

**MINUTES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Monday 25 April 2022

Councillor Liz Clunie (Chair)

Councillor Paul Feeney	Councillor Andrew Ellwood
Councillor Sandra Barnes	Councillor Simon Murray
Councillor Pat Bosworth	Councillor Marje Paling
Councillor Michael Boyle	Councillor Martin Smith
Councillor Jim Creamer	Councillor Sam Smith
Councillor Rachael Ellis	

Apologies for absence: Councillor Mike Hope

Officers in Attendance: M Cryer, SDuhra, B Hopewell, E McGinlay, E Minogue and S Palmer

Guests in Attendance H Wheeler

30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hope. Councillor Bosworth attended as substitute.

31 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2022

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

32 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

33 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

The chair provided an update on dog fouling stats in the borough as requested at a previous meeting when scrutinising Councillor David Ellis' Public Protection portfolio. It was confirmed that:

- Last year was the best year for catching dog fouling and issuing fixed penalty notices (FPN)
- There were ten FPN in total between April 2021 and March 2022

- The fines were all £100 and all of them have been paid
- There were three FPN issued in the previous year, April 2020 to March 2021
- The increased number of fines was due to a higher number of CCTV reports
- DNA was not taken from any case

Members welcomed Councillor Henry Wheeler to the meeting to examine the Housing, Health & Wellbeing portfolio. Councillor Wheeler gave a presentation to members about his portfolio, giving them the opportunity to ask any questions.

Members asked whether Councillor Wheeler could use his position as a member of the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board to find out details of the present state of GP surgeries in Gedling. He explained that:

- The Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board is a statutory public health function that aims to find out what Nottinghamshire needs to improve in health and wellbeing and to develop a strategy and delivery plan to achieve this
- The board is currently reviewing its strategy for 2022 onwards. GPs fall under primary care provision, which is not a public health function
- The governance for GP provision falls under the umbrella of the emerging Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System (ICS). GP surgeries are part of the local Primary Care Network structure of the ICS.
- There are four Primary care Networks (PCNs) that cut across the boundaries of Gedling Borough, which are
 - Byron PCN serves: Bestwood Village, Papplewick, Linby;
 - Arnold and Calverton PCN serves: Arnold and Calverton and surrounding villages;
 - Arrow Health PCN serves: Carlton, Daybrook, Mapperley, Burton Joyce; and
 - Synergy Health PCN serves: Carlton, Mapperley, Netherfield, Burton Joyce.
- The latest figures provided by Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) show there are 107 GPs working locally within the structure.

The committee discussed how developer contributions from new housing developments would feed through into investment in GP

provision. Councillor Wheeler confirmed that Gedling Borough Council consulted the Clinical Commissioning Group Integrated Care Partnership on all planning applications received, which applied to any major residential development of ten or more new dwellings and any new residential institution (such as a care home).

When consulted, the CCG assess the likely impact of the new resident population created by development in terms of number of additional GP consultations. The calculation is based on a methodology provided by the Department of Health and takes into account the infrastructure (accommodation) requirement for consulting and treatment rooms. It was also noted that consultations with the CCG provide details of emerging plans to address capacity issues and seek to justify that contributions sought are fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

A discussion on how the Covid-19 pandemic affected the mental health of residents was had and it was noted that:

- Around a third of adults and young people said their mental health is worse since March 2020.
- 58% of the people receiving benefits has said their mental health is currently poor.
- One in five adults did not seek support during the pandemic because they didn't think their problem was serious enough.
- Nine in ten young people (88%) have said that loneliness has made their mental health worse during the pandemic.
- The number of young people with mental health problems has risen from one in nine to one in six. 1.6 million adults are on the waiting list for mental health treatment and a further 8 million can't get onto the waiting list.
- The latest data showing the prevalence of depression in the Borough, recorded by GP practices, is below the national average, but has seen some increases in parts of the Borough according 2020/21 figures.
- During the 12 months to mid-March 2022 - the total number of referrals made to the Long COVID clinic in Nottinghamshire are 1169
- Social prescribing can help improve patient mental health and wellbeing by connecting patients to activities in the community. Social prescribing teams were implemented across South Nottinghamshire in 2020. Age UK employs

social prescribing link workers who work directly with patients to signpost them into community activity.

- The Council is working in partnership with Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Services to implement additional resource that will further support community groups across South Notts to support residents with their health and wellbeing.

