

Minutes

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

8th June 2016



Present

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
C Bailey	Apologies	D Mann (Vice-Chairman)	Yes
S Canning	No	R Ramage	No
Mrs M Cunningham	Yes	F Ricci	No
J Goodman	Apologies	Miss V Santomauro	No
P Horner	Yes	P Schwier	Yes
D Hufton-Rees	No	C Siddall (Chairman)	Yes

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

INFORMATION: There were no interests declared.

2 MINUTES

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24th February 2016 and 9th March 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

INFORMATION: There were no questions asked or statements made.

4 SCRUTINY REVIEW IN TO HEALTH IN THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT

INFORMATION: Members were asked to consider the Scrutiny Report and the recommendations to Cabinet contained therein.

The Committee thanked officers for their support and contributions to the Scrutiny Review. The Chairman considered that the draft report was a comprehensive record of the work carried out by the Committee and presented a number of recommendations which was supportive of the Council's position in health.

It was agreed by Members that under recommendation 6, no. 2 the wording should be reviewed as this suggested that smaller GP practice models had become incompetent, whereas this was not the case for many smaller practices in villages and rural areas which had continued to be fit for purpose and meet local needs. It was suggested that the recommendation should be reworded to reflect that the Council supports the change of GP

practice models going forward and recognises the difficulties faced by smaller/single GP practices.

It was suggested by Members that officers look at the possibility of including a recommendation around infrastructure to be included in the report.

With regard to recommendation 7 Members agreed that further details be added to the listed surgery developments for clarification on their locations.

It was agreed by Members that any further suggestions and amendments to the report following the meeting should be submitted through the Chairman by 15th June 2016.

Members also consider that authority should be delegated to the Chairman and the Head of Environment and Leisure to finalise the report.

DECISION:

1. Authority is delegated to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the Head of Environment and Leisure to finalise the Scrutiny Report for submission to Full Council and Cabinet.
2. Subject to the amendments, the Scrutiny Review Report into Health in the Braintree District to be referred to the meeting of Full Council on 27th June 2016 and the meeting of Cabinet being held on 18th July 2016.
3. As a result of the Scrutiny Review into Health, subject to the amendments mentioned above, it is recommended to Cabinet:

Recommendation 1:

Braintree District Council should continue to support the work being undertaken by ECC Public Health by:-

1. continuing to “own” public health at a local level
2. driving economic development and regeneration in the district
3. supporting “early years” and “school readiness” interventions and opportunities
4. supporting vulnerable people via a facilitative and flexible housing approach
5. continuing to support and promote physical activity
6. promoting active transport7.ensuring community safety Recommendation

Recommendation 2:

Essex County Council should re-visit the role/terms of reference of the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board recommending they switch their focus on local public health issues and actions.

Recommendation 3:

Braintree District Council should continue to support the MECCG’s clinical ‘livewell’ initiative and further develop our own lifestyle Livewell programme and in doing so creating an effective working partnership to address all aspects of our resident’s health and wellbeing.

Recommendation 4:

In light of the fact that 57% of “Reception Year” children living in the Braintree District have not been adequately prepared for school, the Braintree District Council should work alongside its health partners and other local stakeholders to tackle the rising issues surrounding school readiness.

Recommendation 5:

The Committee request that it is provided with more information on the work being carried out locally on mental health to establish if there are areas where the Council can support Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group.

Recommendation 6:

Braintree District Council needs to:

1. Support the continued work of the EPIC Project to attract more GP’s to the County
2. Recognise that the traditional small GP practice model no longer works in our district and coupled with the proposed 7 day per week working by the NHS, supports creating larger local “health hubs” in the District.*
3. Work with local health partners to place more emphasis on preventative self-care to keep residents of the clinical services, with special emphasis on post discharge care.

*Subject to revisions discussed at the meeting with final wording to be approved by the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to referral to Full Council and Cabinet.

