

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

COMMUNITIES, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Monday, 9th May, 2016

Present:- Councillors John Bull (Chair), Brian Simmons (Vice-Chair), Peter Turner, Alan Hale, Neil Butters, Jonathan Carr, Dine Romero, Michael Norton and Bob Goodman

Also in attendance: Sue Green (Group Manager for Public Protection & Health Improvement), Aled Williams (Environmental Protection Manager), Robin Spalding (Senior Public Protection Officer), Samantha Jones (Inclusive Communities Manager), Rebecca Potter (Supporting People Manager) and Andy Thomas (Strategic Manager for Communities)

69 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

70 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

71 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

There were none.

72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dine Romero and Councillor John Bull declared an interest regarding Agenda Item 8 (Fit for Life Update) as they had used facilities run by GLL in the past and were likely to do so in the future.

73 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

74 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

Mr David Redgewell, South West Transport Network addressed the Panel. He said that with regards to major projects they would like to support an East of Bath Park & Ride which includes a rail platform for MetroWest with service extensions to Corsham, Chippenham and Swindon, Freshford, Avoncliff, Bradford-On-Avon, Trowbridge, Warminster/Frome. He added that the site could include a bus interchange with services from West Wilts, Chippenham, Melksham and Corsham

and local services from Bathford and Bathampton with upgraded modern buses, hybrid electric vehicles with bus priority measures into Bath City Centre.

He said that the current cleaning standards at Bath Bus Station are poor with a lack of bins, sliding doors not working and information points not showing details of all services.

He said he was pleased that the cross boundary bus service (19) had been retained, but that queries remained over the siting of the interchange.

He stated that Keynsham Train Station was currently not fit for purpose as temporary shelters were still in place and the works required were not now due to be finished before July.

Councillor Neil Butters asked if he had received any feedback regarding the information points at Bath Bus Station.

David Redgewell replied that it is the Council that controls them and that they need to be reset and then properly managed.

75 MINUTES - 14TH MARCH 2016

Councillor Dine Romero said that her question in relation to Avon Street in Minute 65 (Transport Strategy) was not solely about students and should include other residents and visitors.

She also wished to reiterate her point about finding a way to receive updates from points raised at previous meetings.

The Chair agreed there should be an 'update' item on future agendas.

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting with the above amendment in mind as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

76 FIT FOR LIFE - UPDATE

The Group Manager for Public Protection & Health Improvement introduced this item to the Panel by giving them a presentation. A copy of the presentation will be available online as an appendix to these minutes, a summary is set out below.

Contractual Aims/Requirements:

- OJEU procurement of 20 year contract
- To improve customer experience and sustain and improve participation levels
- Built Facilities included in the contract: Bath, Keynsham, Chew Valley, Bath City Academy/Culverhay and Odd Down
- Condition surveys identified £2.2 million of backlog maintenance for Bath Leisure Centre alone and £5.735 million across the contract
- Built Facilities – Improve disabled access to the buildings and improve the offer for those with disabilities and long term health conditions

- Fit for Life – More focus on families and young people, attracting new users, particularly those who are traditionally less engaged in physical activity.
- The proposed changes increase usage from 660,000 visits per year to over 970,000 per year, a 35% increase

Contract Governance:

- Cabinet
- Leisure Programme Board
- Project Board – Managing Works – Bath and Keynsham
- Design Team meetings
- Contractor meetings
- Key Performance Indicators

Councillor Alan Hale asked if financial plans will be submitted as part of the contract.

The Group Manager for Public Protection & Health Improvement replied that they would.

Councillor Bob Goodman asked if the previous contract had within it repair obligations as the identified £2.2m relating to Bath Leisure Centre is a more than significant sum.

The Group Manager for Public Protection & Health Improvement replied that she would have to find out that information and respond to the Panel in due course.

Councillor Neil Butters asked what the difference in costs would be if the Leisure Centre was rebuilt not refurbished.

The Group Manager for Public Protection & Health Improvement replied that the Leisure Centre in Bath can only be refurbished and not knocked down and rebuilt.

Councillor Jonathan Carr asked what level of public scrutiny will take place.

The Group Manager for Public Protection & Health Improvement replied that GLL have an internal scrutiny process alongside a good customer dialogue.

Councillor Bob Goodman asked what the ratio would be between the Council and GLL for contributing to the £2.2m maintenance.

The Group Manager for Public Protection & Health Improvement replied that she would have to find out that information and respond to the Panel in due course.

Tony Wallace, Regional Director (GLL) and Jason Curtis, Partnership Manager (GLL) addressed the Panel with some additional presentation slides. A summary is set out below.

