

## **Environment & Health and Community Safety & Strong Communities Scrutiny**

Councillors J. I. Agnew, R. Alderson, A. Atkinson, D. Bennett, D. Broadley, M. Campbell, H. Christer, T. Clark, B. Cook, G. Coulson, E. J. S. Edwards, R. Ellis, B. Gray, R. Hemsley, D. Hicks, P. D. Hughes, J. C. Hunter, L. Marshall, I. McElhone, S. E. Mellor, O. Milburn, P. Murray, J. Nicholson, R. Ord, T. Parry, W. Stelling, O. L. Temple, F. Todd, D. Walton, M. Westgarth, T. Westgarth, J. Wilson

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is invited at a meeting of the Environment & Health and Community Safety & Strong Communities Scrutiny to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Consett on 16th December 2008 at 6:00pm for consideration of the undernoted agenda.



**MIKE CLARK**

**Chief Executive Officer**

### **Agenda**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any disclosure by Members of personal interests in matters on the agenda, identify the item on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the

terms of the Code of Conduct.

**3. MINUTES**

To approve the minutes of this panel's meeting held on 9th December 2008 as a correct record. (Herewith 'A')

Attached Documents:

[MINUTES](#)

**4. SEIZING THE FUTURE**

An update will be provided at the meeting on the above. (Herewith 'B' - Copy to follow)

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Date: 5th December 2008

## **JOINT ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SAFETY & STRONG COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL**

Minutes of a joint Environment & Health and Community Safety & Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Consett on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

### **Present:**

#### **Councillor J.Wilson (Chair)**

Councillors: J.I. Agnew, R. Alderson, D. Broadley, E.J.S. Edwards, R. Ellis, W. Gray, R. Hemsley, D. Hicks, J.C. Hunter, I. McElhone, S.E. Mellor, O. Milburn, J. Nicholson, R. Ord, T. Parry, W. Stelling, O.L. Temple, F. Todd, D. Walton, M. Westgarth and T. Westgarth.

### **In Attendance:**

Councillors: A. Shield and E.J. Williams.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors: M, Campbell, R, Cook, L. Marshall, M, Wotherspoon.

#### **1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No Declarations of interest were submitted.

#### **2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **3. SHOTLEY BRIDGE HOSPITAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP – UPDATE/ SEIZING THE FUTURE**

The Chair welcomed to the meeting David Gallagher and Debbie Edwards from the Primary Care Trust who were in attendance to give a presentation on seizing the future and an update on Shotley Bridge Hospital.

David Gallagher advised members on the public consultation 'Seizing the future', he outlined the consultation process advising that the consultation began on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and is expected to take 14 weeks. The NHS County Durham

were leading the consultation although other Partners are involved with the process.

He further advised that the consultation will be in the form of a comprehensible document, these documents will be sent out to the public and public meetings will also be set up. It is anticipated that approximately 10 meetings will be held across the District, drop in sessions, online information and electronic documents will also be available in order to seek as many views as possible.

Debbie Edwards provided Members with an update to the current position of Shotley Bridge Community Hospital. The PCT have secured the funding for the community hospital and work had commenced with the estates and facilities departments for instance the environmental utilisation audit. Processes were being developed in respect of the clinical and corporate governance arrangements to ensure the site was safe and fit for purpose to deliver high quality clinical care.

She advised that a sound communication network is in place, regular meetings take place with local stakeholders, groups and individuals. Local and organisational newsletters were also sent out on a regular basis.

Service Development priorities had been identified from local practices, County Durham PCT priorities, and from local and national must do's. The PCT are undertaking a number of service reviews on a County Wide basis including the role of the new Stanley Primary Care Centre which is expected to be open by August 2009. Service Developments identified were;

- Urgent assessment services for older people
- Gynaecology Services
- Integrated urgent care centre
- Diagnostics
- Long term conditions management
- Emergency response

In conclusion David Gallagher advised Members that they hope to make Shotley Bridge Hospital a vibrant hospital again, and to ensure it is well maintained to enhance the service for patients. He added that he would like to bring various other staff involved with the process back to scrutiny in the future to provide further updates.

Councillor Temple queried the possible closure of the mental health wards, David Gallagher advised that they hope to provide services outside of Hospital for mental health sufferers because many patients don't require hospital care.

Councillor Malone commented that he had a strong interest in the proposals for Shotley Bridge Hospital, and queried;

- If the urgent care service be marketed to local people to ensure people know what it can be used for;
- If the PCT will commit to the maximisation of the use of day theatres for appropriate surgical procedures;
- If the PCT would commit to a timescale for the urgent care service;
- Will Derwentside residents have to go to Bishop Auckland for rehabilitation care under the proposals out for consideration;
- Could patients have a choice to have their rehabilitation care at Shotley Bridge Hospital or Chester Le Street.

