

Central Area Committee – 3 March 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the **Central Area Committee** held on **3 March 2009** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Vice-Chairman: Cllr M R Carter

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
Cllr K H Hudson
Cllr J R F Mason

Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr M G B Starke

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs M A Weir - Hawkwell Parish Council
Cllr D Hazlewood - Hockley Parish Council
Cllr Miss A Marriott - Hullbridge Parish Council
A Parkman - Essex Police
L Park - NHS South East Essex

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Bugeja - Head of Legal Services
S Hollingworth - Team Leader (Planning Policy)
J Bostock - Committee Services Manager

54 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs R Brown, Mrs L A Butcher, P A Capon and M Maddocks.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the inclusion of an apology for absence from Cllr Mrs C A Weston.

55 COMMUNITY FORUM

All questions from the public related to either the Draft Strategic Plan for NHS South East Essex or the Hockley Area Action Plan Issues and Options document, and were picked up later in the meeting when these items were considered.

56 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Crime and Disorder in the Central Area

Inspector A Parkman presented the figures relating to reported crime and anti-social behaviour for the central part of the District.

It was noted that the basket of crimes did not include all offences. Inspector Parkman wished to emphasise how partnership working, such as through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, was a significant factor in the reduction of crime levels. The installation of a team shelter at Hullbridge was a good example of effective partnership working.

Whilst year on year targets for crime reduction were increasingly challenging, the Police were currently well within target for both crime and anti-social behaviour figures.

Responding to questions, Inspector Parkman advised that the possibility that there are issues with young people obtaining alcohol in the Golden Cross area would be investigated. At times, the Police worked with Trading Standards to tackle this sort of issue.

(2) Draft Strategic Plan for NHS South East Essex 2009/2014

Council received a presentation from Liesel Park, Assistant Director of Public Health and Health Intelligence (NHS South East Essex) on the Draft Strategic Plan for NHS South East Essex 2009/2014. The presentation covered:-

- The Trust's structure and responsibilities.
- The current position with regard to the health of the local population and finance/resources.
- Proposed actions in terms of investing in improving health, building up the network of GPs, Primary Care and Community Services and organisational arrangements.
- The challenges over the next five years and associated mechanisms for public consultation.

Responding to questions, Liesel advised that:-

- Questions on identifying if the Primary Care Trust could provide specific detail on how the definitions of "rural" and "urban" are determined and the criteria for locating Primary Care Centres would be taken back.
- The current health budget is £471M. The draft Strategic Plan involves an additional £66M.
- Rochford Hospital is part of the South Essex Partnership Trust from which NHS South East Essex Commissions Services. In terms of public perception, the Primary Care Trust is aware of the importance of delivering on proposals. A suggestion that there could a form of "annual report card", specifying progress made

and delivered to the community through a public forum, would be taken back to the PCT as a recommendation.

- Work has been undertaken on facilitating the availability of advice on health and the carrying out of some testing (including blood pressure) by pharmacists at dispensing chemists. Information on the specific situation could be provided.
- Concern that some GP practices are not utilising properly trained or supervised counsellors could be raised with the Mental Health Services Commissioner.

During discussion reference was made to a concern that the resource provision for “care beds” appeared to favour residents in the Southend and Castle Point areas. In the context of resources within the District, reference was also made to statistics which indicate that Hockley and Rochford had the lowest GP and dentist to public ratio in the South East Essex area. A possibility that larger GP practices may not necessarily result in individuals receiving the levels of service that they would want was mentioned. There could also be concern about how realistic it may be to expect smaller surgeries to continue in the longer term if where there are larger surgeries nearby. It was noted that the Trust was considering the resourcing of GP practices where there was a clear desire by practices to provide/re-establish services in-house.

(3) Hockley Area Action Plan Issues and Options Document

Cllr Keith Hudson, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation introduced the Hockley Area Action Plan Issues and Options document. The associated presentation covered:-

- Area Action Plan definitions.
- The process, including consultation, leading to Plan adoption.
- The background to the development of a Plan for Hockley and associated objectives.

In response to questions, it was noted that:-

- The Council’s consultant, Urban Initiatives, had advised that all the options within the document were economically viable. The Authority sets the framework for investment by developers.
- The Spa building and the Potters hardware store building were excluded from the document.
- The question of why the Foundry and adjoining new build were not included could be looked into.
- The range of business uses identified against the various options within the document should generate additional employment in

the Hockley area. Research has suggested that employment related to high technology would fit well with the local population. Research has also identified that jobs at the Eldon Way Industrial Estate were not just held by the local population. Whilst there may be a point when there are less employment opportunities at Eldon Way, proposals within the Joint Area Action Plan for London Southend Airport and Environs were designed to generate employment of the type found at Eldon Way. There were also proposals to facilitate the expansion of business activity at locations such as London Road with its junction with the A1245.

- The County Council had been consulted on the various options and its views were awaited. In terms of infrastructure, County Highways would need to undertake detailed traffic impact assessments as appropriate.
- Whilst the opportunity had been taken to give a presentation to this meeting, public consultation had been undertaken in the area covered by the plan. There would be further future public consultation.

57 CENTRAL AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the Central Area update

Replacement of Footpaths 8 and 9 adjacent to Brandy Hole on the River Crouch (11/07)

It was noted that the County Council would need to consider a number of interests, including horse riding.

Three broken bollards on the Betts Farm Estate, Hockley (15/08)

There were indications that, whilst Wimpey Ltd had carried out repairs to the bollards, there had been subsequent damage. This would be looked into.

The Number 7 Bus (20/08)

It was noted that a circular route (route 18) had been introduced by Arriva from the Southend Tesco store. The route included the Main Road Hockley and Ashingdon Schools.

The meeting closed at 9.23 pm.

Chairman

Date

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