

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 3 November 2015 at County Hall, Matlock

**PRESENT**

Councillor D Allen – Cabinet Member

Also in Attendance – Councillor Julie A Hill

**109/15** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 13 October 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

**110/15** **BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 5 2015/16** The gross budget for the Health and Communities portfolio was approximately £56m, and the budget monitoring was projecting an underspend for the year of £2.932m, £3.081m of which related to the Public Health function. This included the effect of an in-year cut in the Ring-Fenced Public Health Grant. Subject to consultation, the Department of Health's preferred option was to reduce every local authority's 2015/16 allocation by a flat rate percentage of 6.2% in order to achieve a total cut in England worth £200m. The impact for Derbyshire would be a reduction of £2.524m. This left a projected overspend for the remaining portfolio of £0.149m.

The key variances were reported, and included an underspend in Public Health and an overspend in Libraries and Heritage. The Public Health function was mainly funded by a Ring-Fenced grant of £33.038m, and an additional £5.179m Public Health Ring-Fenced Grant would be received in October 2015 to meet the transfer of responsibility for Children's 0-5 Public Health services. The latest projections were an underspend of £3.081m at the end of the financial year. A contingency had been established within the Public Health budget in order to meet potential cost pressures arising during the financial year from uncontrollable activity based expenditure. The underspend at year end would be transferred into the Public Health Resource Fund Reserve from which allocations approved by Cabinet would be made during 2015/16. It was the intention that there would be a review of the future funding of the Public Health Resource Fund in the light of the proposed cut to the Ring-Fenced Grant. The key areas of underspend were detailed, and there had been a major re-design/re-procurement of a number of services which had resulted in greater efficiencies. The new Integrated Children's service had commenced recently, and there would be part-year savings in 2015/16.

The Department's Earmarked Reserves totalled £7.383m, and budget reductions totalling £1.291m had been agreed by Full Council as part of the approval of the 2015/16 budget.

**RESOLVED** to note the position on the 2015/16 Revenue Budget.

**111/15      ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS** The energy performance of buildings had first been regulated in 2007, and the current regulations were the Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) Regulations 2012. The Regulations implemented into English law the requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, which was designed to increase the energy efficiency of buildings, reduce their carbon emissions and lessen the impact of climate change. This complemented the Climate Change Act 2008, which required a reduction in carbon emissions by 80% by 2050.

The Regulations imposed a duty on local weights and measures authorities to enforce a range of provisions. The 2012 Regulations were due to be amended by the Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) (Amendment) (no 2) Regulations 2015, and these had been laid on 15 September 2015 and were due to come into force forty days from that date. The new Regulations imposed a number of requirements on the Trading Standards Service, and these were detailed.

Whilst the reduction of carbon emissions was important, enforcement of the Regulations had not been a priority for the Trading Standards Service. The Local Government Association, the Chartered Trading Standards Institute and the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers had lobbied the Department for Communities and Local Government as it was the general view that the new duties were an unreasonable burden on Trading Standards Services. Further, it was felt that this legislation was an example of an area which would be appropriate for self-regulation. Under the 'Negative Resolution Procedure', MPs could challenge Statutory Instruments up to forty days after they had been laid before Parliament. The Cabinet Member had written to local MPs to seek an annulment of the new legislation.

**RESOLVED** to note the impact of proposed legislation on the Trading Standards Service in respect of Energy Performance of Buildings, and to note that the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities, has written to local MPs seeking to have the proposed new duty annulled.

**112/15      LIBRARIES DIGITAL INCLUSION PROJECT** Details were provided about the award of a grant of £10,000 by the Tinder Foundation to deliver the 'Libraries Digital Inclusion' project.

The library service currently delivered regular work and benefits sessions which involved the provision of ICT help sessions in libraries to people seeking work and those on low incomes. The work had identified a significant skills gap amongst the participants who often lacked basic ICT

skills. It was proposed to use part of the £10,000 grant to second a Chartered Librarian, Grade 10, on a part time basis until the end of March 2016 to manage the project. The post would be advertised on a ring fenced basis to existing Chartered Librarians within the Library Service. The project would deliver 200 basic ICT help sessions to people seeking work and those on low incomes in areas of high unemployment across Derbyshire.

Library staff would use the UK Online Learn My Way, Digital Unite and BBC Webwise online tutorials, and alongside this staff would also try to address health inequalities by highlighting the online tool Staying Healthy with NHS Choices and recommending websites for people to access health information. The library service would produce help sheets to give to participants to support them in their use of ICT in libraries or at home. It would also provide free memory sticks to enable participants to have the means of saving work for future use. The library service would market the project with dedicated publicity, and the outcomes of the project for participants were highlighted.

