

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Minutes

MONDAY, 17 JUNE 2019

PRESENT: Councillor D Shaw (Chair)

Councillors J Aberley, I Herdman, K Hoptroff, B A Hughes, B Johnson, K Martin, T McNicol, J Porter, T Riley, P Roberts, L Swindlehurst, P Taylor, P Wood and N Yates.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor L A Malyon, C J S Atkins, B Cawley, T Holmes, M Bowen and P Wilkinson.

APOLOGIES: Councillors G Bentley and G Heath.

145 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

DECIDED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Panel held on the 18th March 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

146 **TO NOTE THE LATEST REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL.**

Councillor Holmes introduced himself as the Council's representative on the Police, Crime and Fire Panel. He requested that any comments or concerns were emailed to him and he would raise these with the Commissioner and report back to members accordingly.

In response to this, Councillor Swindlehurst requested an explanation of the extent of collaboration between the Fire and Rescue Service and Police, as outlined in the report dated 29th April 2019. She wished to establish what the common functions were and how the effectiveness of the changes would be monitored.

DECIDED:

- 1) That the report of the Chairman of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel dated 29th April 2019 be noted;
- 2) That Councillor Swindlehurst would send an email to Councillor Holmes to outline the above query.

147 **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS, IF ANY.**

Councillor Elkin was a substitute member for Councillor Bentley.

148 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

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Agenda No.	Member Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
None Specific	Cllr J. Porter	Other A member of the Safer Neighbourhood Panel.

149 **QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, IF ANY.**

Question from Councillor Taylor:

Q1. Which company provides the energy supplied to the Staffordshire Moorlands offices and buildings?

Response:

The company that supplies the energy is Total Gas & Power. This procured in accordance with Council procedures via the ESPO Framework.

Question from Councillor Taylor:

Q2. Where are the pollution monitors located in the Moorlands? What pollution levels do these monitors record and indicate? Where can this information be accessed?

Response:

The locations of the pollution tubes are listed below:-

Location	X:	Y:	Site Code:
Wetley Rocks	396535	349111	1
Tean	401095	339425	6
Cheadle (Leek Road Rbt_ Central) (*2)	400967	343564	7
Alton (Chapel)	407237	342257	8
Leek (Moorlands House)	398486	356630	10
Leek (Swan Hotel)	398295	356587	11
Leek (Southlands Close)	397430	356516	12
Cheadle (Tape Street)	400991	343363	14
Biddulph (Knypersly, Cross Rds)	388030	356757	17
Leek (Ball Haye St _ Central) (*2)	398691	356579	24
Leek (Broad Street Jct North_1)	398354	356329	25
Leek (Broad Street Vets_ South 1)	398159	356215	26
Cheadle (Leek Road Rbt_ North)	400968	343579	29
Cheadle (Leek Road Rbt _South)	400967	343548	30
Leek (Ball Haye St _ South)	398688	356547	31
Leek (Ball Haye St_ North)	398693	356616	32
Leek (Broad Street Jct North_2)	398322	356305	33
Leek (Broad Street Vets_ South 2)	398172	356253	34
Leek (Broad Street North_3) (*2)	398333	356313	37

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Cellarhead Junction_2 (*2)	395702	347548	38
Cellarhead Junction_3 (*2)	395702	347553	39
Leek (Broad Street Jct North_4) (*2)	398323	356306	41
Cellar Head Junction 4 (*2)	395704	347562	42
Cheadle Roundabout Special	400937	343457	45
Broad Street South	398245	356232	47
Broad Street Junction	398397	356322	48
Cellar Head Junction 4	395811	347530	49
Cheadle Tape St easb bound	401043	342917	50
Cheadle Tape St west bound	401062	343045	51
Cheadle Tape St west bound 2	401049	343151	52
Cellarhead Junction_5	395727	347570	53
Cellarhead Junction_6	395732	347575	54
Cellarhead Junction_7	395754	347560	55
Cellarhead Junction_8	395699	347577	56
Cellarhead Junction_9	395711	347601	57
Broad Street South	398107	356157	58

The tubes monitor for Nitrogen Dioxide and indicate that pollution levels are generally good across the district but issues have been identified in Leek and Cellarhead, which require the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area and the development of an Air Quality Action Plan. This will be the subject of a detailed report which will be presented to councillors shortly. Information on Air Quality can currently be obtained by contacting the Service Area and will soon be available on the Council's website.