Finally, the measures the Council were taking to reduce its use of temporary accommodation was discussed. Councillor Henry Wheeler confirmed that:

- Following Cabinet approval in January 2021 of the temporary accommodation options appraisal, the Council has now taken ownership of six properties located within the Borough and aims to have all of these available in the oncoming weeks to those who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, following the completion of some essential works
- Work continues to identify and secure the two remaining properties required but since Christmas the market has slowed considerably and the number of properties within the required price bracket have been limited
- Viewings have been undertaken but only a few specific properties have been identified as suitable and following final offers the Council has been unsuccessful
- Gedling Borough Council have managed to purchase a mixture of properties spread around the Borough. The project is also currently on budget despite an overall increase in prices since January 2021.
- Gedling Borough Council is prioritising reducing expenditure on bed and breakfast accommodation by securing more temporary accommodation
- Further progress is being made to secure several Nottinghamshire County Council caretaker bungalow properties on two year leases to further strengthen the council's temporary accommodation portfolio
- Gedling Borough Council continue to try to prevent households from being made homeless rather than deal with the case once this has occurred. To aid this, the council continue to improve and investigate new proactive prevention measures.

It was noted that some of the projects/initiatives used in Gedling to reduce homelessness and the need for temporary accommodation are as follows:

- Call before you serve (CB4US) – A scheme funded to work with landlords to establish what can be achieved to avoid a notice being served and enforced.
- Goodge ads – A means of targeting our customers. Therefore when anyone within the Borough uses a google search relating to evictions or a related them it signposts them to Gedling BC’s webpages for advice and contact numbers etc. Also signposts landlords to the CB4US service.
- Advice and support in doctor’s surgeries. A pilot scheme ran during Covid to help people who approach their doctor for help and may need signposting to housing needs or other welfare support services.
- Successful joint funding bids were made in 2021 (GBC, RBC and BBC) to secure a total 15 units across the 3 districts for those individuals with a history of or recently found rough sleeping. Each self-contained unit will also have wrap around support provided by Framework.
- Following the Domestic Violence bill work has been undertaken and new funded roles will be created within JUNO Women’s Aid. Funding has been provided to aid the Councils sanctuary scheme aimed at helping victims remain in their property safely.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To thank Councillor Wheeler for attending the meeting; and
- 2) To note the information.

34 CARBON MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Environment, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, updating Members of the progress of the Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan.

The Head of Environment began a presentation on the progress of the Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan.

He noted that all councils across the country have been graded on their climate action plans and activities to date, with the organisation Climate Emergency UK assessing authorities across nine key sectors. Councils were given a percentage on how well they are meeting their targets and addressing each area. Gedling Borough Council has been recognised for its actions and ambitions to tackle the climate emergency, along with

Rushcliffe who both were graded the highest of the seven Nottinghamshire councils with a score of 46 per cent each.

APSE Carbon Benchmarking & Key Actions:

In order to see how much work is required to reach the council's target by 2030 the Council's carbon footprint baseline has been established and an additional piece of work on our grey fleet has been undertaken through a GBC staff travel survey. This will enable the council to monitor and cut emissions moving into the future.

Internal Influence

- In the public estate, buildings, fleet, housing, parks and woodlands
- Align procurement & commissioning with Net Zero
- Embed climate action in decision making and business cases
- Provision of training and building skills for climate change and energy system

External Influence

- Leading partnerships and supporting/co-designing initiatives
- Growing supply chains and low carbon skills and economic growth
- Local Area Energy planning for EVs and Heat Pumps, flex and storage
- Planning policies for net zero
- Transport and active travel
- Consistent recycling & waste collections
- Public engagement
- Project readiness

It was noted that the following projects had been implemented so far:

Buildings

- Installation of solar panels – Civic Centre, Richard Herrod Leisure Centre, Jubilee Depot
- Installation of energy efficient LED lighting – Civic Centre
- Installation of pool covers and new energy efficient pumps at our leisure centres.

- An energy efficient window replacement programme is included in the Council's approved budget.

Car Parks

- Installed new LED street lights.
- EV charging points installed at High Street
- Arnold (2 units)
- Fredericks Avenue, Carlton (6 units)
- Haywood Road South, Mapperley (1 unit)
- Morrison Street, Netherfield (6 Units)

Waste and Recycling:

- The Council is working with countywide partners to reduce contamination levels for recycling whilst increasing recycling rates.

Fleet

- The Council is currently trialling a number of electric vehicles which aims to reduce pollution in Gedling.

Parks and Open Spaces

- The Council has created a solar panel farm at Gedling Country Park, has a large programme of planting new trees, and is developing new wildflower pollination areas.