**RESOLVED** to (1) note the award of a grant of £10,000 from the Tinder Foundation to deliver the Libraries Digital Inclusion project; and

(2) approve the temporary secondment of a Chartered Librarian, Grade 10, on a part time basis until the end of March 2016, to undertake the work associated with the project.

**113/15      PROSECUTION OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE BASED ROGUE TRADER** The Trading Standards Service had recently been notified of the successful conviction of a Gloucestershire based itinerant trader that had defrauded a number of small businesses, charities, village halls, schools and other similar organisations throughout the country. Leslie Smith, trading as Ringway Traffic Management, Traffic Management Solutions and Highway Safety Link, had been sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment for Fraudulent Trading contrary to Section 9 of the Fraud Act 2006. Details were given of the investigation that had led to the conviction.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**114/15      TRADING STANDARDS SAFETY SURVEY – STEP LADDERS: UPDATE REPORT** The Trading Standards Division had been approached by the Coroner for Oxfordshire following the death of an Oxfordshire resident who had fallen from a telescopic ladder similar to the one tested by Derbyshire. Derbyshire Trading Standards had been asked if there was anything further that could be done to prevent future deaths, and the Division had undertaken a range of work.

The telescopic ladder sampled and submitted for testing by Derbyshire Trading Standards had been imported into the UK by a well known high street retailer. The ladder had been manufactured in China, and on testing, the ladder had been found not to satisfy some of the strength tests in the standard. Following an investigation by the Division, it had been ascertained that the company had relied on a test certificate from the manufacturer which was out of date. However, as the retailer had agreed to withdraw the current stock of ladders from sale and there had been no accidents reported to them, it had been decided to issue the company with a Formal Caution.

As a consequence of the further actions arising from the Coroner's report, Derbyshire Trading Standards' attention had been drawn to two other telescopic ladders which had closely resembled the accident ladder and were on sale to the public. Test purchases of these had been made via the internet from the respective suppliers, and samples of each item had been submitted to the British Standards Institute for testing against the BS EN Standard. Both ladders had failed, and a summary was provided of the key points of failure. Following the notification by BSI of the failed safety tests, the Division had been in contact with both suppliers and their respective local Trading Standards Services. Steps were now being taken to investigate the supply of the ladders, to remove them from sale and to warn members of the public who could have purchased and be using the ladders.

As all three of the telescopic ladders tested had been deemed to be unsafe, Derbyshire Trading Standards had applied to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for funding to carry out further testing of ladders of similar design. An internet search had identified 34 suppliers of telescopic ladders, and there was concern that other ladders at the cheaper end of the market could be unsafe. The Division had enlisted the support of regional colleagues to participate in a further market surveillance of the sector. The BIS bid was for additional funding to cover the cost of buying 10-12 sets of telescopic ladders for testing and for money to cover the testing fees charged by BSI. Each ladder cost £900 to test, and if successful, four Trading Standards Services in the region would buy samples, submit them for testing and deal with any follow up investigations.

**RESOLVED** to note the activities undertaken to assess the safety of goods on sale to the public in Derbyshire.

**115/15      SECURITY MEASURES FOR HIGH AND MEDIUM RISK DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS** The Derbyshire Handyvan Service was in the process of being re-commissioned with a new contract commencing in April 2016. Community Safety had historically funded additional home security checks from the Handyvan service at a cost of £15,000 per annum, but in 2012 Community Safety had also agreed to fund support for victims of domestic abuse (medium and high risk) for the installation of alarms and

target hardening. Funding had been increased to £50,000 in 2014 to maintain the levels of home security checks and an increase in domestic abuse referrals, and this had been repeated in 2015, but this was not covering all of the referrals for home security.

Community Safety was seeking to support the Handyvan service with £25,000 per annum from April 2016 for the term of the new Handyvan contract. Due to increasing numbers, this would only provide support for high risk domestic abuse referrals where the following would be offered – the installation of a ruggedized community alarm, a security check and measures fitted for up to 500 cases, and fire safety checks and anti-arson measures fitted.

In order to fulfil the fitting of security measures, £25,000 was being requested to fund the purchase of security items for fitting at high risk properties through the Derbyshire Handyvan Service, and the provision of 'security packs' for domestic abuse professionals to give to medium risk victims where the perpetrator was no longer in the home. It was anticipated that £25,000 should purchase sufficient equipment to cover the service for 18-24 months.

**RESOLVED** that the sum of £25,000 be awarded from the Communities budget to fund security measures for high and medium risk domestic abuse victims.

**116/15      DERBYSHIRE RECOVERY WALK 2015** September was designated as worldwide substance misuse recovery month, and events were held across the UK. Like last year, it had been decided to organise a Derbyshire Recovery Walk.