Progress to date:

- £1million invested in the facilities since the start of the contract (Bath gym equipment replacement, Culverhay health and fitness upgrade, Bath Pavilion upgrade and upgraded signage and branding)
- Achieved nearly 900,000 visitors in first 9 months. On track to achieve 1.2m for the first year = 4% up
- Memberships have grown from 4,621 to 5,047
- Over 2,600 Swim School customers – up 3%
- Health referrals have doubled from average 45 to 90 p.m.
- Additional 8 – 10 FTE staff to be employed

Exciting New Product Development:

- New learner pool
- Reception reconfiguration
- Changing rooms upgrade
- New trampoline park
- 8 lane ten pin bowling
- Spa facility

Engagement:

- 252 responses / 75% positive about the scheme
- Everything possible is being done to accommodate the displaced sports

Key Issues:

Reduction of sports hall size

- Lots of positives about introducing Ten Pin Bowling but some concerns as to whether 4 badminton courts will be enough.
- Priority use will be given to badminton with football moving to the outdoor courts. During the works, recreational badminton will be offered in the Pavilion.

Loss of bowls hall

- Concerns around the service offer for older people.
- Short mat bowls will be offered in the main hall. In addition a wider sports offer will be introduced for the older population to include sports such as table tennis, short tennis, boccia and others.

Loss of squash courts

- Concerns from squash leagues and clubs.

- Transition funding offer agreed with Lansdown Squash Club to offer reduced priced membership. In discussion with other clubs to open up additional courts to any displaced users.

Keynsham Leisure Centre:

- 2 options being drawn up. Option 1 – New build / Option 2 – Refurb
- Proposed use of existing site
- Facility mix still being worked up
- Further engagement planned in June; facilitated with the Town Council to respond to the issues raised in the Placemaking Plan consultation

Summary:

- A positive start to the partnership
- Direction of travel for participation, memberships and revenues good
- Good early progress on investments
- Positive relations between GLL and BANES
- Performance against key indicators on track
- Annual Service Plan referencing around 30 KPI's

Councillor Bob Goodman commented that he was pleased to see the Pavilion receiving some much needed investment.

Tony Wallace replied that £80,000 has been initially invested and that they see real potential in the facility. He added that they would be seeking to hold more live events there.

Councillor Dine Romero commented that displaced people looking to play football and netball could be accommodated at BCA. She asked if they had considered providing women only sessions in the swimming pool at Bath Leisure Centre and if teenagers / young people would be disenfranchised by the introduction of a fun pool.

Tony Wallace replied that in terms of pool use the period of closure would give an opportunity to assess the needs required. He added that he felt that overall once the works had been completed there would be more offers available at the centre for young people.

Councillor Dine Romero asked if the introduction of turnstiles at the reception would prevent parents from dropping off their children.

Tony Wallace replied that parents will be supplied with their own admission cards to enable them to drop off and pick up their children.

Councillor Peter Turner asked what they deemed to be their biggest risks regarding their plans.

Tony Wallace replied that ensuring that the project keeps to its timescales was important and that any compromises could be detrimental and therefore deemed as a risk.

Councillor Jonathan Carr asked as the contract is for a period of 20 years will there ongoing investment.

Tony Wallace replied that a lifecycle maintenance pot will be maintained alongside a schedule of planned works.

Councillor Neil Butters asked if the Bath leisure Centre would be able access the natural hot spa waters.

Tony Wallace replied that they were looking into that possibility.

Councillor Dine Romero asked how they intend to keep the public aware of matters relating to the centres.

Tony Wallace replied that a full communications plan was being put together to give advance notice of changes / closure of services.

Councillor Dine Romero asked if a climbing wall was still being considered as part of the plans.

Tony Wallace replied that it might be considered as a future option for the inside of Keynsham Leisure Centre or for an outside wall of the Bath Leisure Centre.

Councillor Dine Romero asked if the café would use locally procured products and ingredients.

Tony Wallace replied that it would procure locally where possible.

Councillor Jonathan Carr asked as part of a public scrutiny exercise they would let the Panel review their progress at a future meeting.

Tony Wallace replied that he would be happy to return to the Panel. He added that GLL have an open policy on customer feedback.

The Chair asked for further definition of the KPIs mentioned.

Tony Wallace replied that he could provide this information to the Panel.

The Chair thanked the representatives of GLL and the Group Manager for Public Protection & Health Improvement for their presentations on behalf of the Panel.

