



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
HELD ON 28th NOVEMBER 2023**

PRESENT: Councillor C Bain (Chair), Councillors R Claymore, D Cook, S Daniels, C Dean, D Maycock and J Oates

County Councillor County Councillor T Jay

CABINET Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Martin Summers
Councillor Samuel Smith

The following officers were present: Anica Goodwin (Executive Director Organisation), Tina Mustafa (Assistant Director Neighbourhoods), Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships), Sarah Finnegan (Head of Homelessness & Housing Solutions), Leanne Costello (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer), Karen Moss (Head of Active Wellbeing) and Tracey Smith (Democratic Services Assistant)

51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Jones.

Apologies were also received for Councillor S Smith as Portfolio Holder in respect of item 14.

52 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th October were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor R Claymore)

53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

54 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The chair advised the committee a response had been from officers in relation to the queries raised at the last meeting from the Housing Strategy Quarterly Update item which had been circulated.

The chair referred to Councillor Cook and Councillor Maycock to update the committee on the progress of the housing repairs working group who advised that following Councillor Maycock chairing the first meeting an update would be provided shortly to the chair.

55 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The chair confirmed that further to a recommendation that was made by the committee to Cabinet previously to recommend to Cabinet that a member benefit scheme in terms of Mental Health Wellbeing be considered and be extended to councillors, the current employee contract is due to end in March 2024 and the council are looking to commence tendering for a new service to include Councillor cover as well as employees.

The chair thanked Councillor Maycock for his efforts in the matter.

Further to the meeting on the 17th October 2023 I attended Cabinet on the 09.11.23 to present the Committees recommendation to recommend to Cabinet to continue to Lobby Government to have funding for DFG to be allocated on the need of the district rather than the current calculation.

Cabinet agreed to the recommendation.

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

There were none.

57 UPDATE ON HEALTH RELATED MATTERS CONSIDERED BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The chair advised that there was no digest to share and handed over to the County Council representative Councillor T Jay who shared updates in two areas from county.

To recognise progress towards improving maternity and neonatal services whilst acknowledging the challenges they face.

It was highlighted that an influx of new recruits was placing additional short-term pressure on services as extra support was needed.

Inductions of labour continues to be a challenge across the Midlands. Vacancy rates have reduced in North Midlands, Derbyshire, and Burton hospitals.

North Midlands is on track to open a new Maternity triage unit in September 2024.

The ICB is working to achieve the aims of the three-year maternity and neo-natal delivery plan.

Performance and Finance report of the Staffordshire Integrated Care Board. Urgent and emergency care are still facing challenges and ambulance response times are still deteriorating and there are increasing handover delays. There is still a backlog of patients on the elective waiting list who have waited over 65 weeks for treatment, but they are on track to reduce this list to 0 by March 2024 despite industrial action having hampered work. The six-month financial position is a deficit of £66.4 million which is £52.7million adverse to the plan. Deficit is due to inflation and the impact of industrial action but capital is due to be on plan.

The chair expressed concern at how they would meet their targets considering the challenges faced.

58 WELLBEING STRATEGY BASELINE AND PRIORITIES

The Portfolio Holder for Environment Health and Community partnerships introduced report of the Assistant Director, Partnerships to give an update on the Tamworth Wellbeing Strategy Baseline Report produced for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Board.

The officer highlighted the following –

- Community Together CIC commissioned to complete the report which identified the four priorities in the report.
- The County Health Inequalities Directors Group had identified £255000 allocated to Tamworth through the Covid 19 Contain Outbreak Management Fund which must be spend by September 2024.

The Committee made the following comments/observations and asked the following questions:

1. While the committee acknowledged that work has to start somewhere and that the two areas of Tamworth identified in the health inequalities document as having a 'high' level of need do contains areas of high deprivation which may bring the data for these areas, there are streets in every ward that would fall under that category. By marking these areas as red on a map they could be creating a perception of the whole area and as a result encouraging behaviours to become normalised and that the impact of the residents in these areas needed to be considered when labelling them. The committee highlighted that this could also give a negative impression to people considering moving to these areas. Despite a number of projects being introduced to tackle the issues in these areas over the years the same issues are still being highlighted.
The committee acknowledged that whilst the strategy is good, that they need to identify actions and funding to back this up and that work needs to be done within the borough to drill down and identify the areas of need rather than rely on the blanket data from county. It was highlighted that

both officers and members would be able to identify streets and even families in need.