Recommendation 7:

The Committee require regular updates on the following surgery developments:

1. St Lawrence
2. Mount Chambers
3. Premdor
4. Maltings Lane Witham

Recommendation 8:

Braintree District Council needs to be instrumental in educating the public on how to use the local health services, for example:

1. when to go to AE
2. when to see the GP
3. when to call NHS direct

Recommendation 9:

It is recommended that Braintree District Council:

1. Continues to support ECC Public Health’s “Tuck In” project. This looks at encouraging independent takeaways to provide better healthier menu

- options and use more healthy cooking practices.
2. Work with ECC Public Health in the creation of a whole systems approach model to childhood obesity specific to the Braintree District.
 3. Encourage the adoption of the daily mile in local schools. It involves students running or walking for one mile every day, it has been scientifically proven that running a mile per day reduces obesity and improves children's fitness, behaviour and increases concentration levels.
 4. Look at ways of promoting the use of green open spaces to increase the availability of areas to carry out structured activity.
 5. Continues to see health and wellbeing as a growing concern and a main priority for the Council going forward.
 6. Continue to support the funding of the Council's Health & Wellbeing Programme manager post.

Recommendation 10:

It is recommended that Essex County Council continue with the provision of public health expertise to the council via the employment and hosting of a Health Improvement Officer by Braintree District Council.

Recommendation 11:

Closer working with NHS England at pre-application stages to provide a better coordinated and holistic approach to developing new health care facilities (Health Hubs) in the District.

Recommendation 12:

The Council continues to support the MECCG in the creation of their Strategic Estates Plan so that there is established a coordinated plan for health facilities throughout the whole district.

Recommendation 13:

That the Council's Development Services need to ensure where possible that residents have access to affordable housing and that developers meet minimum standards, providing open spaces and sports facilities, allotment provision as well as well-designed plans that encourage people to partake in active travel.

Recommendation 14:

The Committee is provided with an update on the review that has been carried out on the open spaces standards.

Recommendation 15:

The Council must work with NHS England to try and identify sites within Witham for new purpose built medical facilities (Health Hubs) which would then attract new GP's in to the district.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Committees' report to be referred to Full Council and Cabinet in accordance with the Procedure Rules for Scrutiny.

5 **ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016-18**

INFORMATION: All Members were invited to submit topics for the Annual Scrutiny Work Programme for 2016/17. Seven topics had been received and were outlined in the report.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for setting its own work programme and in doing so it had taken into account wishes of the Members of the Committee and had regard to the Scrutiny Steering Board's recommendations.

The Scrutiny Steering Board (comprising of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Group Leaders) and the Council's Management Board had considered the Member submissions, and in doing so had recommended the following topics for the Committee's work programme:

Scrutiny Review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Broadband Provision
2. Employment Sites and Premises

Scrutiny Review by a Task and Finish Group:

1. Obesity

DECISION:

It was agreed:

1. That the main topics for Scrutiny Review are:
 - a) Broadband Provision – June to November 2016.
 - b) Employment Sites and Premises – November 2016 to March 2018.
2. That the topic for Scrutiny Review by the Task and Finish Group is Obesity –June to March 2017.
3. That the work programme for 2016/17 to be extended to March 2018.
4. That the topic submission of Braintree District Council Investment Policy in 2016/2017 regarding long and short term investments be referred to the Governance Committee.
5. That the Governance and Member Manager to commence the call for expressions of interest for Members to form the Task and Finish Group.
6. The determination of the Membership of the Task and Finish Groups is delegated to the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in consultation with the Scrutiny Steering Board.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with the Council Procedural Rules for Scrutiny Reviews and to set down the annual work programme.

6 **COMMITTEE ANTICIPATED WORK PLAN FOR 2016-18**

INFORMATION: Members were requested to note the anticipated work plan for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2016/18. The work plan outlined the keys dates and stages for the Committee's scrutiny activities.

Members were advised that there may be ad-hoc reports or issues added at Member request or as a result of call-in work arising during the year.

DECISION: To note the anticipated work plan for 2016/18.

REASON FOR DECISION: To inform the Committee of their anticipated work plan for 2016/18.

7 **DECISION PLANNER**

DECISION: That the Decision Planner for the period 1st June 2016 to 31st October 2016 be noted.

8 **UPDATE ON TASK AND FINISH GROUPS**

INFORMATION: In respect of the Task and Finish Group – Review of Bus and Community Transport Services in the Braintree District, Members were advised that the group were well on track and had now ceased formal meetings and were in the final stages of formulating their report.

In terms of the Task and Finish Group for Apprenticeships in the Braintree District this group had also completed all formal meetings and had finalised their report subject to final sign off from the Chairman. The group was on track to present their report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in July.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 7.42pm.

Councillor C Siddall
(Chairman)