

Environmental & Community Services Select Committee

10 June 2015 – At a meeting of the Select Committee held at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mr Tyler (Chairman)

Mrs Brunsdon
Dr Dennis
Mr G Jones

Mr M Jones
Mr S Oakley
Mrs Phillips

Mr Rae
Mr J Rogers
Mr Whittington

In attendance by invitation: Ms Goldsmith (Leader), Mrs Field (Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Circus and Mr O'Brien (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport)

Mrs Brunsdon left the meeting at 1.06pm

Declarations of Interests

1. In accordance with the code of conduct, the following personal interests were declared:

Mr Oakley as a member of Chichester District Council in relation to Economy Update and Key Decision Forward Plan

Mr Rogers as a member of the Substance Misuse Task and Finish group in relation to Approval of Procurement Process to award contract for the provision of services for children, young people and adults affected by alcohol and other drug use.

Mr Whittington as Walking and Cycling Champion for West Sussex County Council in relation to Cycling Task and Finish group.

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2. The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting and agreed that minute no 177, 8th bullet (IWP Committee comments – Drainage) should be changed from

- Welcomed the highlighting of central drainage improvements in the scheme.

To:

- Welcomed the highlighting of central drainage improvements in the scheme. Officers clarified that this included both improvements and maintenance works.

3. Resolved – that subject to the amendment in minute no 177 above, the minutes of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee held on 13 March 2015 be approved as a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Cabinet Member Response to the Committee's Recommendations on the Integrated Works Programme (IWP) 2015/ 2016 and the authority's concerns around reinstatement at a national level.

4. Resolved – That the Committee noted the Cabinet Member's response to the Committee's Recommendations on the Integrated Works Programme (IWP) 2015/ 2016 and the authority's concerns around reinstatement at a national level (copy appended to the signed minutes).

5. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Noted that this item is a holding statement and agreed there is a need to push central government to understand exactly what the national policy is. It also requested an update on the scheme of lists and for a progress update to come back to the Committee. An officer advised that the outcome of the permit scheme consultation will be brought to the next Committee meeting.
- Requested that the legal obligations of the contractor should be scrutinised when this item comes back to Committee and queried officers were confident that the capacity is there to carry out a comprehensive monitoring process. An officer advised that open and clear governance, including report generation will ensure a robust monitoring process.
- Raised concerns that the North of the County isn't overlooked when it comes to funding and that smaller projects aren't set aside in favour of larger ones.
- Raised concerns over the correct materials and type used for reinstatement and the patching technique used. An officer advised that the new inspection regime provides more people on the ground to carry out checks. If found incorrect, the contractor will have to return to site and ensure right materials are used. Where necessary, it is agreed patching is not used and instead a wider area is covered. Regulations are in place that ensures if a road is resurfaced, there is an embargo placed upon the section for 3 or 5 years which means no planned works or improvements can be entered into.

Approval of Procurement Process to award contract for the provision of services for children, young people and adults affected by alcohol and other drug use.

6. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Care, Wellbeing & Education (copy appended to signed minutes)

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7. The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing gave a brief overview of how the current service is moving to encompass main stream users to include alcohol and other drugs rather than just current opiate users.

8. Holly Yandall, Public Health Lead for Substance Misuse and Philippa Gibson, Senior Commissioning Manager, Drug and Alcohol Action Team introduced the report and gave a presentation (copy of slides appended to the signed minutes) which provided an overview of the proposed future delivery of service for children, young people and adults affected by alcohol and other drug use, once the current contracts end on 9th May 2016. The proposal is to let one single contract to start on 10th May 2016. With:

- A need to redesign the current service to comply with new guidance, research and evidence involving changes in drug and alcohol use. To include a range of measures supporting those substance users outside of the current opiate scope, i.e. cannabis, prescription medication and legal highs.
- To make services more accessible for a wider range of users i.e. pregnant women, working people, older people and those in social isolation. Encompassing job support, telephone support, community re-integration and supporting impacted families.
- To implement the recommendations from the local comprehensive needs assessments carried out for alcohol and other drug use and Dual Diagnosis (co-occurring alcohol/drug dependence and mental health issues).

9. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Welcomed a wide ranging programme but queried what change has been made to the level of current misuse in West Sussex. Also how much is done to reduce demand, supply and prevention and how tangible results will be measured. An officer advised that Public Health are currently working with Kings College London to robustly test and validate a tool to measure the recovery rate and impact the service has. This includes abstinence and good mental and physical health. The Think Family service has been consulted on the draft specification and outcomes. The contract will allow for a 6 month implementation period where the provider will work alongside the Think Family service. In addition, any Local Authority has to report nationally on numbers and trends coming into the County, including employment and training and drug related deaths.
- Queried if resources are allocated County-wide in a proportionate way and if there is currently a geographical concentration of identified users. An officer advised that Crawley and Worthing are the community drug and alcohol teams that currently have higher caseloads, but that this does not include reference to adults not engaged in services. The draft specification has been informed by current case loads, information taken from Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, PHE data and bidders will be required to develop a service offer that is responsive to the differing needs of district/borough/ CCG areas.

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- Wanted reassurances that referrals from other Local Authorities would not be accepted. An officer advised that people accessing the current and the new service must have a West Sussex GP and/or ordinary residence. Any influx would still have to be limited due to West Sussex having just one local residential rehabilitation provider. Previously there has been an overreliance on rehabilitation alone, so one of the proposals is that there be a renewed focus on what can be provided within community services
- An officer advised that other DAAT areas can refer service users into residential rehabilitation projects, and that those service users can re-locate. This is true of any DAAT area. However the current potential for this is limited in West Sussex as there is just one local rehabilitation provider in the county. The referring DAAT area should provide on-going support for a specified period. The officer went on to confirm that this situation will continue to be closely monitored.
- Welcomed the support for impacted families, but wanted reassurances that the service was not only involved in resolving problems arising from drug use, but was also engaged in prevention as well. An officer advised that early intervention is being offered within the full spectrum service. Prevention is addressed as part of the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Public Health lead on alcohol prevention and early intervention and are also developing a combined prevention 'offer' to schools and other settings. This encompasses alcohol and drugs, smoking, healthy weight and sexual health.
- Wanted reassurance that the procurement seeks to have a global view, and is not solely focused on outreach centres in deprived areas. Along with how assessments are made in terms of broadening requirement such as house provision for geographical increasing numbers, and the impact this might have on other areas. An officer advised that the new service is expected to be tailored to local need in West Sussex, and that the draft specification and documents prepared for procurement give detail from JSNA and other source documents on projected need.
- Queried if the absence of a longer term provider has prevented investment being made in long term facilities, such as in premises outlay. An officer agreed that the current contract time of 2 years (as an interim measure to allow service redesign) has not been adequate enough to address wider service design issues, and that the current provider has given much management time costs into sourcing adequate premises with limited success in some areas of county. Therefore a longer term contract is strongly supported.
- Queried how confident Public Health and DAAT are that their objectives can be achieved through this commissioning scheme. An officer advised that the proposed expectation is that the successful bidder improves care, pathways and joint working - including the addition of support for moderate and lower level drinkers. It is recognised that one size doesn't fit all, so bidders are expected to do their research across all district and boroughs, local areas and County-wide.

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- Noted clarification that since the report had been written additional external funding has been made available to support the contract, bringing the total to £5.3 million and the Committee requested that the contract have the ability to introduce variations and take into account future changes in scope that may have financial implications. An officer advised that advice from Legal Services has been taken and the specifications had been drafted to enable specific variations to take place.
- Queried the possibility of linking up with other local authorities to align as a region for greater information sharing. An officer advised that WSCC meets regularly with colleagues in Brighton and East Sussex and meets other commissioners at regional/Public Health England events
- Queried how Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has been involved in the procurement document, and if any existing service will overlap with this scheme. An officer advised that the Trust are not currently providing substance misuse services in West Sussex. As a potential future provider for this service in West Sussex their input has been limited to that of any other potential bidder, such as attendance at market engagement events. Commissioners of mental health services have been consulted and have reviewed the draft specification for this service.
- Recognised that due to a recent high public profile alcohol-related death, this represented an opportunity to increase public awareness.