This year, the aim had been to increase participation, and it had been decided to hold the walk in Chesterfield alongside promotion of the event across the whole county. Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust had offered the Pro-act Stadium as a starting point. The walk had taken place on 18 September with approximately 120 people taking part. The planning team had wanted to add value to the walk by providing a broader event including an inspirational speaker, life stories of Derbyshire people in recovery, the launch of Derbyshire's Recovery website, and a showing of a film about recovery from addiction. The event had been well-received by all who had attended.

The intention was to build on the success of the walk further by considering hosting a Regional Walk for the East Midlands in 2016, and possibly making an application to host the National Walk in 2017. The planning team had arranged a follow-up meeting to consider all aspects of the event and would be encouraging attendance by service users to help develop future events in the County.

Each service involved in planning the event had donated £100 towards the cost of the day, totalling £600. This had been matched by the Authority.

**RESOLVED** that the success of the Derbyshire Recovery Walk 2015 be noted.

**117/15      HOPE SPRINGS RECOVERY CENTRE** The Authority had supported Hope Springs Recovery Centre from its inception in 2013, and had agreed to grant fund premises rental costs to the value of £10,000 from August 2013 and £12,000 in 2014. There had been significant changes in leadership at the Centre, but despite these a successful application for charitable status had been achieved, and there now needed to be a period of stabilisation whilst the leadership team re-grouped and became able to deliver their plans for the development of Hope Springs. Key to the stability was the need for Hope Springs to diversify its income streams to include applications for charitable trust funding, seeking local corporate support and the development of a sustainable social enterprise. In order to support this, Hope Springs had been further granted £25,000 by the Authority in 2014 to develop sustainability, but this had not yet had the outcomes hoped for due to strategic and personnel issues, although work continued under the funding.

Hope Springs had been unsuccessful in its bid for funding under the Authority's Recovery Communities Small Grant Scheme. However, in recognising the support that the Authority had given previously, and also that the structures had changed and plans had been disrupted, it was proposed that Hope Springs be given one further year of support with rental costs for the centre to the value of £12,000 to help towards independence and sustainability. There was sufficient funding from within the S256 budget to fund this as a one-off grant. It was not proposed that funding of this nature and value would be further offered to Hope Springs after this allocation.

**RESOLVED** to approve a £12,000 grant to Hope Springs Recovery Centre to be used for rental of premises for 12 months from December 2015.

**118/15      AFFORDABLE WARMTH PILOT PROJECT – PROPOSED EXTENSION** Approval had previously been given for the investment of £376,000 over two years to 2015/16 from the public health budget to the Local Authority Energy Partnership (LAEP) to reduce fuel poverty and excess winter deaths in Derbyshire. The investment was to pilot a unique method of targeting people who were the most vulnerable to fuel poverty, poor health and preventable death in winter. Public health and the LAEP had signed a service level agreement in 2014 which had stated that the project would be operational from September 2014 – September 2016.

The project aimed to identify and target householders with specific long term health conditions which were made worse by living in a cold home. Clients were recruited with a letter of invitation from their GP, and those who contacted the project received a tailored service from project officers over a number of half day home visits. Staff organised and followed up any necessary works, and pursued income maximisation options where appropriate. Clients were also reminded to take up flu jabs and other recommended health interventions. Essential project development steps were highlighted, and two GP practices had engaged with the pilot phase of the project.

All measures were installed at no cost to the client due to a combination of external 'capital' funding secured by the LAEP. The project had secured a total of £303,000 in external funding to date - £101,000 from the Department of Energy and Climate Change for the installation of heating and other improvements, £40,000 from the National Grid for the installation of heating improvements, and £162,000 from the National Energy Action 'Warm and Healthy Home Fund'. The project had attracted a range of interest at a national level.

Between March – September 2015, the project had provided a tailored, high quality service to 115 householders suffering 144 long term conditions and living in 83 households. In terms of capital investment in households to date, the total was £65,500 and there had been £28,340 household income generated. The project was generating a 2:1 return on investment through the external funding and income maximisation it achieved. Extrapolating interim results to a full year of operation at full staffing levels would produce a series of expected outcomes, and these were detailed.

The two year contract for the pilot was due to end on 31 August 2016. Developing the pilot had taken longer than expected, and it had actually become operational in January 2015. The delay had incurred an underspend of £167,000, and to allow the pilot two full years of operation, it was required to run up to the end of December 2016. The underspend would cover this extension when a final evaluation report would be produced and any revenue underspend would be reviewed to establish how much longer the project could be extended.

**RESOLVED** to (1) approve the extension of the affordable warmth pilot project to December 2016 using the project underspend; and

(2) receive a full evaluation report indicating the outcomes achieved from the investment by January 2017.