

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 16th November 2021 at 10am

Present: Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (Chair), Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Dixon, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Barba Inman (Sub for Cllr Norma Stephenson), Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Hugo Stratton (Sub for Cllr Niall Innes), Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: Judy Trainer, Nigel Hart, John Devine (MD)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Norma Stephenson, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Jacky Bright

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

Cllr Hall wished it to be recorded that, at the meeting held on 28th September 2021, she had questioned the accuracy of the minutes, held on 27th July 2021, as she considered that they did not include certain relevant detail. The minutes of that meeting, had previously been approved, by the Committee, without amendment.

Final Report of the Place Select Committee – Highway Asset Management (Inc Potholes & flooding)

The Committee received a report which presented the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Highways Asset Management (including potholes and Flooding).

The main topics discussed were as follows:

The report was considered by Members to be detailed and in depth the recommendations supported.

The report was due to be presented to Cabinet in January 2022.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted.

Final Report of Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee – Multi Agency Support to Care Homes During the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Committee received a report outlining the findings and recommendations following the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committees task and finish review of Multi- Agency Support to Care Homes during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The main topics discussed were as follows:

Particular support for recommendation 1 of the report was expressed as it sought to ensure that the voice of residents and their families / carers was clearly articulated going forward.

Members asked for a follow up report to give an update regarding vaccination take up by care home staff. It was noted that the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee would receive an update at its next meeting.

Members also asked if any consideration had been given to the mental health of care home residents and their families. The Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee advised that the mental health of residents and families was not within the scope of this review.

The report was due to be presented to Cabinet in November 2021

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted.

Select Committee Chairs Updates

Members were provided with updates from the Chairs of each Select Committee. Updates and discussion included:

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee: -

Following the information provided to the Committee in September 2021, the Chair had now received an update on developments in relation to Rosedale, which indicated that: -

- Rosedale had come out of serious concerns protocol after multi agency meetings with representatives from SBC, safeguarding adults team, quality assurance officers, adult social care, NHS partners and others;
- Rosedale were now accepting 2 admissions a day.
- Action plan- key officers were ensuring that every issue raised was thoroughly investigated, relevant actions were taken and only specific training or learning was undertaken;
- Recruitment of extra staff, 2 assistant managers night staff had taken place;
- The registered manager and the 2 assistant managers would be attending the next Well Led programme;
- Senior officers were offering support and staff were being supported;
- Carers, staff and families were being included in the plans for refurbishment of Rosedale which had been delayed because of Covid.

The Committee's evidence-gathering in respect of the Review of Day Opportunities for Adults continued with the presentation of a report from Catalyst – this included

their own views on their role in day opportunities for adults, existing / potential future options, and the wider views of the VCSE sector.

Due to issues around the identification of relevant staff who needed to be involved, the anticipated SBC Children's Services element (needs of young people transitioning into Adult Services and promotion / awareness of opportunities) had to be deferred.

Children and Young People Select Committee:-

The third evidence session for the review of Child Poverty was later in November and would focus on food poverty and health and wellbeing. Members expressed concern for those children that were at risk of hunger during school holiday periods and the increased number of young people seeking help for their mental health.

Crime and Disorder Select Committee:-

Further Evidence to be provided at the next meeting regarding the ongoing Public Spaces Protection Orders, (PSPOs) review would include the experiences of other Local Authorities who have implemented PSPOs, as well as the consideration of anti-PSPO views.

The Chair of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee informed Members that it was not the Select Committee's remit to make the decision about the use of a PSPO, only to review the information from both sides of the argument and what would be required if the Council formally proposes to implement one.

The review of Police Communication in Stockton-on-Tees (Task & Finish) would now go to Cabinet in January 2022.

Chair of People Select Committee:-

The timescales for the staff survey of LGPS had been extended to allow for more targeted consultation with non-members of the scheme and the results would be considered at the next task and finish group in January.

Members referred to the Scrutiny Review of Disability Inclusive Borough and the difficulties faced regards inclusivity in parts of the Borough that have no or limited internet service. The Chair advised that this was part of a larger issue around communication generally and this would be discussed at the next meeting.

Place Select Committee: -

The Chair referred to the completion of the review of Highway Asset Management (Inc Potholes & flooding) with the desired intention of influencing policy development. This followed a previous review looking into parking on grass verges and illegal parking outside schools, upon which a monitoring report would be considered by the Committee in the near future. Members voiced concern that these parking issues

remained a problem still and was in reality a national issue faced by all schools.

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan was noted.

RESOLVED that the plan be noted.

Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme 2021 – 22

The Work Programme was noted.

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.