10. Resolved – That the Committee:

- (1) Supports the commencement of an open tender procurement process for a new contract based on the model and outcomes described herein.
- (2) Supports the letting of a contract for a period of 5 years with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years (1+1) to a maximum of 7 years, commencing on 10 May 2016 with an estimated value of £5,300,000 (five million, three hundred thousand pounds) per annum.
- (3) Notes the delegation of authority to the Executive Director of Care, Wellbeing and Education to award the contract to the successful provider following the competitive procurement exercise.
- (4) That once the contract has been let and agreed to the successful provider the Committee is given an update after a period of 12 months.

Economy Update and Key Decision Forward Plan

11. The Committee considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer and Interim Director for Economic Growth (copy appended to signed minutes) Caroline Haynes, Consultant on the Economy introduced the report and gave a presentation (copy of slides appended to the signed minutes) which provided an

update on the progress of the Economic Priorities and presented the 2015 Key Decision Forward Plan for the five Bold Ideas. Key updates were:

- A marketing campaign to begin for the Beautiful Outdoors from mid-June to October with preparations being made for improvement works to key routes in and around the South Downs National park (SDNP)
- An event to be held in July 2015 for all of West Sussex bio-engineering and related businesses to come together.
- Development of the High End Finance idea including the potential for a significant investment in digital connectivity
- Consideration of the feasibility of a shipping container village to support the creative arts on the Chichester university campus in Bognor Regis, with potential support from Wayne Hemmingway.
- Possibilities are being investigated for the use of a cold chain storage facility near Gatwick airport, for use by pharmaceutical and bio-engineering companies.

12. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Welcomed the encouragement of both the London market and the local market within the Beautiful Outdoors plan, but raised the issue that there is no one-stop solution to encourage all types of visitors. There is a need to recognise differing requirements and link them, such as family walks, pub walks and dog walks, so greater emphasis needs to be placed on these variations.
- Queried to what extent is the Beautiful Outdoors campaign being financially supported by the SDNP, as it is recognised that this is an asset to them. Also if there are proposals to extend the advertising campaign to Europe. An officer advised that the SDNP has not financially contributed although they are fully supporting the promotion, but advertising in Europe would be too costly at this point.
- Queried how non SDNP areas will be supported to attract cyclists and visitors within the Beautiful Outdoors plan. An officer advised that WSCC is engaging with small businesses in the local community to encourage local people to explore other areas.
- Raised concerns that, as the frequency of maintenance and monitoring of Rights of Way (ROW) has now been changed from 9 months to 15 months, it has to be ensured that other carriageways and paths aside from those within the SDNP be properly maintained with a focus on safety; if more people are to be encouraged to use them. An officer advised that all advertised routes and areas have been quality checked and the focus is on off-road mountain biking and rural country roads, whereas safety issues more usually arose in towns.