In response to Councillor Malone's Concerns, David Gallagher advised that when patients require acute rehabilitation they will be cared for at Bishop Auckland Hospital, the centre of excellence. When patients don't need as much care they will be transferred to their local hospital either Shotley Bridge or Chester Le Street for instance. Service Reviews would be undertaken to demonstrate what constituted safe and good quality care as well as good value for money.

The Director of Corporate Administration and Policy advised that information could be passed through the Citizens Panel in order to raise better awareness.

The Policy Officer commented that approximately 250 people had now joined the Shotley Bridge Hospital support group, which was one of the largest such groups in the district.

**Recommended:**

Members noted the presentation.

**Councillors; Malone and Lavin left the meeting the meeting at this point**

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNS (ENCAMS)**

The Service Delivery Manager presented the report advising Members on the Local Environment Quality Survey carried out during 2006/07 and 2007/08. The Department for rural affairs (DEFRA) commissioned ENCAMS to undertake an independent survey of environmental issues in every district council area in England between April 2006 and March 2008.

He referred Members attention to the results of the survey as circulated at the meeting, providing members with an update of the overall environmental standards in Derwentside. The information provided also detailed the results from other authorities within the County for comparison.

Councillor Ord questioned how often the gullies are cleaned as there had been some problems with surface water in his ward resulting in call outs from the Fire Service to remedy the problem which could have been prevented if gullies were cleaned out on a more regular basis. The Service Delivery Manager advised that under instruction from Durham County Council the gullies are cleaned once a

year although 25 percent of them are cleaned twice, he further advised that the resources had also been reduced therefore it wasn't feasible to clean the gullies more regularly.

In response to Members concerns he added that the survey was not specific to Wards but as a district on the whole, he advised that this work is currently been undertaken and that the Ward breakdown information was expected to be provided in the future.

**Recommended:**

Members noted the contents of the report and associated presentation.

**Councillors; Clark, Gray and Milburn left the meeting at this point**

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FEEDBACK REPORT**

The Head of General Services presented the report advising Members on the progress of the LEAF project. He advised that awareness sessions were set up in various community groups and schools which had proven very successful in delivering the litter message across the district.

He further advised that in 2007/08 5 FPN's were issued for dog fouling and to date 3 letters had been issued for 2008/09, no FPN's had been issued regarding littering.

The Head of General Services informed Members that the Environmental Agency issues enforcement procedures for fly-tipping.

Councillor McElhone highlighted his concerns for the requirement of Environmental Enforcement Officers in Derwentside, he suggested that Enforcement Officers should be recruited prior to the change over to the new authority. He also queried if other authorities provided their FPN information. The Head of General Services advised that this information had not been requested previously however he could supply the information if required.

Discussion took place regarding litter awareness, education for the retail trade and more pressure on businesses to use biodegradable bags.

The Head of General Services advised that it is expected an Encams document entitled "Your rubbish and the law" a guide for business, will be given to businesses in the Stanley area. He added that it is the shop keepers' responsibility to provide a service and they are not responsible for the customers who drop litter. However a Local Authority can introduce a Street Litter Control zone where litter clearly linked to a type of business is identified, making the business responsible for keeping the area clear of litter.

**Recommended:**

Members noted the contents of the report.

**6. COUNCIL TRANSITION PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Director of Corporate Administration and Policy presented the report on the Councils Transitional Plan for the second quarter of 2008/09. He advised Members that there are 30 projects within the Transitional Plan, the only decision to be completed is South Moor Park, Stanley.

He detailed the Youth Café Louisa Annex, advising that the Business as Usual request had been withdrawn pending a review of further usage of the building. The Government had offered to extend funding for the next 12 months for the Revenues and benefits Voice Software and the Business as usual request for the family intervention project had been postponed as the Government had encouraged the project to resubmit for additional funding.

Councillor Stelling queried whether there was a completion date proposed for the Consett Sports Project and whether the consultants are meeting with Officers to discuss the proposal. The Director of Corporate Administration and Policy advised that he was not aware of a meeting between consultants and Officers and as yet no completion date had been confirmed.

**Recommended:**

Members noted the contents of the report on implementing the plan.

Councillor Shield raised a point regarding the lack of communication from the local Police force, he was concerned that none of the Councillors were officially informed that the inspector at Consett had changed.

The Scrutiny Manager advised Members to put any concerns in writing to himself and also a request will be sent to the police for them to attend the next meeting of this panel.

**CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.