

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 1 November 2016 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Councillor D Allen – Cabinet Member

Also in Attendance – Councillor Julie Hill

93/16 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 11 October 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

94/16 **DIGITAL INCLUSION IN LIBRARIES** Public libraries were ideally suited to providing computing help, and aided people in building their confidence, knowledge and digital literacy skills. In April 2014, Derbyshire Libraries had begun delivering a programme of assisted digital support under the banner of 'Work and Money Computer Help'. This delivered free one-to-one computer help, and the assistance had been targeted at libraries in some of the most disadvantaged parts of Derbyshire with high levels of unemployment.

Following the significant take up of the offer of support from local people, approval had been given for funding of £96,000 to further develop the area of work. Two members of existing library staff had been recruited on a fixed term basis to devote more time to delivering the programme across a larger number of libraries. To date, staff had delivered over 2,000 informal Work and Money sessions and nearly 500 pre-booked one-to-one sessions. The project had also delivered staff training to over 100 front line library staff. Staff had also planned and facilitated four major Work and Money Help events in libraries across the county, and had worked in an outreach capacity in order to target help to the groups most in need. Integral to the effectiveness of the project was strong partnership working with a range of organisations.

In 2015, Derbyshire Libraries had been successful in bidding for funding of £10,000 from the Tinder Foundation, and this had been used to fund the Learn My Way project, which had run in Derbyshire libraries between January-March 2016. Over 200 people had been helped to improve basic digital skills by attending one-to-one help sessions in libraries, and approximately 50 people had accessed the module Staying Healthy with NHS Choices on the Learn My Way website.

Currently, the County Council was reviewing its plans for the contact channels it would use to deliver services to local people. It was exploring opportunities for 'channel shift' whereby a range of existing transactions could be moved to the Council's website. The website was being fundamentally

redesigned, with an increased emphasis being placed on electronic communication, and the potential for payments to be made online was also being explored. Libraries were ideally placed to support the changes and to ease the transition process for local people. The support and resources available in libraries would enable members of the public to have access to any new electronic methods of contact introduced by the County Council.

A celebration event had been planned for 17 November 2016 at Chesterfield Library to showcase and promote the achievements of the Digital Inclusion project work. A range of partners and participants had been invited to help demonstrate the impact of the work being undertaken by the library service. The funding for the work was covered by an earmarked reserve.

RESOLVED to note the report.

95/16 DERBYSHIRE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' CENTRE AND THE TRADE UNION SAFETY TEAM – GRANTS Approval was sought to provide grant funding to support the work of the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre (DUWC) and the Trade Union Safety Team (TRUST).

Approval had previously been given for a grant of £40,950 to DUWC and £5,821 to TRUST to cover their core costs for 2015/16. Demand for services provided by both organisations had increased significantly over recent years and this was anticipated to continue. In line with other grants to VCS organisations, the grant was subject to a Service Level Agreement, which set out expectations and requirements on both DUWC and TRUST and the County Council in relation to the grant award. DUWC had assured the Council that any grant funding provided would be used solely for the purposes of supporting the advice function of the centre.

Given the increased pressure on communities and the increasing demand for advice services, the County Council had continued to provide grant funding for the core costs of both organisations. It was proposed that retrospective authorisation be given for the award of a grant of £41,769 for DUWC and £5,821 for TRUST in 2016/17, and that authorisation be given for the same amounts in 2017/18. These grants could be met from the existing Public Health budget.

RESOLVED to approve (1) retrospective grant funding of £41,769 for 2016/17 and £41,769 for 2017/18 to the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre to cover the core costs associated with the delivery of services; and

(2) retrospective grant funding of £5,821 for 2016/17 and £5,821 for 2017/18 to the Trade Union Safety Team to cover the core costs associated with the delivery of services.

96/16 BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 5 2016/17 The gross budget for the Health and Communities portfolio was approximately £56m, and the budget monitoring was projecting an underspend for Public Health of £1.910m. The Communities element was projecting an overspend of £0.642m, resulting in a total projected underspend of £1.268m for the portfolio.

The key variances were reported, and included an underspend in Public Health. The Public Health function was mainly funded by a Ring-Fenced grant of £42.670m. This was following a 2.24% reduction in the value of the Grant for 2016/17, which equated to £0.981m. The underspend at year end would be transferred into the Public Health Reserve and would fund committed investment in Prevention work over two years. The key areas of underspend in Public Health were detailed. There were projected overspends in Libraries and Heritage and Trading Standards.

The Department's Earmarked Reserves totalled £5.287m, and budget reductions totalling £1.247m had been agreed by Full Council as part of the approval of the 2016/17 budget. In addition, there was an amount of £0.380m unallocated reductions from previous years. The total cut allocation for 2016/17 was, therefore, £1.627m. A table showing performance against target was presented. Where there was a shortfall on a specific scheme, this would be met by underspends elsewhere in the budget, reserves and Public Health funding.

RESOLVED to note the position on the 2016/17 Revenue Budget