By way of supplementary questions, Cllr Taylor asked who were Total Gas and Power and clarification of the ESPO Framework.

Mark Trillo – Executive Director (People), advised that ESPO was Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation which assisted many local authorities to achieve efficiencies through frameworks, services and expert procurement advice.

Further information on Total Gas and Power would be circulated to the Panel after the meeting.

Councillor Taylor asked if any other pollution elements should be monitored and requested more clarification around good pollution levels. The Panel was advised that the Council employed a specialist in pollution and a report would be considered by this Panel in relation to an Air Quality Management Order.

DECIDED: That regular updates and an annual status report on the levels of pollution be added to the Work Programme.

150 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BRIEFING - MARK TRILLO - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PEOPLE). (PRESENTATION)

Mark Trillo – Executive Director (People), introduced a presentation which covered the following topics:-

- Council's Decision Making Process

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- Role of Scrutiny
- Role and Remit of the Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel
- Development of the Work Programme
- Task and Finish Working Groups
- Role of Officers

The Panel discussed combined scrutiny panel working groups which all members were invited to take part in.

151 COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY INITIATIVE PROGRAMME - MARK TRILLO - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PEOPLE). (REPORT)

The Panel gave its consideration to a report which provided an update on the use of the Councillors' Community Initiative Fund (CCIF) in 2018/19.

The Councillors' Community Initiative Fund provided every Member with the ability to use a grant allocation of £500 to address community issues in their wards.

An application form and guidance notes were published on the Council's website together with a record of each year's grant expenditure.

In 2018/19 £27,992 was spent which had supported a total of 108 projects/organisations.

A member of the Panel asked if it was possible to apply for the funding if the project was just outside of their ward boundary and it was confirmed that this would be considered and members could also make a combined application.

Members had differing views on the allocation of the grant funding. It was felt that some community groups received the funding each year and some less well known groups could be overlooked. Other members explained the limited opportunity for the allocation of funds in smaller single councillor wards and the importance of provision of funding in line with organisations' calendars.

Members were reminded that there was a section on the CCIF application form to disclose any interests in connection to the group which they wished to support.

DECIDED: That the update report be noted.

152 WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered its Work Programme and agreed the items listed, subject to, the following items being added:-

- Rural Bus Service (Update from Councillor Ralphs);
- Childrens Homes (Invite the County Council, a member of the Planning Team and the Police);
- Sustainability and Climate Change (Invite a representative from Staffordshire Wildlife in relation to a recent report) ;
- Flyposting, banners and advertisements.

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In light of recent accessibility issues, a request was made for a review of polling stations. The Panel was advised that a review was due to take place, members would be consulted and the report would be considered by the Licencing and Regulatory Committee.

It was confirmed that a new system for CCTV had recently been agreed by Cabinet and Mark Trillo offered to provide details should members require any more information.

At this point in the meeting, detailed discussion took place around the withdrawal of free TV licences for over 75 year olds. Members were concerned that for some pensioners this could lead to issues around social isolation and requested that a letter be sent to request that this decision was reviewed. A vote was taken as members had different opinions on where the letter should be sent to and it was decided that the letter should be sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a copy of the letter sent to the BBC.

A vote was also taken on the start of the future meetings of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel and it was decided that the meetings continued to be held at 2pm.

DECIDED: That the Panel's Work Programme for 2019/20 be agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm

_____Chairman _____Date