The committee agreed that it was more meaningful to address health inequalities rather than equalities within the borough and that further work should be done before this is put to Cabinet in March.

The committee expressed concerns that other areas would be ignored by using this approach and not benefit from any resources where current programmes in place focus on the whole borough.

The officer confirmed that the building resilient families programme worked across the whole borough and was very successful. They confirmed that through the Health Inequalities Directors group it was agreed that that two wards would be identified, and then further work would be done to drill down within those areas. They agreed to feedback the committee's comments to the group.

A recommendation was moved by Councillor D Cook that through Cabinet we send a request back to county that we can target this money better across Tamworth to where the money is actually needed rather than pigeonhole it in to two wards, using our local insight.

The officer confirmed that it is clear from the initial meetings of the director's group that they do want the data to be able create a locality profile and that they would look at this being across Tamworth.

2. With regards to funding, would we be spreading ourselves too thin with the money we have and whether the funding was going to be used to make a difference and not for something they are already doing to create additionality. A working group was considered however due to the timescales that they needed to return to county that this was not progressed.
3. The officer confirmed that the COMF funding has tight deadlines, proposals have to be back to county within a week and spent by September. There are a number of projects that have put some proposals forward which are generally across the wards including around housing, and that some of the projects do provide additionality by given the opportunity to extend projects and projects to get families involved in leisure but there are also some new projects. It was highlighted that it can be difficult to measure what has had the most impact.

The officer confirmed that for this pot of money they need to act fast to not miss out and then they can monitor any grants that are given out, and report back to the committee on outcomes. The committee agreed that for this funding it was too late to do a larger piece of work.

4. How will the strategy be measured?
The officer confirmed that the strategy is an umbrella for the four-priority area's and within each priority area there will be an associated workplan ready for Cabinet in March.
The recommendation moved earlier in the meeting was withdrawn but the Cabinet members present were asked to consider all the committee's comments in future.
5. The committee asked that details of any projects that were going ahead be shared with them.

Councillor Cook and Council Jay left the meeting at 6:55pm

RESOLVED that the Committee:

1. Endorsed the priorities highlighted in the baseline report as those for the development of a Tamworth Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2027
 - Supporting good mental health and wellbeing for children and young people
 - Supporting good mental health and wellbeing for adults
 - Supporting individuals at high risk of poor health outcomes to live healthy lives
 - Improving connectivity
2. Endorsed the approach outlined in the report to ensure that the Wellbeing Strategy is fully linked with the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports strategy, Open Spaces assessment and the Indoor and Built Facilities strategy currently in progress.
3. Approved proposals for further Scrutiny stakeholder engagement, endorsement of draft reports and timeline for Cabinet.

(Moved by Councillor C Dean and seconded by Councillor S Daniels)

59 FORWARD PLAN

There were no items identified from the Forward Plan.

60 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

There were no Working Group updates.

61 HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

The Committee endorsed the Work Plan.

62 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meeting and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, and Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1,2,3 & 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public

interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

RESOLVED: That members of the press and public be now excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1,2,3& 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

(Moved by Councillor D Maycock and seconded by Councillor R Claymore)

63 LEISURE STRATEGY UPDATE

Report of the portfolio Holder for Entertainment and Leisure to give an update on the leisure strategies currently being undertaken by external leisure consultants, Knight, Kavanagh & Page, with additional bespoke Facility Planning Modelling via Sport England.

RESOLVED that the Committee:

Endorsed the contents of the report and the three recommendations.

(Moved by Councillor R Claymore and seconded by Councillor C Dean)

64 HOMELESSNESS STATUTORY ON-CALL AND OUT OF HOURS ARRANGEMENTS

Presentation from the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, Tina Mustafa and the Head of Housing and Homelessness, Sarah Finnegan to provide an update on the Councils Statutory on-call and out of hours arrangements.

Resolved: That the committee endorsed the recommendations from the report for Cabinet on the 30th November 2023.

(Moved by Councillor D Maycock and seconded by Councillor S Daniels)

Chair