Minutes of the Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 13 March 2019 in Committee Rooms 1 & 2 - Deanes, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council at 6.30 pm

Members of the Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee in attendance: Councillor R Golding, Councillor K Carruthers, Councillor D George, Councillor R Hussey, Councillor T Jones, Councillor A McCormick, Councillor K Taylor and Councillor J Richards

Also present: Councillor Terri Reid – Deputy Leader
Councillor Hayley Eachus – Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment

49/18 Apologies for absence and substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillor T Capon. Councillor K Rhatigan was replaced by Cllr D Sherlock. Councillor M Taylor was replaced by Cllr C Wooldridge.

50/18 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

51/18 Urgent matters

There were no urgent matters.

52/18 Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

53/18 Social Inclusion Partnership - Multi Agency Rough Sleeping Plan / Making Every Adult Matter update

The Deputy Leader introduced the report that provided the Committee with an overall update on the Plan with specific emphasis on the two major initiatives relating to complex need / mental health issues and homelessness: the local MEAM (Making Every Adult Matter) partnership and Outcome Homes (assertive psychological interventions and systems support).

The Committee discussed the report and presentation and made the following comments:

- How was the risk managed to ensure that mental health support would be continued to be provided if individuals move on. Officers confirmed that they requested the individual’s contact details and that the partnership would continue to work with them for as long as they wanted to engage with them.

- Some members felt that more could be done so that there was early
intervention in most cases.

- Welcomed that the number of people rough sleeping within the borough had decreased.

- The number of individuals that the partnership dealt with on a regular basis was questioned. Officers informed the Committee that currently the figure was around 15 to 18 people and that most of them were in temporary accommodation.

Queried what was being done in order to help those individuals who had drug, alcohol and street attachment issues. Officers responded that the Partnership worked with all individuals and for example did not exclude those who were not sober, they had also found that through the use of tailored therapy the individual’s use of drugs and alcohol decreased during their engagement with the project.

Officers confirmed that they had planned so that there was sustained support for individuals after the project had finished and therefore would not take on any complex cases near the end of the project.

The Committee requested that Outcome Home be invited to attend either the January or March meeting of the Committee in order to present the data findings from the project.

Further comments included:

- Confirmed that the housing associations and representatives from the Police were involved in the regular meetings of the Partnership.

- Clarification was sought as to how the annual rough sleeper count was made and how the final number was reached. Officers confirmed that they had to work within a set framework but that the figures were verified with all partner organisations.

- Clarification was also sought regarding the funding arrangements for the scheme.

Particular reference was made to 3.25 of the report and the plans to develop a health-led, co-designed and co-produced primary care project which would focus on improving access to mental health provision by having Wellbeing advisors, social and mental health care workers all in one GP surgery. Officers advised that the Committee should contact the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) for more information on the project.

Resolved: The Committee:

1) Thanks the Deputy Leader and Officers for the report and presentation
2) Notes the content of the report

Air Quality Update Report

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment introduced the report which provided the Committee with a summary of the work that had been undertaken in order to fulfil the statutory duties in relation to local air quality, and what other actions had been taken to help reduce emissions and improve air quality over the last year.

The Chair invited visiting speakers Sheila Peacock and Martin Heath to address the Committee, their comments included:

- Concern in regard to the number of Office blocks which had been converted into flats within the town centre and that this might increase relevant exposure to air pollution and had this been taken into account.

- The recent Schools project had shown some individual bad days for air quality and had the connection to the weather been conveyed to the Schools.

- Air pollution levels within the Borough were still unacceptably high and the Council should be more concerned about the negative health implications of this.

- Reiterated the 8 key areas of action needed that had been proposed when the Committee had previously considered the item.

- Needed to act quickly as following DEFRA’s response to the A339 the Borough’s air quality was in a worse state than a year ago.

Officers advised that air quality implications were assessed for any new developments but that the air pollution levels drop off rapidly the further the distance is from the road and that a development had to be very close to a road for there to be significant concern.

Officers confirmed that they had been engaging with the schools in order to share the figures when parents had been idling outside and to try to encourage more people to walk or cycle.

The Committee discussed the report and made the following comments:

How had the monitoring locations within the borough been chosen as there was some concern that large roads within residential areas were not monitored. Officers clarified that they reviewed traffic data yearly, how close houses were to the roads and looked at and responded to any new developments.

Officers explained that members should contact them with any particular locations that they were concerned about and that they would review them and consider whether monitoring would be appropriate.
Questions were raised as to why only NO2 was monitored and not PM25 and PM10 and particulates. Officers responded that there was a strict set of criteria that they had to adhere to and it was not appropriate for them to monitor them.

Some members were concerned that the issues that had been raised had not been taken seriously enough and that the current approach was not as proactive as it should be.

In regard to the A339, DEFRA had requested a review on whether it would be feasible to introduce a speed reduction on the road and whether this measure would result in an improvement to Air Quality.

Some members also felt that there were not enough monitoring locations around Schools within the Borough.

Concern was raised in regard to the largescale developments within the town. The Executive Director of Borough Development confirmed that part of the transport package for the Manydown development did address air quality implications.

The Committee requested that an email be circulated to the Committee in July containing the details of the comparative figures of the results of the sites where the BTN (Basingstoke Transition Network) had monitored previously and the subsequent monitoring carried out by the council.

The Committee requested that the list of schools that were currently involved in the School Travel project be circulated so that members were able to encourage any other schools not on the list to engage with the scheme.

The Committee were also requested to contact officers if they were interested in circulating some of the new car stickers which aimed to reduce vehicle idling.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment advised the Committee that unfortunately the Council had very little power to act on issues such as idling until there was an air quality issue and an air quality management zone had been made.

Resolved: The Committee notes the content of the report.

The Chair introduced the work programme and gave a brief overview of the items that would be included on the agenda for the upcoming meetings.

The Chair confirmed that the update report for the Ice Rink had been scheduled for the June meeting of the Committee. The Committee requested that the report contain specific emphasis on proposals for a temporary home for the Ice Rink.

The Committee agreed that the Funding & Management of Borough Land for Biodiversity would be scheduled for the July meeting but hoped that discussions
between officers and the volunteer groups would occur before July. The Committee agreed that the relevant Portfolio Holder for the item should be the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment.

The Committee noted that the CSPO Task and Finish Group still required representatives from the Conservative and Liberal Democrat groups.

The meeting ended at 9.34 pm.

Chairman