

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 3 May 2016 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Councillor D Allen – Cabinet Member

Also in Attendance – Councillor E Wilcox

33/16 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 5 April 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

34/16 **LIVE & LOCAL** The Live & Local rural and community touring scheme had been set up in Derbyshire in 2002 to deliver arts performances in village halls and community venues. The scheme was jointly funded by the County Council and Derbyshire's District/Borough Councils, and it was proposed that the current level of funding from the County Council of £13,582 was maintained for 2016/17. The majority of District/Borough Councils had indicated a commitment to supporting Live & Local for 2016/17, although Chesterfield Borough Council had withdrawn its funding. The County Council's contribution would be met from existing budgets.

RESOLVED to approve the payment of £13,582 to Live & Local for the 2016/17 programme of rural touring.

35/16 **FOOD AND FEED PRODUCTS ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY – THIRD QUARTER 2015/16** Details were provided of activity undertaken by the Trading Standards Division to ensure compliance with food and feed product composition labelling and safety requirements. The themes of the most recent food sampling projects were highlighted. In addition, the Division had also participated in a number of nationally coordinated food and feed sampling projects organised by the Food Standards Agency. There had also been a number of ad hoc and follow up samples taken.

In total, 91 food or feed products had been submitted for analysis, and of these, 33 had been reported as being unsatisfactory in some regard. A summary of each of the food projects and the results of analysis, together with the action taken, had been provided.

RESOLVED to note the outcome of recent food and feed products sampling activity.

36/16 **TRADING STANDARDS DIVISION FEES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17** The local authority had a statutory duty to enforce the provisions of weights and measures legislation, and one of the purposes of

the legislation was to ensure that weighing and measuring equipment was fit for use for trade and that errors of measurement were within prescribed tolerances. All prescribed equipment to be used for trade had to be verified as being fit for use.

The County Council's verification income had fallen between 2007 and 2013, mainly as a result of more businesses using the private sector for verifications and because of the closure of a Chesterfield based water-meter manufacturer. However, there had been a significant increase to over £30,000 for 2015/16. This had been largely due to the increased activity of a local business placing weighing instruments mounted on road vehicles onto the market. Re-verification of automatic rail weighbridges was projected to continue over 2016/17, and a second officer was being trained to ensure competent officers were available throughout the year. The calibration facility operated at Chatsworth Hall had yielded almost £5,000 income during 2015/16, and this was increasing year on year.

The fees approved for weights and measures verification work included a surcharge for work done outside normal working hours. It was proposed that the additional overtime fee charged for verification work outside the normal working hours continued at the rate of standard charge plus 33%, and for bank holidays to standard charge plus 50% to cover any additional overtime costs where authorised.

The fees which were determined by individual local authorities had been set out. The authority had followed guidance provided by the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers (ACTSO) on setting fees which should be on a cost recovery basis. ACTSO had recommended that there be an increase in the fees charged for weights and measures verification services in line with anticipated increases in staff costs of up to 2.2%. The fees income from weights and measures activity was largely dependent on the submissions from a local business and was therefore subject to variation.

RESOLVED to agree the fees recommended for the financial year 2016/17.

37/16 ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS IN DERBYSHIRE 2015/16

Details were given of action taken during the previous year to enforce weight restrictions which limited the access of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) to certain locations. Road Traffic legislation made it an offence for HGVs with a maximum gross weight of more than 7.5 tonnes to breach an environmental weight restriction. The County Council also had the power to impose a structural weight restriction where HGVs could cause damage. Given the impact on local communities, the Division had continued to carry out proactive checks, and although the number of checks had declined in line with a reduction in resources, officers

sought to carry out checks in the areas of the County generating the most complaints.

The County Council's Highways Division was responsible for establishing weight restrictions in the county. The Division had received 605 complaints about breaches of weight restrictions during 2015/16, which had been an increase from the previous year. In response, the Division had carried out 20 enforcement checks throughout the County seeking to address the weight restrictions that had been subject to the greatest level of breaches. Out of the 20 checks, there had been 74 infringements. The Division had also received intelligence alleging breaches of weight restrictions that had provided sufficient information to carry out further checks confirming an additional 30 infringements. A further 14 potential breaches were under investigation.

In line with the Division's compliance policy, the person(s) responsible for breaching a weight restriction without a legitimate reason would be given a written warning. The County Council had a range of sanctions available to it following the discovery of a breach of legislation, and details were given of the number of breaches that had resulted in prosecutions by weight restriction. 29 prosecutions had been concluded during the year, resulting in the Courts imposing fines of over £9,000 and awarding £3,300 prosecution costs.

RESOLVED to note the report.

