



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 12th JULY 2022**

PRESENT: Councillor R Claymore (Chair), Councillors M Cook, R Kingstone and R Rogers

The following officers were present: Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships) and Jo Hutchison (Democratic Services, Scrutiny and Elections Officer)

**12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Jay, M Greatorex, D Maycock, P Thurgood, J Wadrup and County Councillor T Jay.

**13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2022 were approved as a true record.

*(Moved by Councillor R Rogers and seconded by Councillor R Kingstone)*

**14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**15 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair reported that a request to provide comments on the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board's Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Consultation had been circulated to members and the Consultation was open until 5 September 2022 if any member wanted to participate.

The Chair further reported that at a Board meeting of the Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT) proposals were received and accepted which were

expected to mean that inpatient mental health services provision from the George Bryan Centre would not be reinstated. The Chair reported that the Staffordshire County Council Health & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee was expected to have an Integrated Care System (ICS) Transformation item focussed on the George Bryan Centre on its 1 August 2022 meeting. The Chair invited any members to raise any specific points with her which they would like considered further.

## **16 UPDATE ON HOUSING STRATEGY**

The Chair welcomed the Assistant Director, Partnerships to the meeting and noted that the Executive Director, Communities and the Portfolio Holder for Homelessness Prevention and Social Housing had sent their apologies.

The Assistant Director reminded the Committee that whilst it was not a statutory requirement for the Council to have a Housing Strategy, it did afford the Council a clear direction of travel and priorities and the current Strategy had been agreed at Cabinet in October 2020.

The Assistant Director provided an overview of the 4 Priorities set out in the Housing Strategy, although she would focus on Priority 4 given its relevance to wellbeing. It was reported that the Strategy included actions drawn from various other corporate strategies including the Local Plan, the Future High Streets Project, Climate Change policy, Housing Allocations Policy, Housing Acquisitions Policy, Affordable Rents Policy, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, Private Sector Enforcement Policy and the Community Safety Plan.

The Assistant Director highlighted some of the future proposed actions which included:

- An update to the Empty Homes Strategy to increase housing provision
- The development of an Older Persons Housing Needs Strategy in conjunction with stakeholders
- Work to determine the criteria for the First Homes requirement, whereby 20% of the affordable homes on a development would be allocated as first homes for Tamworth residents.
- To develop relationships with the voluntary sector to maintain healthier communities and sustain independent living
- To develop an approach to the needs of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in line with Government policies

The Committee commented and sought clarifications in the following areas:

1. How the criteria for the First Homes requirement would address the issue of resale of those affordable first homes such that the benefits of the scheme would be retained in perpetuity and that the benefits of any market price discount was continued through resales of the First Home. The Assistant Director reported that the criteria was under discussion and that this was led by the planning team.
2. The need for the Committee to receive regular and measurable data in respect of the various action plans / metrics included in the strategy, so

that there could be effective scrutiny of the implementation of the strategy and performance. It was further identified that to support this scrutiny, the data should not be solely a snapshot in time but would need to be provided over a period of time (for example over three years) to enable trends to be identified.

3. It was raised that there was a need for urgency in addressing areas within housing related to climate change given the aspiration of the Council to be Carbon Net Zero by 2030 if financially able to do so. Given the housing stock owned by the Council, and given the expected Government initiatives to stop the installation of new gas heating in homes from potentially 2030, there would be significant challenges to the Council in delivering appropriate housing to Tamworth's vulnerable residents in line with the Council's Climate Change agenda unless action was taken now.
4. The process followed for residents to apply for and receive Disabled Facilities Grants, where it was highlighted that this process appeared lengthy and complex. It was requested that data on this be included in the regular reporting of performance which could enable further scrutiny of how this process worked by the Committee as an additional work plan item at a later date.

