

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3rd July, 2018

PRESENT - Councillor Copeland (in the Chair); Councillors Culley, Grundy, Kane, Lister, Lyonette, Mills, M Nicholson and Storr. (9)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Knowles and York (2)

ABSENT –

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor S Richmond

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health, Kevin Kelly, Head of Service - Adults, Ken Davies, Housing Strategy Officer, Hilary Hall, Project Manager, Healthy New Towns and Barbara Copson, Performance Manager.

AH1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AH2. TIMES OF MEETINGS – RESOLVED – That meetings of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2018/19, be held at 10.00 a.m. on the dates, as agreed on the calendar of meetings by Cabinet at Minute C111/Feb/18.

AH3. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 10th April, 2018.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

AH4. HEALTHY NEW TOWNS – The Project Manager, Healthy New Towns gave a presentation on Healthy New Towns, a NHS England sponsored programme which was about building healthy communities.

It was reported that Darlington was one of ten healthy New Town sites across England and was the only one in the North East, with the initial focus of work being on the eastern growth zone, including Red Hall, Burdon Hill and Lingfield Point, which had been chosen because of the economic and housing development opportunities the area presented, along with the significant challenges in terms of health inequalities compared to the rest of Darlington.

The presentation covered the progress on the three workstreams within the programme of regeneration and housing, new models of care and digital empowerment, with particular reference being made to the regeneration and housing workstream and the work being undertaken to encourage the building of homes which met the lifetime home principles, enabling houses to be adapted to meet the changing needs of residents over their course, keeping them as independent as possible for as long as possible.

Discussion ensued on the links with the HNT initiative on the Red Hall Masterplan and the significant work on the Red Hall estate to improve the image and attractiveness of that estate, the community initiatives undertaken to date within that community and the partnership work with Keepmoat Homes for the development of the stables site that reflected the revised design principles of lifetime homes.

Members questioned the long-term sustainability of the project and it was reported that the third year of Healthy New Towns was continuing to focus on delivery but also on the legacy and influence of the programme going forward.

RESOLVED – That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Project Manager, Healthy New Towns on her presentation.

AH5. QUALITY ASSURANCE – DOMICILIARY CARE CONTRACT - The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members on the Home Care and Support Contract which commenced on 2 October 2018.

It was reported that the Contract, which was a three-year contract, was operating within a new model, with the Borough being divided into two geographical zones (east and west) with a single prime provider delivering support within each zone.

The contract providers were Careline and Positive Life Choices (PLC), however, there was also a safety net of ten additional framework providers who were offered packages in instances where either of the prime providers was unable to meet demand, with a further four framework agreements in place to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities, mental health issues and dementia, autism and vulnerable families with children.

Officers reported that a smooth transition to the new contract had been achieved and that they were, overall, pleased with the performance of the providers to date.

Particular reference was made to the monitoring visit to PLC which had highlighted some concerns in relation to medication and staff supervision and Members were reassured that PLC had responded promptly to the concerns and a time-bound action plan had been developed to demonstrate how full contractual compliance would be achieved and that, if there were any on-going safeguarding issues, they would be picked up at the scheduled safeguarding strategy meetings.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and that Members note the on-going contract management arrangements and that the current contract service model continues to perform very well.

AH6. HOMELESS REDUCTION ACT – The Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report (previously circulated) advising Members of the implications of delivering homeless related services following the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017, which came into force on 3rd April, 2018.

It was reported that the Homeless Reduction Act, which amended the existing homelessness legislation, required Council's to try and prevent people from becoming homeless, intervening early and encouraging other public sector bodies to actively assist in identifying and referring those at risk of homelessness.

The submitted report outlined the main four provisions within the Act, together with the actions being taken to address these provisions and the implications for the local authority.

It was reported that the Government had provided the Council with a total of £70,505 in additional funding, spread over three years

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received and the actions being taken to address the new duty of the Homeless Reduction Act be noted.

(b) That a further report setting out the full impact of the changes on this Authority be submitted to a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee to be held in July 2019.

AH7. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 4 2017/18 AND PROPOSED INDICATORS FOR 2018/19 – The Performance Manager submitted a report (previously circulated) providing Members with an update on performance against those key performance indicators within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee for the period 1 January to 31 March 2018.

It was reported that two of the six housing targets did not have targets, however, the remaining four had achieved year-end performance

In relation to the Adult Social Care targets, the submitted report gave the performance position in relation to nine of the 14 key performance indicators. Data was unavailable for the remaining five indicators due to a number of reasons as outlined in the submitted report.

The submitted report also requested that consideration be given to the proposed indicator set for this Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2018/19, which had been reviewed for continued relevance and the reporting schedule.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received.

(b) That the proposed basket of performance indicators for 2018/19, together with the reporting schedule, be agreed.

AH8. WORK PROGRAMME – The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's draft work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2018/19.

Discussion ensued on the items scheduled to be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of this Scrutiny Committee and it was suggested that, due to the number of items scheduled, consideration be given to whether some of those items could be deferred to the meeting scheduled to be held on 18 December 2018.

RESOLVED – That the work programme for the Municipal Year, as appended to the submitted report, be approved.