

HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

12th June 2023

Present: Councillor Lynn Denham in the Chair

Councillors Ali, Cockeram, Hodgson (Vice-Chair), Laurenson, Murray, Norfolk, Pingree, Round and Sadiq

Officers: Lloyd Griffiths, Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities
Tom Mountford, Head of Homes and Communities
David Sutton – Deputy Director – Policy and Strategy

1 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor Round for Councillor Stephen, Councillor Norfolk for Councillor Udall.

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Public Participation

Dan Brothwell, Chair of Bike Worcester, spoke concerning the Active Travel Plan. He expressed support for the Plan but was concerned that the targets set out in it would not be achieved. He had sent Committee Members comments on the Plan by email and encouraged them to take these into consideration. He showed a short film as part of his presentation. The Chair thanked Dan for his comments.

4 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5 Active Travel Action Plan

The Committee considered a report on the proposed Active Travel Action Plan. The Deputy Director – Corporate Policy and Strategy presented the report and summarised the main points, including the background, the aims and objectives of the Plan and the proposed actions, both internal and external. In conclusion, he explained that updates and amendments including possible additions to the actions can be considered by the Steering Group and brought back to this Committee for consideration.

A lengthy discussion ensued and most Members expressed support for the Plan. The view was expressed that this should be a fluid document which can be amended and updated by Committee on the recommendation of the Steering Group.

The Deputy Director responded to questions and comments from Committee Members.

He advised that SMART objectives and KPIs associated with the Plan can be built into this Committee's performance scorecard. This can be considered in detail at the Steering Group. Six monthly updates on the Action Plan will be brought to the Committee. Comments and suggestions from any interested parties, including Bike Worcester with whom officers have frequent dialogue, should ideally be communicated directly to the relevant Officers.

There was a debate about the extent to which the Steering Group should be able to update and amend the Plan. The Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities advised that a steering group cannot undertake decision making on behalf of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

- 1. approve the proposed Active Travel Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report; and**
- 2. agree that the Member Steering Group meets regularly to review progress in delivering the Action Plan and recommending updates to the Action Plan to the Committee.**

6 Quarter 4 and Annual Performance Report for 2022/23

The Committee considered report on the quarter 4 and annual performance report for the Health and Wellbeing Committee. The Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities presented the report, which showed progress for the current priority projects and activities which support the delivery of the Council's City Plan and the corporate suite of key performance indicators. The Corporate Director responded to questions and comments from Committee Members.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to note the Council's quarter 4 and annual performance for 2022/23.

7 Cost of Living Task & Finish Group - Closing Report

The Committee considered a report on the work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group. The Head of Homes and Communities presented the report and explained that this was a closing report setting out the work of the Group between its first meeting in June 2022 and its last meeting on 29th March 2023. He summarised the key outcomes and Officers responded to questions from Committee Members.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to note:

- 1. the contents of this report and in particular the work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group; and**
- 2. that the work of the Task and Finish Group has concluded and oversight of the Council's role in responding to the cost of living crisis will be undertaken by this Committee.**

8 Update on the Delivery of the Child Poverty Task & Finish Group Recommendations

The Committee considered an update report on the delivery of the Child Poverty Task and Finish Group recommendations. The Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities presented the report and explained the work which it was proposed to undertake to progress the final two recommendations. These were Recommendation F – To consider if any suitable Council land and/ or allotment space can be used e.g. for community vegetable patches to help address food poverty etc; and Recommendation G – To review the relationship of the Worcester City Discretionary Welfare Assistance Scheme (DWAS) with food poverty along with other similar schemes being delivered by partners across the City.

Recommendation H – To make best use of the £50,000 corporate funding to address food poverty – had been completed and the report summarised how the budget has been approved.

In conclusion, 2 of the 8 recommendations remain in progress with 6 completed. The 2 remaining recommendations will be the subject of future update reports that will continue to be presented to this Committee at 6 monthly intervals.

The Corporate Director responded to questions and comments from Committee Members.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to note:

- 1. the contents of this report; and**
- 2. that recommendation H has been completed, with a further update report to be presented in January 2024.**

9 Worcester City District Collaborative - Update Report

The Sub-Committee received a progress report on the work of the Worcester City District Collaborative since the last report in November 2022. The Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities presented the report and summarised the work undertaken by the group over the last 6 months as well as the proposed working arrangements moving forward. He responded to questions and comments from Committee Members.

In response to a comment on the difficulties in accessing CAMHS services which had been explained to this Committee at a previous meeting, the Corporate Director stated that this can be picked up via a future meeting of the Collaborative.

RESOLVED: That the Committee note the contents of the report.

10 Any Other Business

None.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00p.m. – 9.02p.m.

Chair at the meeting on
17th July 2023