

HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 2 July 2020

PRESENT – Councillors Bell (Chair), Dr. Chou, Donoghue, Heslop, Layton, Lee, McEwan, Newall, Tostevin and Wright

APOLOGIES – Councillors ,

ABSENT – Councillors

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors K Nicholson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Miriam Davidson (Director of Public Health), Pauline Mitchell (Assistant Director Housing and Building Services), Jennifer Illingworth (Director of Operations, Durham and Darlington), Michelle Thompson (Chief Executive Officer) and Hannah Fay (Democratic Officer)

HH1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21

RESOLVED – That Councillor Bell be appointed Chair of this Committee for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

HH2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21

RESOLVED – That Councillor Donoghue be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

HH3 TO CONSIDER THE TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21 ON THE DATES AGREED IN THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS BY CABINET AT MINUTE C104/FEB/20

RESOLVED – That the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 10.00am for the remainder of the 2020/2021 Municipal Year and that the meetings be held on a Wednesday, on dates to be agreed by the Chair.

HH4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bell declared an interest as a Bank Healthcare Assistant for County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust; Councillor McEwan declared an interest as a Lay Member for Darlington Primary Care Trust; and Councillor Tostevin declared an interest as a Member of the Board of Governors for County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and North East Ambulance Service.

HH5 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON :-

(1) 16 JANUARY 2020

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 16 January 2020.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 16 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

(2) 30 JANUARY 2020

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 30 January 2020.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 30 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

HH6 WORK PROGRAMME

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the Municipal Year 2020/2021 and to consider any additional areas to be included.

Discussion ensued on the current work programme and it was suggested that Members receive an update on the Better Care Fund, to include details of how this was being deployed; and following Members agreement, Councillors Heslop and Newall would continue their investigations in respect of the CCG Stroke Services.

Following a question by Members it was confirmed that an All Members Briefing on Fluoridisation that was due to take place prior to Covid-19 had been stood down and that this would be re-arranged.

Members felt that further discussion on the Work Programme was required to ensure there was a focus on Covid related issues and recovery.

RESOLVED – (a) That the work programme be noted.

(b) That an All Members briefing on Fluoridisation be arranged.

HH7 QUESTIONS

A question was raised regarding the steps being taken by Mental Health Services to support those affected by Covid-19.

The Director of Public Health advised that the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) were undertaking preparation work for the anticipated increase in service users; that this was an area of concern for Public Health; and work was being undertaken at a North East and local level.

The Director of Operations, Durham and Darlington TEWV assured Members that TEWV had robust plans in place to manage the potential increase in patients due to the impact of Covid-19; and were working closely with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust to provide psychological support.

Following a question by Members in respect of heating in older Council housing stock, it was confirmed that there was an extensive project for new windows and doors; and that there was a requirement to identify alternatives to gas central heating.

Following a question raised in respect of testing timescales it was confirmed that Pillar one data, from testing undertaken within NHS settings, was received timely by the Council; Pillar two data had not been received to date but Local Authorities had been signing information sharing agreements with Public Health England to receive this information; the Health Protection team based in Newcastle were quick to share any cause for concern; and the Local Outbreak Control Plan detailed how the Local Authority would respond and control an outbreak.

RESOLVED – That an update be provided by TEWV at the Special Meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on 15 July 2020.