

Housing, Wellbeing, Leisure and Early Intervention Policy Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Housing, Wellbeing, Leisure and Early Intervention Policy Committee of South Norfolk Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Thursday 30 August 2018 at 2.00pm

Committee Members Present: Councillors: F Ellis (Chairman), D Bills (Vice-Chairman) and S Blundell

Apologies: Councillors: J Hornby, N Legg, J Overton and A Pond

Substitute Members: Councillor: A Thomas for J Overton

Cabinet Member in Attendance: Councillor: L Neal (for part of the meeting)

Officers in Attendance: The Director of Communities and Wellbeing (J Sutterby), the Head of Early Help (M Pursehouse), the Head of Health and Leisure Services (S Goddard), the Head of Environmental Services (B Wade), the Housing Standards & Community Protection Manager (T Cooke), the Healthy Living Manager (S Cayford), the Early Help Hub Manager (L Pickering), the Communities Manager (K Gallagher) and the Environmental Management Officer (A Old)

22 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Housing, Wellbeing, Leisure and Early Intervention Policy Committee held on 4 July 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23 SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Following a brief introduction by Cllr Neal, the Environmental Management Officer presented her report which sought to provide an overview of the issues and dangers around poor air quality and to advise members of the work being undertaken by the Council together with partners, to assess, monitor, and take action to alleviate the problem within the Local Air Quality Management regime.

In response to a member's question regarding the recorded levels of nitrogen dioxide in Long Stratton, officers clarified that these were being closely monitored but did not currently exceed the target level of 40ug/m³. The Environmental Management Officer added that levels should reduce once the bypass was in place and that Environmental Services would, as part of the usual process, provide their comments when assessing planning applications in the area.

The Committee discussed the positioning of air quality monitors throughout the District and were advised that, in several areas, these had been located on lampposts and roundabouts. It was noted that levels recorded by these monitors would need to be 'back-calculated' to provide an indicative assessment of the levels at the nearest residential properties further away from the road.

Officers advised that Norfolk County Council was exploring the usage of various gadgets to try to reduce costs in the monitoring of pollution and it was suggested that awareness of the problem could be raised through involving schools with projects to educate future generations. In response to a member's request that funding might be provided to monitor the moisture level in firewood, the Environmental Management Officer stated that she would raise this with colleagues in the Greater Norwich Growth Area.

The Committee discussed how developers could be influenced to build more environmentally-friendly developments and were pleased to note that the Government was currently looking into ways to ensure that developers took factors, such as electrical charging points, cycle and walking routes, and green areas into account when designing plans.

The Chairman thanked officers for their informative presentation and it was then:

RESOLVED To note the contents of the report and support the approach for officers to continue to seek improvements in line with statutory obligations, recommendations from the Clean Air Strategy, and current best practice.

24 NORFOLK HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY

The Healthy Living Manager presented her report, inviting members to provide final comments on the Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Strategy prior to its consideration for approval by Cabinet. The Early Help Hub Manager provided an example of some of the work currently being undertaken by providing the Committee with a presentation which highlighted a project focussing on help for customers who experienced 'low-level mental health', details of which were contained in Appendix B of the report.

In response to a member's question regarding how SNC identified where help was needed, officers advised that many customers self-identified to services within the Council and its partners and were often repeat visitors for whom there had been no resources previously available. Officers stressed the importance of not only helping residents who needed assistance but also to support those people back into their daily lives so they should not need to return. The Director of Communities and Wellbeing commended the work of the Council and stated the importance that officers provided an example of the work being undertaken to demonstrate to members how smaller projects fitted together in the bigger picture throughout Norfolk. Members agreed that SNC was an authority widely recognised as providing excellent service and was often used as an example of best practice.

Members discussed mental health in young adults and 16/17-year olds and how pressures of exams and other stressful issues affected young people. The Head of Early Help advised that, although this funding was only available for 18+, he would look further into whether SNC could find ways to support youth mental health through the South Norfolk Youth Advisory Board.

It was then:

RESOLVED

1. To recommend that Cabinet formally approves the finalised Strategy on 10 September and report back to the Health and Wellbeing Board;
and
2. To continue to take an active role in the implementation of the Strategy.

25. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of Communities and Wellbeing advised of items for consideration at a future meeting of the Health, Wellbeing, Leisure and Early Intervention Policy Committee:

- Strategic Housing - on the shared services agenda and currently being discussed in partnership with Broadland District Council;
- Leisure Projects – including pricing and providing a cost-neutral service; and
- Early Help – a review to evaluate the level of effectiveness of the current model.

Committee noted that the date for the next meeting would be communicated to members in due course.

(The meeting concluded at 2.55 pm)

Chairman