38/16 SUPPORTING FINANCIAL INCLUSION WORK IN DERBYSHIRE – GRANT Financial Action and Advice Derbyshire (FAAD) was a partnership of 50 local organisations who worked together to tackle poverty and financial exclusion in Derbyshire. The County Council had previously approved a grant of £30,000 a year for two years to support the work of FAAD. An additional £50,000 a year for two years had been secured from the Big Lottery Fund via the Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureaux. Outcomes since October 2013 were highlighted.

FAAD's work was consistent with and complemented the work of the Council in addressing financial exclusion, poverty and health inequalities. It was recommended that the County Council continued to provide grant funding towards FAAD for a further two years from April 2016 to March 2018. The grant would be £30,000 a year, which FAAD would seek to match from other sources. The cost of the grant would be met from the Public Health budget.

RESOLVED that grant funding of £30,000 a year be provided to Rural Action Derbyshire to support the work of FAAD from April 2016 to March 2018.

39/16 THE FILM CUTS CLUB, HIGH PEAK COMMUNITY ARTS – GRANT The Film Cuts Club had been funded for the last three years by BBC

Children in Need, and had used it to develop the provision of filmmaking activities for young people with additional needs. In the last year, High Peak Community Arts had delivered two clubs in different parts of the High Peak. The Children in Need funding was coming to an end, and High Peak Community Arts had been encouraged to apply to Children in Need to continue the work. However, due to application restrictions, there would be a gap in funding for some time during 2016/17. There was concern that this would damage the potential of the work to continue to make a difference to the young people who accessed it.

The activities were offered by professionally trained filmmakers who specialised in participatory work with young people. The project was targeted at young people with additional needs, but other young people were not excluded from attending. For many, social skills were a particular challenge and filmmaking provided a focus for socialising. Feedback from children, parents and teachers was that the increased social confidence was having an impact on the rest of their lives. The cost of the grant would be met from the Prevention Fund of the Public Health budget.

RESOLVED that grant funding of £5,000 a year be provided to High Peak Community Arts from April 2016 to March 2017.

40/16 EMPLOYMENT AND HEALTH PROJECT The Employment and Health Project was funded by Public Health as a one year pilot, from June 2015 – June 2016. A Project Officer had been employed within the Adult Care Disability Employment Service to specifically support people with health issues who were struggling to secure employment. The project had been established to trial the provision of one to one support for individuals with moderate but often long term health conditions to help them overcome the barriers faced in seeking employment.

The pilot had supported people in the Chesterfield area, and the Employment and Health Officer took referrals from a range of professionals and organisations. The Project Officer met with each applicant and supported them to identify factors that had prevented them from finding work. The issues that emerged were often complex, and increasingly, low levels of confidence and self-esteem were also barriers to seeking and gaining employment.

The Service Level Agreement that Adult Care had with Public Health had specified that a minimum of 190 people should be referred to the project over a twelve month period and a number of outcomes needed to be achieved. The key outcomes required were stated. Since the project became operational, it had become apparent that there was even more demand for the service than anticipated. If referrals continued at the current level, the target of 190 clients would be exceeded by the end of March 2016.

The proportion of clients accessing training, volunteering and work experience opportunities was in excess of expected outcomes. It was clear that the initial expectation that 20% of clients would move into paid work was unlikely to be fulfilled, as the majority of people referred to the project were further from being 'work ready' than had been anticipated. The initial support that many people needed ranged from encouragement to take medication to assistance with shopping, and these issues needed to be addressed before the person's work issues could be tackled. This had increased the importance of signposting and the need for the service to be provided in a flexible, person centred way, but it had led to the conclusion that the original outcome targets were probably too ambitious..

It was also noted that the majority of people referred were clients with mental ill health, and many of these needed a significant amount of support before they could reach the point of achieving paid work. However, follow up of clients over a period of time could demonstrate a rise in the proportion achieving paid employment in the longer term, as a result of the impact on self-esteem and confidence due to engaging with the programme. A questionnaire had been developed to enable feedback to be obtained from clients. As the project progressed, this would be used to further assess its effectiveness.

The Public Health grant funded a recurrent budget of £35,608 a year for a housing and health small grants fund. This grants fund had a limited demonstrable impact on public health outcomes, and the redirection of the wider determinants funding to the employment and health project was considered to be a more effective use of the resource.

The cost of employing the Project Officer would be funded from the ring fenced Public Health grant through reallocating the housing and health small grants fund. It was proposed that the contract of the existing Project Officer be extended for an additional two years, and the provisions of the Redundancy, Redeployment, Pay Protection and Buy Out of Hours Policy applied. If the officer had their contract ended by reason of redundancy, they would be eligible to a redundancy payment, and any redundancy payment would be met by the Adult Care Department and could be contained within the existing budget.

RESOLVED to approve an extension of the funding for the employment and health project for a period of two years from April 2016.