

The Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee met at Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon on the 26th July 2006.

Present:-

Councillors George Atkinson (Chair)
“ Richard Hyde (Vice Chair)
“ John Appleton
“ Peter Barnes
“ David Booth
“ Jill Dill-Russell
“ Richard Hobbs
“ Nina Knapman
“ Helen McCarthy
“ Sue Main
“ Mike Perry
“ Chris Saint
“ Bob Stevens

Officers:-

Adult, Health and Community Services Directorate
Tim Willis, Capacity Planning Officer

Community Protection Directorate
Patrick Lee, Area Community Safety Manager – South.

Environment and Economy Directorate
Annmarie Grace, Access Project Officer
Roger Newham, Chief Transport Planner

Performance and Development Directorate.
Peter Endall, Senior Solicitor.
Martin Gibbins, Stratford Area Manager.
Alwin McGibbon, Health Scrutiny Officer.
Phil Maull, Senior Committee Administrator.
Helene Toogood, Community Partnership Officer.
Amanda Wilson-Patterson – Area Administrative Officer.

**South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust's
Representatives – attended for agenda item 3**
Sarah Bannister, Head of Communications
Teresa French, Chief Executive

6 members of the public attended.

1. Apologies

were received from Councillor Izzy Seccombe.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sue Main to her first meeting of the Committee

2. Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

(1) Joint Membership Declarations

The following members who were also members of the Stratford on Avon District Council and, where indicated, also members of the Warwickshire Police Authority, declared personal interests in any item on the agenda affecting the District Council or the Police Authority.

Councillors John Appleton, Peter Barnes, Richard Hobbs (also member of the Warwickshire Police Authority), Sue Main, Mike Perry, Chris Saint and Bob Stevens.

(2) Other Declarations

(i) Agenda Item 8 - Vehicles in the Countryside and Part 6 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Councillor Peter Barnes declared a prejudicial interest on account of his farming activities.

(ii) Agenda Item 10 – Stratford on Avon Area Business Plan

Councillor David Booth declared personal interests because he was a Governor of Lighthorne Heath Community Primary School and he ran a voluntary youth group.

3. A Summary of the Coventry & Warwickshire Acute Services Review Consultation Proposals

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development summarising the key proposals from the Acute Services Review Consultation Document together with a presentation from representatives of the South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust.

The following points arose from the discussion:-

- Services should not be provided too far away because of transport difficulties in South Warwickshire. The increases in parking charges at hospitals added to the problem.
- The two largest districts in the County – Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick – were south of Coventry whereas Walsgrave hospital was situated to the north-east of Coventry.
- Public transport issues could not be solved by the PCT alone - this would require co-operation between all agencies.
- It was necessary to clarify the distribution of responsibilities between the health services and the County Council.
- Warwickshire residents living on the borders were as likely to use health services provided from outside the county. For

example the potential withdrawal of services from Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, could mean that some Warwickshire residents who would have used that hospital would have to use an alternative hospital including Warwick Hospital. It was important for those residents that Warwick Hospital continued to provide for the majority of their needs.

- The Acute Services Review should take account of the views of the PCTs adjoining the Warwickshire boundary.
- Paediatrics Assessment Units to decide on when level of care is likely to be more than 3 days, whether it would be a higher level of care.
- Concern raised that patients will be sent automatically to the UHCW. The PCT need to ensure that the patient knows, via their GP, that they will still have the choice to go elsewhere.
- Concern raised that the Ambulance Service would take residents that live nearer to Cheltenham to the UHCW instead. Assurances given that if it was more appropriate to go to the local hospital the ambulance would still take patients there.

The Chair reminded members that the consultation period would end on the 21st September and asked them to take any opportunity during that period to voice any concerns that they had. Councillor Bob Stevens referred to the two-day Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee event on the Acute Services Review that was being held on the 31st August and 1st September 2006.

Resolved:-

That the Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee highlight the following issues for feeding into the formal consultations for the Acute Services Review:-

- (1) Accessibility of services and transport problems for both patients and their families.
- (2) The split of responsibilities between the County Council and the NHS Trusts to be clarified quickly.
- (3) Improved communication with the public to ensure that people were aware of the proposals and any consequent changes.
- (4) Primary Care Trusts bordering onto Warwickshire should be included in the consultation arrangements, as Warwickshire residents living on the borders of the County were likely to be using services for which those Primary Care Trusts were responsible.

The Chair thanked Teresa French and Sarah Bannister.

The Committee then adjourned from 4.30 p.m. to 4.40 p.m.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th May 2006 and Matters Arising

(1) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee's 24th May 2006 meeting be approved and be signed by the Chair.

