodation. A Member voiced disappointment that there was no target/status for this PI. In response, Members were advised that officers were working to improve its systems, as the current PI tracked the number of placements rather than households and one household may have numerous placements in temporary accommodation. In future the report would provide detail of households. It was inappropriate to set a target as this was a tracking PI and the Council had to place households into temporary accommodation in accordance with its statutory duties. There was a need to balance information against the number of preventions to get

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a true picture on how effective the Council was in mitigating the use of temporary accommodation.

- (c) CS01 – delivery of the local plans. A Member questioned if there would be consultation on housing numbers, he was informed that a draft document would be published in January 2018, with a 6 week consultation period.
- (d) CSCLS 5.1 – household waste recycled and composted. In noting the current figure of 55.7% a Member questioned how the Council would meet the 58% target. It was noted that work through the new Devon Strategic Waste Authority to pinpoint areas of low or poor participation was taking place, also work to reduce the number of households with 2 black bins was ongoing. A trial would be taking place to add foil to the household collection if an outlet for the material could be secured
- (e) CSCLS 3.1 – improved street and environmental cleanliness – level of litter. It was clarified that the figure of 2% related to the number of streets falling below the level of cleanliness.
- (f) CSCLS 2.1 – number of incidents types dealt with by Community Environment Warden Team. It was noted that the ‘Not calculable’ status for this PI was because neither a high or low figure was good. It was agreed that this PI would be included in the target setting report due for consideration by the Committee in September.
- (g) CSCLS 2.2 – working with other agencies, communities and land owners to reduce fly tipping. A Member questioned the cost of clearing fly-tipping and why the Council did not record costs associated with the clear-up after travellers have left an unauthorised sites. In response, the Committee noted that the cost of fly tipping was calculated as a whole and could not be attributed to specific groups or causes.
- (h) CSCLS 7.2 – updating Air Quality Action Plan. It was requested that Teignbridge lead the way in introducing clean air zones.
- (i) CSGTT 4.2 – peripatetic town centre manager. It was suggested that a job description and other relevant information be put in place, so when funding was available the post could be advertised. The comment was noted, at present there was no spare capacity to undertake this work.
- (j) CSGTT 2.2 – running and improving Newton Abbot market – in response to a question, Members were advised that whilst footfall was counted, market traders were unwilling to provide data on spend.
- (k) CSGP 1.1 – satisfaction with new development in your area. Annual surveys were sent to all residents of homes built in the previous year. The

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data obtained was used to check satisfaction with new developments. A Member suggested the target should be amended to 90%, it was agreed to consider this figure during the review process in September.

- (l) CSGP 1.3 – preparation and adoption of residential design guide. In response to questions regarding the ‘caution’ flags, Members were advised that work would commence in March 2018 and the document would be adopted as supplementary planning guidance. Reference was being made to it during the planning process and developers were aware of the requirements.
- (m) CSGP 4.7 – Devon Pollinator Pledge. It was agreed information on the number of pledges received would be provided in the Members’ Newsletter.
- (n) CSHAH 3.1 – total number on housing register requiring a wheelchair adapted property. A Member questioned if this figure was rising and was advised that the Housing Enabling Officer had worked with DCC Social Care to establish the needs and this was decreasing as properties were built to meet the individual’s identified needs in new developments.
- (o) CSHAH 5.8 – working days lost due to sickness absence – average per employee. The HR & OD Business Partner provided detail of the work being undertaken to address sickness absence. Members were assured that the figure for the first quarter of 2017 showed a reduction in days lost through sickness.

Members voiced their disappointment that the figure in the report showed no improvement. It was agreed a working group would be formed to review the work to address sickness absence and a report would be made to the Committee, the following Members were appointed: Cllrs Colcough, Eden and Ford.

- (p) CSHAH 1.4 – raise awareness and deliver initiatives to prevent any increase in melanoma. Information on the work around this project would be provided in the Members’ Newsletter.

A Member suggested scrutiny of performance should require all portfolio holders to respond to Members concerns at the quarterly meeting. The Corporate Performance Officer suggested the Committee could receive overview reports for each of the Teignbridge Ten, with 2 areas being covered at each meeting.

Resolved

To note the actions being taken to rectify performance.

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### **59. SAFEGUARDING**

Members received a presentation on safeguard at the close of the meeting, the presentation provided detail of the action taken to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and protect them from harm.

### **60. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN**

The Executive Forward Plan was noted.

### **61. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

During consideration of this item, the following points were raised:-

- Members were asked to inform the Democratic Services Officer of any feedback from the recent training event, including ideas for future reviews.
- A review of sickness absence would be undertaken, the membership would be: Cllrs Colclough, Eden and Ford.
- Referring to the draft Air Quality Plan the Committee requested that this technical report be provided with sufficient time to enable Members to consider it in detail.

MIKE HAINES  
Chairman