Planning:

- The Council is pushing developers to install electric vehicle charging points as standard on new homes, and the Council's Local Plan has a number of policies on climate change, energy efficient designs and renewable energy generation.

The Climate Change Officer, Sim Duhra, introduced herself and detailed the community engagement activities she had been involved in, outlining the action plan going forward.

The Food, Health and Housing manager then gave a brief overview of one of the actions to maximise available funding and promote schemes to help retrofit housing within the borough, prioritising low EPC rated owner occupied and rented homes (both social & private), privately owned properties (D and below) and social landlord housing where possible. He confirmed there was a scheme ongoing in Netherfield

called the Local Authority Delivery Phase 2, which is prioritising external wall insulation and solar panels.

An overview of some other council projects were also highlighted, such as the next phase of the Green Homes Retrofit. Details of which are below:

- Sustainable Warmth Competition – LAD Phase 3 and Home Upgrade Grant (HUG)
- Netherfield & Newstead Village 22/23 – TBC
- £120,000 HUG, £690,000 LAD 3, up to 69 homes. Including EWI, Solar PV, Loft, 6x Air Source Heat pumps

A summary of the current and future projects were also noted, which are as follows:

- EV charging points at Civic Centre and Gedling County Park
- Energy efficient lighting replacement programme at Civic Centre and Netherfield Car Park.
- Review into thermal windows at the Civic Centre
- Transition to a Bio fuel - Hydro treated vegetable oil, otherwise known as HVO. The next-generation low-carbon diesel, derived from renewable sources of energy plants, animals, or algae.
- Electrification/hydrogenation of fleet

The Committee then posed questions to the Head of Environment, Climate Change Officer and the Food, Health and Housing Manager:

Councillor Boyle asked whether anything can be done regarding businesses in the borough to reduce their carbon emissions.

The Climate Change Officer explained that the Environmental Health Officers go out to businesses as part of their visits and agreed that a scheme in which they assess the businesses carbon emissions is something they would like to look at. The Food, Health and Housing Manager also explained that there are national initiatives being developed to look into the sustainability of food produce as well.

Councillor Ellwood asked whether there will be issues with the Jubilee Depot facilitating a hydrogen hub and electric charging infrastructure.

The Head of Environment explained that the Council is due for transition over to HVOs over the next three to four years but the Council is

currently looking at its assets to form an overarching strategy to decide what the best course of action is to help facilitate these changes.

Councillor Creamer asked whether there is a timetable or target for when the transition to HVO will take place.

The Head of Environment explained that at present, there are not enough producers of HVO to ensure a consistent supply. Providers have explained that HVO will be supplied primarily, along with the occasional delivery of diesel where supply fails to meet demand. The current assets need to be assessed so the strategy for this is a working document and providing a timeframe for this will be difficult at this moment in time.

Councillor Martin Smith asked whether the strategic initiatives mentioned are designed to save the council money, purely for environmental purposes, or designed to achieve both.

The Head of Environment explained that the priority has to be with the environment however it is true that HVO and other Carbon reducing initiatives are generally more expensive than current resources such as diesel.

Councillor Murray left the meeting.

Councillor Ellis asked whether road safety for cyclists is being considered such as separating cyclists from the roads in newly developed areas to encourage more people to cycle to work.

The Head of Environment explained that they work closely with planning to ensure new developments facilitate cyclists in the area.

Councillor Feeney asked whether the Council's buildings are surveyed to look at energy saving methods such as double glazed windows.

The Climate Change officer explained that reports have been undertaken to assess energy saving efficiencies.

Councillor Murray returned to the meeting.

Councillor Sam Smith asked whether we have had any engagement with Nottingham County Council's Environment Ambassador in securing funding for planting trees within the borough.

The Head of Environment explained that due to the size of green patches within the borough, the council was unsuccessful in securing the

first round of funding from the county. The council is currently working to secure the second round of funding.

RESOLVED:

To note the information.

35 SEWERAGE REVIEW REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Environment, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The report advised Members of the different agency's responsibilities with regards to waterways and suggested the Committee form a working group to consider the issue of sewage discharge and how this could be mitigated, cross agency.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the responsibilities that different agencies hold regarding sewage discharging into watercourses; and
- 2) Form a working group to complete a more thorough review of waterways and sewage discharge within the borough.

36 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Democratic Services Manager introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, providing an update on the scrutiny work programme.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Form a working group to review the health provision in the borough; and
- 2) Liaise with the Council's partners and invite them to a future meetings for an update on health and housing provisions.

37 ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

None.

The meeting finished at 7.05 pm

Signed by Chair:

Date: