

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2013 AT 7.32 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY**

Present: Councillors Miles (Chairman), Patten (Vice-Chairman), Amos, C Callender, Hawkins, Pugh, Tracey and Winfield

Also Present: Councillors Bucke and Nicholls

In Attendance: Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney), Democratic Services Officer (Michael Pingram) and Environmental Services Manager (John Fox)

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Broderick with Councillor Winfield substituting.

34. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on 21 October 2013, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to:

Minute 29 (Tendring District Local Plan: Pre-Submission Focussed Changes) (Remaining Business):

That, at paragraph 3, the words "by Councillor Tracey", be inserted after the word "seconded".

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

THE CHAIRMAN ALTERED THE ORDER OF THE REMAINING BUSINESS AS SET OUT BELOW.

36. FUTURE PLANS FOR GP SURGERY, HOLLAND-ON-SEA: UPDATE

The Chairman invited Jenni Speller, Contracts Manager, NHS England, Essex Area Team to provide the Committee with an update on the proposed GP surgery in Holland-on-Sea.

Ms Speller began by explaining to the Committee that she was part of the team responsible for directly commissioning some services, which included GP services and, more specifically, decisions based on GP premises across Essex. It was noted that her team had inherited the commitment from the former North East Essex PCT to develop a new surgery in Holland-on-Sea and said that her team was supportive of the scheme, with money having been allocated to fund the rent of the surgery.

Ms Speller went on to say that, following the breakdown of the site on Brighton Road, NHS England had been looking elsewhere for sites and had received confirmation from the Council that the site in Ipswich Road was available and that a price for purchase had

been agreed. It was now a case, she said, of deciding how to take this forward with a decision on this expected in early 2014.

During questions the Committee was told that when the existing surgery was closed, the GP's would transfer to the new site, that the earliest the new surgery would realistically open was 2015 and that the current loss of amenity to residents whilst waiting for the new surgery to open was marginal as the current site was providing an adequate service and that the new surgery was partly about being able to provide for the future.

In noting that there had been considerable slippage to the scheme, the Committee then asked for an update on any other additional surgeries in the District and was informed that due to reduced budgets, a business case would need to be provided for each case but stressed that if there was a demonstrated need for improvements it would not be overlooked.

The Chairman thanked Ms Speller for her update.

37. PROPOSED SCHEME FOR DEALING WITH PETITIONS

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) which proposed a scheme for dealing with petitions received by the Council.

The Council's Democratic Services Manager gave the Committee an overview of the background behind the scheme and explained that the Localism Act 2011 removed the statutory requirement for Local Authorities to have in place, a scheme for dealing with petitions. However, he said, many Councils did still use a scheme and he felt it would be good practice for the Council to do likewise as it was an effective means of dealing with, and publishing any action taken in relation to concerns raised by residents in a consistent and transparent way. The current system in place, he said, was not effective as it did not encourage meaningful debate or outcomes for those who signed a petition.

The Chairman welcomed the scheme, saying it was long overdue and that it gave a clear message to residents that the Council wished to hear their views.

During discussion by the Committee, clarity was sought on the following points:

- That school children who required a teacher or parent to oversee a submission of a petition were defined as those under the age of 16
- Where no end date to an e-petition is specified, the Council shall set this at three months from the date of receipt of the e-petition.
- That the heading 'What Happens when a Petition is Considered?' be changed to 'What Happens after a Petition has been considered?'
- That 'No action (with reasons as to why no action is proposed)' be added as a course of action under the new heading 'What Happens after a Petition has been considered?'

It was moved by Councillor Patten, seconded by Councillor Pugh and **AGREED** that, subject to the comments made by the Committee, the scheme be **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** for consideration and recommending to Council for adoption.

38. OUTCOMES OF MEETINGS HELD WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND THE CHAIRMEN OF THE COUNCIL'S AUDIT AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) which provided Members with the outcomes on matters of commonality discussed at a meeting

held with the Leader of the Council and the Chairmen of the Council's Audit and Overview and Scrutiny Committees, held on 11 October 2013.

During discussion by the Committee, there were concerns raised as to the meaning of the words "post-deliberation" under 'Detailed Information' (Cabinet Member attendance at OSC Meetings) and the Committee looked for clarity on this.

39. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) which set out to review, refresh and reaffirm the roles and responsibilities of the Committee and its terms of reference following a request to do so by the Council's Service Development and Delivery Committee.

Following discussion by the Committee, it was **AGREED** that the report be noted.

40. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

41. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

(a) With reference to Minute 35 of 29 October 2012, Councillor Tracey asked for an update on the Virtual Ward.

(b) The Committee asked if it was possible to ask the Health and Well-being Board to attend a future meeting of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee to speak on issues of health inequalities on homelessness.

(c) It was also suggested that practice managers are asked to attend a future Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee with the intention of providing an update on the use of locums at surgeries in Frinton and Walton.

(d) The Committee further requested an update on education and the Council's role in what was the responsibility of Essex County Council.

The Democratic Services Manager resolved to address each of these points and to advise Committee Members accordingly.

The Vice-Chairman stated that if any Member had suggestions of any issues they felt needed to be resolved they should contact the Chairman. He also congratulated staff following a press release from the Council's Communications Manager that explained that staff had received specialist training to help people who had fallen whilst at home.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.47 p.m.

Chairman