Following consideration of the presentation provided by the Assistant Director, Partnerships which was welcomed by the Committee, the Committee

**RESOLVED that:**

1. It recommend to Cabinet that a bi-annual report be prepared by Officers for presentation to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, every 6 months, setting out performance metrics relating to each action plan for the 4 Priorities in the Housing Strategy including data over a three year period;
2. A presentation be prepared for consideration by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee regarding the delivery of the Council's climate change agenda in terms of Council's Housing stock and the impact on vulnerable Tamworth residents;
3. It recommend to Cabinet that consideration be given in the development of the criteria for First Homes, for the 20% discount to market price on the initial purchase, being continued in subsequent resales, where possible.

*(Moved by Councillor M Cook and seconded by Councillor R Kingstone)*

The Committee thanked the Assistant Director, Partnerships for her presentation, who then left the meeting.

**17 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no responses to report.

**18 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM CABINET OR COUNCIL**

No matters had been referred.

**19 UPDATE ON HEALTH RELATED MATTERS CONSIDERED BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Chair reported that the Staffordshire County Council Health & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee had met on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and the focus of that meeting had been on the Integrated Care Board.

**20 FORWARD PLAN**

It was noted that there was a Net Zero Carbon – baseline reporting item on the Forward Plan for consideration by the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> September prior to Cabinet consideration on 20 October 2022. The Chair agreed to liaise with the Chair of the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee regarding this item.

**21 HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY WORK PLAN**

The Committee considered its Work Plan and updated it as follows:

**Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan**

<b>Work Plan</b>		
<b>Work Area Themes for the Year</b>		
<b>1. Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>		
<b>Topics</b>	<b>Target Meeting</b>	<b>Additional information</b>
Inpatient mental health pathways and community mental health services pathways	22 September 2022	Invite representatives of Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT)
Substance misuse / addiction		Contact new local service provider
Loneliness / isolation		
<b>2. Homelessness &amp; Housing</b>		
<b>Topics</b>	<b>Target Meeting</b>	<b>Additional information</b>
Council's (Healthier) Housing Strategy	12 July 2022	Invite Portfolio Holder & Executive Director, Communities, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods / Partnerships
Overview of services available to rough sleepers / homeless people in Tamworth	November (tbc)	Suggested invitation to representatives of Heart of Tamworth and/ or other relevant voluntary organisations
Homelessness Winter Relief Update	November 2022 and March 2023	To receive an update on plans in November, followed by feedback on the outcomes in March 2023.
Disabled Facilities Grants – process	January 2023	To understand these Grants and the processes followed from a wellbeing perspective.

<b>Other suggested topics for Committee consideration</b>		
Green and open spaces		
Attainment and Skills in Tamworth (including young people's experiences)	To be confirmed	Working Group (WG) to be formed – WG Chair - Councillor R Kingstone & D Maycock & others
Safeguarding updates (2 per year)	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 & 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Invitation to Portfolio Holder and Officers
CPR & Defibrillator awareness and community engagement	Targeting Autumn 2022	Liaise with local charity (Have a Heart) Progress within schools in implementing guidance this area
<b>Specific topics to feed in to Staffordshire County Council (separate from main Themes)</b>		
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date of planned Staffs consideration</b>	<b>Additional information</b>
Wider determinants of health in Tamworth, including diet / food vulnerability / healthy eating / social prescribing  Also understanding the role of schools at sixth form, secondary & primary level.		Extend an invitation to voluntary sector to understand current initiatives eg Community Together CIC
Strategic Transformation Programme (STP)		To tie in with County consideration when dates for County consideration known
<b>Possible Working Group topics</b>		
Armed Forces Covenant		Working group to be formed. Cabinet member identified (Cllr T Clements)
Attainment & Skills in Tamworth		WG Chair - Councillor R Kingstone & D Maycock & others

<b>Upcoming Health &amp; Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Meetings</b>
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Meeting dates:
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22 September 2022
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18 October 2022
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29 November 2022
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24 January 2023
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28 March 2023
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<b>Upcoming Relevant County Council Meetings</b>
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<b>Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Staffordshire County Council</b>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 August 2022</li><li>• 19 September 2022</li><li>• 17 October 2022</li><li>• 28 November 2022</li><li>• 30 January 2023</li><li>• 20 March 2023</li></ul> |
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Chair