

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 20 August 2013 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Cabinet Member – Councillor D Allen

Also in Attendance – Councillors P J Smith and E S Wilcox

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor C A Hart

20/13 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 30 July 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

21/13 **PROPOSALS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF DEPARTMENTAL UNDERSPEND 2012/13** Approval was sought for the use of Cultural and Community Services departmental underspend 2012/13 and to transfer part of the underspend to the General Reserve.

The total controllable underspend of £0.736m for the department was presented. The 2012/13 budget that had been committed to be spent in 2013/14 was £0.231m and this represented goods ordered but invoices not received at 31 March 2013. This left an overall underspend of £0.505m. Proposals for expenditure of part of the departmental underspend were detailed, and totalled £360,600.

It was proposed that £360,600 be retained by the department and used as detailed, and that the remaining underspend of £143,806 be returned to the General Reserve, as agreed by Cabinet on 30 July 2013.

RESOLVED to approve (1) the use of £360,000 of the Departmental underspend as outlined in the report and the transfer to earmarked reserves; and

(2) the remaining underspend being transferred to the General Reserve as agreed by Cabinet on 30 July 2013.

22/13 **TEMPORARY REDUCTION OF PRINTING CHARGES AT SOUTH NORMANTON LIBRARY** A number of Derbyshire libraries currently provided a photocopying service from either a standalone photocopier or, in larger libraries, from a multifunctional device (MFD) that was networked so it could both copy and print. The standard charge for photocopies was 10p per A4 or A3 sheet. Since the introduction of free public internet access in libraries, the cost of printing had been set at a different rate from that of

photocopying – 25p for an A4 or A3 computer printout. Every Derbyshire library provided printing either through networked printers or via an MFD.

Where an MFD was in place, both copies and print outs were produced from the same device and used the same level of consumable materials. Although the current levels of charges had been in place for a number of years, the use of MFDs made it difficult to explain the different pricing structure.

Following feedback from South Normanton Library (which had an MFD) about print charges, it was proposed to temporarily remove the price difference and make printing and photocopying charges the same at the library. The aim of the reduction was to try to increase take up of the service and to make it more accessible and affordable to local people. The temporary reduction should also allow the service to assess the potential impact of the reduced charges.

The cost of providing photocopiers in libraries during 2012/13 had been approximately £22,000 per annum, and there had also been an income target of £25,000 for the service, giving a total cost of £47,000. The actual income received for photocopying in 2012/13 had been £33,000, leaving a shortfall of £14,000. The income target for computer print outs had been £13,650, and income of £7,200 had been received. As a result, the shortfall of printing had been £6,450.

Providing a photocopying and printing service in libraries had resulted in a total shortfall of £20,450 in 2012/13, and the photocopying and printing service had received a significant subsidy from the rest of the library service budget. While the reduction in the printing charge at South Normanton Library was intended to increase take up of the service, although increasing income, any reduction in the level of income received would have a negative impact on the overall budget of the library service.

RESOLVED to approve the temporary reduction of printing charges at South Normanton Library.

23/13 ANNUAL FOOD AND FEED SERVICE PLAN 2013/14 In accordance with the Food Standards Agency's 'Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities', the Trading Standards Division produced an Annual Service Plan for Food and Feed. This set out a proposed programme of activity to seek compliance with food and feed requirements for the forthcoming year, and formed part of the Division's contribution to the departmental service plan. The Framework Agreement set out what the Food Standards Agency expected from local authorities in their delivery of official controls on feed and food law, and also the planning and delivery requirements of feed and food official controls. The Food Standards

Agency had given notice to the authority of its intention to carry out an audit of the controls in place to monitor feed hygiene and standards controls in September 2013.

The local authority had a duty to enforce food safety legislation that was intended to ensure that food was safe to eat and that it complied with a wide range of standards and labelling requirements. Generally, district and borough council Environmental Health departments were responsible for enforcing food hygiene, whereas the County Council was responsible for ensuring that businesses complied with food labelling and compositional standards requirements. New controls had also been introduced to ensure that animal feed met hygiene requirements to reduce the risk of contaminated feed. As Trading Standards staff were already responsible for the composition and labelling of fertilisers and feeding stuffs, responsibility for enforcing both feed hygiene and farm food hygiene was given to local authority Trading Standards services.

The Division also worked closely with neighbouring Trading Standards authorities and district council colleagues. It was also working increasingly with Public Health, and would be participating in a joint initiative to raise public health via the 'responsibility deal'. The Division was leading an initiative with government colleagues from the Better Regulation Delivery Office to reduce regulatory burdens on businesses through the Better Business for All initiative.

To check compliance with food and feed standards and feed hygiene requirements, the service had a programme of inspections or visits to local businesses. The size of the business and the type of food or feed produced or sold would determine the frequency of visits in accordance with nationally agreed 'risk assessment' policies. As well as routine inspections or business advisory visits, the Division also undertook project work to test compliance within a particular trade sector or food and feed products. Details of projects planned for the year were detailed in the Service Plan.

To ensure that food was appropriately labelled and that it complied with food standards requirements, the Division had a food sampling programme. Food on sale in Derbyshire was sent for analysis to examine the composition and compare it to the labelling. Breaches of food labelling and standards constituted an offence, and the Division would advise or consider enforcement action. A similar approach would be adopted for ensuring that local producers and suppliers of animal feed complied with both composition and labelling and hygiene requirements. The cost of the food and feed sampling programme for 2013/14 was £50,000, and the Division agreed a programme for the year within this budget.