77 SALTORD AND KEYNSHAM AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

The Environmental Protection Manager and the Senior Public Protection Officer gave the Panel a presentation regarding this item, a copy of which will be available online as an appendix to these minutes, a summary is set out below.

How did we consult?

- Officer group consisting of representatives from Environmental Monitoring; Transportation Planning; Public Health; Sustainability; Development Control devised the possible actions for the consultation
- Public consultation between 14th Sept and 4th December 2015 including online survey and printed copies supporting 3 public drop in sessions with officers

How many responses did we get?

- 30 relating to Keynsham
- 36 relating to Saltford
- 2 General comments

Implementation

As no budgets currently agreed for the majority of actions, officers will:

- Use the Action Plans to lever additional external funding and influence future policy development
- Identify future capital works, through which the actions can be implemented
- Identify the opportunities to secure alternative funding streams through similar actions within other strategies
- Some actions will require further formal approval through the democratic process

What are the recommended actions for Keynsham?

- Quantify the benefits from one way system pilot for the High Street
- Recommend Tree Planting in future infrastructure programmes
- Increase public charging points through Source West electrical vehicle charging

What are the recommended actions for Saltford?

- Continue feasibility work on reopening Saltford train station
- Advice to landowners on planting that protects against air pollution
- Influence planning policy to encourage the provision of cycle parking for each new property

What amendments are suggested for the plans following consultation?

- Substitute the message alert system with targeted advice for vulnerable groups
- Support the provision of improved lighting on cycle paths

- Encourage low emission bus services in Keynsham and Saltford
- Increase public education messages which promote healthier choices for short journeys

What are the next steps?

- Officers will progress the final Action Plans, incorporating comments arising from today
- Single Member Decision in May 2016
- Submission to DEFRA
- Implementation subject to funding and agreement

The Chair asked at what stage the message alerts were sent.

The Senior Public Protection Officer replied that they would be sent when air pollution went above a certain threshold. He added that B&NES does not currently get close to the level required.

Councillor Dine Romero asked if the traffic lights in Saltford have an impact on levels.

The Senior Public Protection Officer replied that the lights have been synchronised by the Highways team to their best configuration.

Councillor Neil Butters commented that there would be limited parking available at the proposed Saltford train station.

Councillor Jonathan Carr asked if officers were aware that the Government have announced plans to improve air quality in cities by introducing Clean Air Zones.

The Senior Public Protection Officer replied that they were aware of this and were monitoring its progress.

The Chair thanked them for their presentation on behalf of the Panel.

78 PARISH CHARTER

Councillor Judith Chubb-Whittle, Vice-Chair ALCA [Avon Local Councils Association] & Chair of Stanton Drew Parish Council addressed the Panel, a summary of her statement is set out below.

ALCA represents 124 Parish and Town Councils and Parish Meetings (Local Councils) in the West of England region. They support the work of the 1,234 local councillors, who serve an electorate of over 440,000 local residents.

ALCA is part of NALC, the National Association of Local Councils, which works closely with Government, DCLG, Society of Local Council Clerks, (SLCC) the professional body for all clerks of Town, Parish or Community councils and with other national bodies. It is currently working with the DCLG on a Parish Councils Bill, which will be considered as part of emerging government legislation.

ALCA is responsible for administering DCLG transparency grants and Public Works loans, on behalf of HM Treasury, for the area. It also administers the Quality Council Award Schemes for the area.

We welcome the recognition by Louise Fradd of the importance of Parish Liaison meetings in the close working of BANES Councillors and Officers with ALCA Parish & Town Councillors and their Clerks.

We look forward to working closely with BANES representatives in reviewing the Parish Charter making it a robust and progressive agreement fit for the foreseeable future.

Rosemary Naish addressed the Panel, a summary of her statement is set out below.

In this authority ALCA represent 47 of the 51 town & parish councils and meetings within B&NES. Town & parish councils provide services to 52% of the electorate of B&NES, this year our income from precepts is £2.25million, all those councils are employers, employing parish clerks, responsible financial officers, groundsmen, street sweepers, etc.

The range of service we provide include children's playgrounds, parks, upkeep of cemeteries, street sweeping, broadband, managing village halls, swimming pools, allotments and other community faculties.

Some of these services are provided independently of B&NES, some working with B&NES, so we consider the Parish Charter a very important document and we welcome the opportunity to review it and bring it up to date.

As Andy Thomas has said the parishes were consulted 6 years ago, with a response rate of 53%, so this is quite out of date now, so we have already started consulting the local councils and will be able to bring that information, which must inform the review, to the table by the end of the summer.

We look forward to working with B&NES officers on this important document that in its updated form will make our working relationship more effective and efficient.