(2) Matters Arising

Minute 6(2) – On Street Waiting restrictions in Timothy’s Bridge Road

It was confirmed that the visit had taken place involving the local members.

Minute 10 – Shared Use Foot/Cycleway – Kinwarton Farm Road, Alcester

In response to a question from Councillor Nina Knapman, it was agreed that the officers be informed that the above scheme should be monitored with a view to an update being provided to members after six months.

5. Public Questions and Answers

Question from Mr. R.E. Howe concerning the lack of progress in providing the footbridge on footpath SD61.

Mr. Howe said that he had returned to the Area Committee because of the lack of progress on the provision of a footbridge over the River Stour on footpath SD61 between Alderminster and Whitchurch. He had been promised that a start on the bridge would have been made by July but there was no sign of it. He had not received responses to his e-mails to officers seeking information as to why there was a delay in the provision of the bridge.

It was not possible to give him any further information that night but the Chair requested officers to respond to Robert Howes correspondence. As the funding was available to build the bridge he asked that it be built as quickly as possible.

It was noted that notice had been given by Monica Beckett to raise a question but she was not in attendance.

6. Adult Social Care Performance Report – Help to Live at Home and Associated Indicators

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health & Community Services presented by Tim Willis.

The following points were raised during the ensuing discussion:-

- It was confirmed that the improvements implemented to raise the level of assessments completed within four weeks would be sustainable.
- In the case of older people services and dementia, it was intended to have a lower level of support earlier, which would be a better use of resources.
- Information about the performance of the occupational therapy service in respect of people awaiting adaptation at home was

not available at the meeting and Tim Willis would have to come back with the details.

- Information was not available about whether there were staffing implications impacting upon those awaiting assessment.
- Details on how much was spent on consultants in the field of adult care were unavailable.
- The improvements outlined in the report would impact on the star rating for the service.

It was agreed that Tim Willis should respond with the appropriate information to those Members who had raised issues that required further investigation.

7. Safer Neighbourhood Policing Areas

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance & Development.

Members needed clearer information on the division of neighbourhood policing areas because the maps supplied did not make the boundaries distinctive enough.

Resolved:-

That the Stratford on Avon Area Committee:-

- (1) Notes the proposals put forward by Warwickshire Police for operational deployment of their resources on a neighbourhood area basis.
- (2) Notes the resolution of Cabinet that whilst these are not appropriate structures for locality working for the County Council, we will continue dialogue with the Police and the Police Authority as to how we can make our locality approaches effective together.
- (3) Agrees that Members be supplied with maps that clearly defined the boundaries of the neighbourhood policing areas in the Stratford-on-Avon Area.
- (4) Notes that a further report will be brought to the Committee in due course to ensure its active engagement regarding the definition of the Council's structures for locality working.

8. Vehicles in the Countryside and Part 6 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Councillor Peter Barnes left the room while this item was discussed in accordance with his earlier declaration of prejudicial interest.

The Committee then considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy that dealt with the impact of Part 6 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Anmarie Grace said that this was complex legislation as proved by Defra's action in issuing two sets of guidance notes already with a third set expected soon.

Members noted the report and congratulated Anmarie Grace on making sense out of a very complicated Act.

9. Stratford on Avon Business Plan 2005/06 Year-end Report

The report of the Director of Performance and Development was considered.

It was noted that the Stratford Area Risk Team covered the whole of the Stratford on Avon Area but that the drive to increase smoke alarm ownership was initially concentrated on Stratford Town Centre.

10. Stratford on Avon Business Plan 2006/07

The report of the Director of Performance and Development was considered and the following issues highlighted:-

- There should be targets set for permanent exclusions.
- There should be targets set around the issue of supporting youth groups in rural areas.
- From where were the targets drawn? There seemed to be no reference to the Cabinet.
- There should be clarification of the proposed location of the “wet house” for street drinkers in Bancroft Gardens.
- Further details were required about the action of establishing a project or projects aimed at developing work with young people with disabilities because it was important that this was not intended to segregate this group.

Resolved:-

That the Stratford Area Committee approves the Stratford on Avon Area Business Plan 2006/07, subject to the comments raised during the Committee’s discussion.

11. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

- (1) Affordable Housing – to include the County Councils responsibility for regional strategy. It was agreed that a report on this issue should go to the next meeting of the Committee.
- (2) Speed Limits on non A roads
- (3) Education – pupil numbers
- (4) Diversion of Footpath AL 4 Salford Priors

12. Any Other Business

The Chair informed members that there would be a structured programme of events involving young people as part of local democracy week – 16th to 20th October 2006.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

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Chair