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- Raised concerns about travel from London to West Sussex by either rail or car and the need to encompass the experience starting from the point of travel. The London service to Bognor Regis was an example of a slow journey and would benefit from faster services. Any advertising campaign would need to be clear and concise in order to fulfil expectations such as cheap rail travel and other incentives. Gatwick Airport was suggested to be a good place to capture inbound travellers with advertising. An officer advised that talks have been held with Southern rail and hire bike companies to discuss the promotion and seek support. All relevant companies will be mentioned in the campaign to encourage the links in services available.
- Welcomed the bio-engineering proposals as a good opportunity for young apprentices, but recognised that once qualified they may leave West Sussex for other opportunities, so there would be a need to encourage them to stay in the County. An officer advised that encouraging any young person to come back to the County and use their skills would be promoted and schools would be asked to come and talk to businesses and exchange needs and ideas. The quality of life would also be a promotional factor for the younger generation to return.
- Raised concerns that large pharmaceutical companies have already moved out of the County and whether discussions with government have taken place over the current state of the UK pharmaceutical market. A lack of long haul destinations served by flights from Gatwick Airport has contributed to the loss of jobs in this sector, so there may be a need to work with airlines' marketing and cargo services. An officer advised that West Sussex has a large medical sector, including big companies located here already. Talks have taken place with Gatwick Airport over the possibility of linking in with bio-engineering clusters abroad.
- Raised concerns that within the Better Bognor Regis idea, the previously planned artist quarter near the pier has now been postponed. As the growth of retail parks outside of the town has contributed to the reduction of footfall, there is a need to see what work has been done to increase Bognor town centre's visitor numbers. An officer advised that the consideration of a container village at the Chichester University campus in Bognor Regis would help promote small creative arts businesses. It is proposed this would be a good investment, good value for money, and will attract further visitors to the area.
- Queried how much WSCC have paid KPMG to date for the work carried out on the Economy plan and when this arrangement is likely to cease. Also if there were any private sector financial contributions towards the Five Bold Ideas and how investment outcomes are measured. Concerns were raised over the potential subsidy of arts and businesses. An officer advised these figures would be sourced and shared with the Committee.
- Raised concerns over the Growth Board plans, and how this work fitted with district and borough plans, including infrastructure levy funding. An officer advised that the details on signed mandates for infrastructure can

be brought back to the Committee at a later date. There is currently good engagement between the district and boroughs and the Boards and infrastructure will be built around each of their Local Plans. The Growth Plan will pull together cycling and highways to give a clear and complete picture.

- Queried how Growth Plans would address cross-country issues, i.e. strategic roads, and tie in with the building of potential cycle and walking paths. An officer advised that that the Growth Plan will pull together cycling, highways and schools to give a clear and complete picture.
- Raised concerns over housing pressures if there was an increase in migration to West Sussex.

13. Resolved – That the Committee:

- 1) Notes progress with the economic growth priorities;
- 2) Welcomes the progress with the Beautiful Outdoors Bold Idea, the headlines of the business case, and the measurement that will be undertaken to enable a report to be prepared for the Committee on impact and success;
- 3) Notes and endorses the proposed 2015 Key Decision Forward Plan for the five Bold Ideas.

Cycling Task and Finish Group – Membership and Terms of Reference

14. The Committee considered the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Cycling Task and Finish Group (TFG) - (copy appended to the signed minutes). Andy Ekinsmyth, Service Manager, Transport and Countryside gave a brief overview of the format of the TFG, which is to include 3 to 4 meetings, with a progress update to come back to the Committee in September.

15. The Committee made the following comments. It:

- Queried the criteria needed for the Department for Transport (DFT) partnership agreement. An officer advised that more details will be provided at the meeting of the Committee in September.
- Requested that the word 'plan' in the first Term of Reference be changed to 'strategy'.
- Requested that the third Term of Reference be changed from 'cycling forums, having extensive local knowledge' to 'all stakeholders'.

16. Resolved – That the proposed Terms of Reference of the Cycling TFG be agreed, with the following membership:

Mr Whittington (Chairman)
Mr J Rogers
Mrs Brunson

Mrs Phillips
Mr Rae
Mr S Oakley

Appointment of Business Planning Group Members

17. The Committee agreed to appoint the following five members to the Business Planning Group (BPG) for 2015-16, including the Chairman of the Committee and two minority members.

18. Resolved - That:

Mr Tyler (Chairman)
Mr J Rogers (Vice-Chairman)
Dr Dennis

Mr S Oakley
Mrs Philips

be appointed to the BPG.

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

19. The Committee considered the Forward Plan June to September 2015 (copy appended to signed minutes).

20. Resolved – That the Forward Plan be noted.

Date of the Next Meeting

21. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting will take place on 10 July 2015 at 10am at County Hall, Chichester.

The meeting ended at 1.29pm

Chairman