The Chair asked if the Parish representatives on the working group to undertake the review would Councillors or Clerks.

Rosemary Naish replied that she thought it should be both.

The Strategic Manager for Communities replied that this should be possible.

Councillor Neil Butters commented that advanced notification of the review is welcome. He said there was a need for a robust document to be produced.

The Strategic Manager for Communities replied that the need for good practice was important and to use the time available for the review effectively.

Councillor Brian Simmons suggested that a conference of B&NES & Parish Councillors be held to clarify their roles.

Councillor Jonathan Carr asked if they found the support that they receive from the Council was enough and did they find officers accessible.

Rosemary Naish replied that the support was good but on occasions it was not always easy to gather information.

The Strategic Manager for Communities said that a survey of Parish Clerks had been carried out to find out what information they would like to be more aware of. He added that approaching the Council through Council Connect is the preferred approach as this allows for monitoring to see what enquiries are being received via email and phone. He added that additions would be made to the website in response to reflect enquiries of a similar nature.

Councillor Jonathan Carr asked how would the Council contact Parishes in the future.

The Strategic Manager for Communities replied that he would seek advice directly from the Parishes on the best way forward. He added that the Connecting Communities Area Forums and Parish Liaison Meetings were key ways in which parishes were engaged with

Judith Chubb-Whittle wished to encourage all B&NES Councillors to attend a Parish Liaison Meeting.

The Chair asked for a report to be submitted to the Panel following the review of the Parish Charter.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) Note the arrangements for the review of the Parish Charter set out in the report.
- (ii) Receive an update report when further work on the review has been undertaken.

79 DOMESTIC ABUSE PROVISION IN BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET

The Inclusive Communities Manager introduced this item to the Panel. She gave them a presentation, a copy of which will be available online as an appendix to these minutes, a summary is set out below.

Definition

The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those

aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

The abuse can include, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.

Profiles

Estimate 5,936 women age 16-59 in B&NES experienced DA in the past year. Women with ill-health and disability are almost twice as likely to experience DA.

Of the 1,474 DA incidents recorded by the police in B&NES between 2013/14
58% (858 incidents) low risk
32% (469 incidents) medium risk
10% (147 incidents) high risk.

Perpetrators

79% of all recorded perpetrators were men, over 50% were age 33 years and under.

44% of the perpetrators of clients of Southside's Independent Domestic Violence Advice Service (IDVA) were thought to have mental ill health. 44% to have had issues with alcohol and 46% issues with drugs.

Trends

Numbers have risen, rising from 46 in 2008/09 to 154 in 2013/14. This is in line with overall increased rates of reporting.

The Bath Freedom Programme received 151 referrals in 2014, compared with 52 during 2013.

Next Link Refuge accommodated 28 women and 33 children in 2015/16. The service was fully utilised for 99% of the time.

Specialist Service Responses

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences: high risk (those at risk of murder or serious harm) is shared monthly between local agencies.

Independent Domestic Violence Advisor: Southside Family Project. Part funded by PCC's Community Safety Fund.

Julian House: Freedom Programme and **CRUSH:** preventative programme: awareness raising & support for people age 13-19 to make safe & healthy relationships.

Voices: female survivors, an independent charity. Freedom programme (evenings).

Off the Record: for people aged 11-18 who have witnessed DA.

Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS)

GP based DA training support and referral programme.

Training and education, clinical enquiry, care pathways and an enhanced referral pathway to specialist DA services.

Perpetrator programmes

For a long term sustained solution, perpetrators' behaviour needs to be challenged and changed. Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire Community Rehabilitation Company run such a programme – 'Building Better Relationships':

For offenders convicted of crime that are related to 'Intimate Partner Violence'

The new Government Violence Against Women & Girls strategy recognises this need – potential for funding bid 2017.

Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews in B&NES

DHR required where the circumstances surrounding a death can be shown to be linked to DA.

To critically analyse agency involvement, identify areas for improvement to service provision & develop a detailed action plan for agencies involved.

This year B&NES has commissioned 1 full DHR and 1 'root causes review' of death.

Councillor Michael Norton asked if part of the rise in figures was due to confidence in being able to report incidents.

The Inclusive Communities Manager replied that it was that alongside an awareness and acceptance of being able to report them. She added that by the end of the summer it was likely that they would have a stronger database to analyse. Councillor Alan Hale asked who determines whether an incident is of low, medium or high risk.

The Inclusive Communities Manager replied that a "dashboard" of risks is assessed by professionals.

