

Executive – 16 April 2014

Present: Councillor Williams (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Adkins, Cavill, Hunt, Mrs Stock-Williams and
Mrs Warmington

Officers: Paul Fitzgerald (Assistant Director – Resources), Lisa Redston (Strategy
Officer), Ann Rhodes (Policy Officer) and Richard Bryant (Democratic
Services Manager and Corporate Support Lead)

Also present: Councillor A Wedderkopp

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm.)

33. Apology

Councillor Edwards.

34. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 12 March 2014, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and were signed.

35. Taunton Deane Borough Council response to the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018

Considered report previously circulated, concerning the Somerset Health and Wellbeing (SHW) Strategy which had been adopted by the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2013.

The Strategy focused on the following strategic vision:-

“People live healthy and independent lives, supported by thriving and connected communities with timely and easy access to high-quality and efficient public services when they need them.”

And the following three priorities:-

- “1. People, families and communities take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing;
2. Families and communities are thriving and resilient; and
3. Somerset people are able to live independently.”

Many of Taunton Deane’s core services helped to deliver the three priorities of the SHW Strategy. Partnership working was also key to delivering positive outcomes for the community. This included involvement in the Family Focus Project, the

Halcon One Team, Taunton Deane Partnership and delivery of the Priority Area Strategy and funding of voluntary organisations to take community action.

The Council had been requested to carry out a comprehensive audit of the work that was carried out or commissioned by Taunton Deane, the Taunton Deane Partnership and its partners with a view to establishing how well the Council was currently delivering against the priorities of the SHW Strategy.

The findings of the audit along with an Action Plan had been included in a document titled "Taunton Deane Borough Council response to the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018" which had been circulated to Members of the Executive.

The Action Plan sought to prioritise and address gaps in provision relating to Health and Wellbeing. Actions included working in partnership to improve educational attainment, embedding health and wellbeing principles into planning policy, helping to reduce fuel poverty, increasing housing provision that supported independent living and helping people to access the internet.

Both the Response Document and the Action Plan were considered to be 'living documents' and Members requested that any future minor amendments to these should be signed off by the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Resolved that:-

- (a) The document Taunton Deane Borough Council Response to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 – 2018 be approved;
- (b) It be agreed that the Joint Management Team adopt and monitor delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan;
- (c) Future budget decisions be considered in line with the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan; and
- (d) The Taunton Deane Borough Council Response to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 – 2018 and Action Plan be recognised as living documents and that the relevant Portfolio Holder be authorised to sign off any future minor amendments required to be made to either document.

36. **Report on Statement of Community Involvement**

Considered report previously circulated, concerning the Council's updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

The Council had a legal duty to consult in the preparation of local plans and on planning applications and had adopted a SCI in 2007.

This document was a statutory requirement and had been subject to Examination in Public. It now needed updating to reflect changes to planning policy nationally, recent guidance and the Council's policies.

Whilst a SCI document was no longer a statutory requirement the Legislation stated that local planning policy should be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sectors. Consultation should be undertaken with the any persons interested in the development of planning policy; Neighbourhood Plans should be the shared vision of a community; and Decisions on Planning Applications should take account of the views of those affected by the proposed development. To this end the SCI was a useful document for the Council, stakeholders and general public.

Regulations and Acts set out specific statutory undertakings for consultation. The SCI set out how the Council would meet its legal obligations to consult statutory stakeholders and those with an interest in shaping planning policy and planning decisions in Taunton Deane.

The Council's Corporate Consultation Policy identified Core Values by which Taunton Deane aims to be a Council for the Community, as follows:-

- Aim for the highest standard of consultation practice;
- Seek a community's views as an essential part of the evidence base for its decision making;
- Work towards full involvement of all elements of the community and recognise different viewpoints via appropriate consultation techniques;
- Use a flexible approach to seeking views and diverse ways of consulting and involving the public;
- Target planning of the Council's services by sharing information on established needs and aspirations of the community;
- Add value by sharing information with resources across partner agencies; and
- Invest in building the skills of staff as researchers and consultation experts.

The SCI had built on these Core Values, linking them to specific things we would do to engage the community and stakeholders in the plan-led and decision-making processes.

The content of the SCI set out clearly, concisely and in plain English information on:-

- (a) The Planning System – what it was;
- (b) Local Plan Coverage – how national, local and community plans fitted together;
- (c) What the various planning policy documents were;
- (d) When we expected others to consult the Council, stakeholders and the community;
- (e) When, who and how the Council would consult;
- (f) What The Council did with representations received;
- (g) What to do if someone thought they had been unfairly treated;
- (h) Stakeholders to be consulted;
- (i) Definition of planning application types; and
- (j) A Glossary of Town and Planning Terms.

The draft SCI had been subjected to consultation through the Local Development Framework Steering Group, the Taunton Deane Partnership Community Planning

Working Group and via a six week public consultation including stakeholder, general public and equalities groups.

A report on the consultation had been produced and published on the Council's Consultation Portal. There were no substantive comments however; some representations suggested minor amendments to the document which had been incorporated into the SCI.

During the discussion of this item a number of further corrections and clarifications were requested to the document.

Resolved that, subject to the appropriate corrections and clarifications being included, the updated Statement of Community Involvement be supported and adopted as Council policy.

37. **Executive Forward Plan**

Submitted for information the Forward Plan of the Executive over the next few months.

Resolved that the Forward Plan be noted.

(The meeting ended at 7.01 p.m.)