Caz Snell commented that she had supported 72 cases since being in place at the RUH and that 52 of those were classified as adult safeguarding. She added that the emergency services had really taken this area of work on board.

Lucy Fordham from Southside said that 80% of their caseload was DA related.

Councillor Jonathan Carr asked how numbers and reporting of incidents were verified.

The Inclusive Communities Manager replied that good, robust data was available from Southside and that she was in the process of gathering further information from Lighthouse. She added that Lighthouse Integrated Victim and Witness Care is within Avon and Somerset Constabulary and offers an enhanced service to vulnerable, intimidated or persistently targeted victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, and victims of serious crime.

The Strategic Manager for Communities added that the Council will also compare data with the other neighbouring local authorities. He added that he felt that reporting of incidents was happening earlier in the cycle and that work was ongoing to stop repeat cases.

Councillor Bob Goodman asked what the likelihood was of cases moving through the classification from low to high.

The Inclusive Communities Manager replied that work on this matter was taking place.

Councillor Michael Norton said that he would welcome further training on this matter.

The Inclusive Communities Manager replied that it was part of the current induction programme, but would be happy to expand if Councillors requested.

Councillor Neil Butters commended the excellent ongoing work. He said that he was concerned though that the refuge mentioned was in use for 99% of its available time.

The Supporting People Manager then gave the Panel a presentation regarding refuge provision, a copy of which will be available online as an appendix to these minutes, a summary is set out below.

Current Provision

- 10 units of Refuge (safe house) provision, across 2 projects – Next Link and Julian House for women and children in their households
- All Refuge units situated in Bath city centre, 2 units can meet higher needs
- None able to take male victims
- 12 units of Floating and resettlement support – across B&NES

Utilisation and Outcomes

- In 2015/16, 28 women and 33 children accessed the refuge services compared with 35 households in 2014/15.
- In 2015/16, 28 families accessed the floating support/resettlement service compared to 44 households in 2014/15.

Unmet Demand

- Demand for spaces in the refuge remains very high and the units are always fully occupied.
- Women from out of area are able to access the services and households from B&NES access services in other parts of England

- Existing provision is sometimes unsafe for local clients as location is known to perpetrator
- Clients can be turned down if their needs and risks are assessed as being too high for current provision

New Investment – Serena House

- In December 2015 B&NES was awarded £100,000 to set up up to 8 additional units of refuge provision in B&NES
- This new provision is aimed at people fleeing DVA who have additional complex needs including mental health and substance misuse. It will be situated away from city of Bath and will be able to accommodate male survivors as well as women with or without children
- The first 2 units should be up and running in Keynsham before the end of May

Future Commissioning Plans

- Supporting People contracts end later this year and Commissioners are consulting on future plans.
- Aim to protect services for DVA; prioritise B&NES applicants; ensure services are available across B&NES; person centred and whole family approach; link clients in with community (and friends and families), and mainstream services; support to stay at home and to resettle; able to work with male victims as well as women, and those with complex needs

Councillor Alan Hale asked if other Councils were recharged if clients from outside of B&NES used our provision.

The Supporting People Manager replied that other local authorities are not recharged and we are aware that our residents use refuge facilities out of area and we are not recharged for that.

Councillor Alan Hale asked how clients moved on having used the refuge.

The Supporting People Manager replied that if required they are helped to move closer to their home with appropriate safety plans in place and offered support for private renting. Some clients may be given priority on the Homesearch Register, depending on individual circumstances.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson addressed the Panel. She said that there had been an increase in cases within Midsomer Norton and had heard that in some cases it can possibly take up to 37 incidents before it is reported. She asked if it would be possible to have a facility based in the Somer Valley and for a further report to come back to the Panel.

Lucy Fordham from Southside replied that they currently provide an outreach service to meet clients and volunteers were available to transport clients to facilities of need. She added that she would welcome a base in that area of the Council but recognised the need to be creative.

Councillor Peter Turner asked if officers had religious contacts available if required.

The Inclusive Communities Manager replied that they work with a multi-faith team.

The Chair suggested that as part of the next steps the Panel should receive a presentation from Lighthouse and a further report from officers. He proposed that this be scheduled for September 2016.

He thanked everyone for their contributions to the debate.

80 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet Members were not able to be present when this item was reached on the agenda. The Chair asked if members of the Panel had any questions for them to submit them in writing.

81 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Chair informed Panel members that he needed to change the date of the next meeting from July 18th to July 25th.

He also said that two items would be added to the agenda for that meeting, they were;

- Cabinet response to the East of Bath Integrated Transport Solutions
- Prevent Strategy

The meeting ended at 7.00 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services