The draft Plan was presented, and it was proposed to publish it on the County Council's website when approved.

RESOLVED to approve the Food and Feed Service Plan for 2013/14.

24/13 REVENUE OUTTURN 2012/13 – USE OF UNDERSPENDS

Cabinet approval had recently been given to the use of underspends to meet previously agreed commitments for Community Safety projects and Youth Offending. Cabinet had also noted the suggested use for uncommitted balances made by the Strategic Director, and had agreed to sums being transferred into departmental earmarked reserves with any use being subject to approval by the Cabinet Member.

The Cabinet report had included the sum of £39,000 for the Youth Offending Service to contribute towards the known loss of grant income in 2013/14 – this would ease the pressure on the service budget.

RESOLVED that the 2012/13 revenue outturn underspend of £39,000 be approved for carry forward to the 2013/14 budget for the Youth Offending Service to offset the loss of income.

25/13 SUBSTANCE MISUSE RECOVERY GRANT

During 2012/13, the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) partnership had undertaken to source community based assets that supported the recovery of people within, or leaving, drug or alcohol treatment services. A locality based approach had been taken, with areas of highest need receiving the earliest attention. The development of additional Recovery Resources would be funded via a section 256 agreement to transfer funding from the old NHS Derbyshire County substance misuse budget to Derbyshire County Council for funding initiatives with health benefits. This was in addition to a recurrent £200,000 for on-going Recovery initiatives already in place.

In spring 2013, Hope Springs Recovery Centre had been opened in Chesterfield, and this had been led by Father Terry Doherty. Treatment services had been approached to raise the profile of the centre, and Father Doherty had been supported by drug treatment service staff. The centre had become popular with service-user groups and mental health patients, and the DAAT had been approached for funding to enable it to continue beyond September, after which no funding had been secured. The DAAT had supplied the centre with a laptop, printer and mobile phones from a previous capital initiative, and had utilised the service user engagement officer within DAAT to observe progress and report back on how the centre was developing.

The Substance Misuse Strategic Commissioning Group had considered the proposed funding for Hope Springs, and concerns had been raised about the sustainability, business planning capacity and capability of new Recovery orientated community ventures. The Group had concluded that a longer term solution to support development of recovery capacity would be to fund a

business support post to help fledgling groups secure funding and the DAAT would take this forward. It had also concluded that Hope Springs be considered for grant funding based on the outcome of a full cost bid that the centre had submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Group had felt that Father Doherty had created a demonstrably well-used facility that had become popular, and the DAAT had received letters of support from patients in recovery who had found the facility useful.

It was proposed that Hope Springs be granted £10,000 from section 256 Public Health funds to contribute towards rent and out of pocket expenses incurred by substance misuse user group members. The conditions of the grant would include monthly payments and the development of a business plan for the centre to ensure a more sustainable position. The Strategic Commissioning Group had given agreement in principle to this approach, subject to approval by Cabinet.

The cost of £10,000 could be met from within existing resources. The Police and Crime Commissioner's Officer had confirmed that it would also be prepared to consider a grant to Hope Springs conditional on the DAAT service user engagement officer maintaining a liaison role. The combined grants would leave only a marginal predicted shortfall that could be met by additional funding.

RESOLVED to approve the proposal to grant fund Hope Springs £10,000 from Public Health section 256 funding.

26/13 PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE "INSTANT ACCESS" LOAN FUND TO CREDIT UNIONS Credit Unions were playing an increasingly important role in supporting people by providing access to affordable credit and by encouraging saving. Most of the Derbyshire population now had access to a Credit Union, with five operating across the county.

In recent years, there had been a growth in 'pay day lenders', and the Credit Union movement was responding by providing people with access to small "instant loans" of up to £500, with repayment secured from direct deduction from benefit payments. This approach had been successfully operated by the Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Credit Union.

Cabinet had recently approved a grant fund of £300,000 from the Public Health budget for 'instant access' loans managed by Credit Unions. This supported the Authority's commitment to addressing anti-poverty and financial inclusion. Following Cabinet approval, proposed criteria had been drawn up to manage the allocation of the fund to the Credit Unions as follows:-

- Need, based on the number of Lower Super Output Areas within the district(s) area covered by the Credit Union which were within the 20% most deprived, based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation Income Deprivation indices
- Cash in reserves
- Secure revenue funding
- Current and projected membership growth
- Track record of managing loan schemes
- Capacity to manage the loan fund

It was proposed to invite the five Credit Unions covering Derbyshire to apply for an allocation of funding from the “Instant Access” Loan Fund, based on the criteria. It would be appropriate to delegate decisions on the allocation to each Credit Union to the Strategic Director of Health and Community Safety in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities. The costs would be met from the 2013/14 Public Health budget.

RESOLVED to (1) approve the criteria for the allocation of the “Instant Access” Loan Fund to Credit Unions; and

(2) delegate decisions on the allocation to each Credit Union to the Strategic Director of Health and Community Safety in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities.

27/13 FUNDING FOR aCTive TRAVEL PROJECT Approval was sought to provide health contribution funding to support the continuation of the aCTive Travel project. The objective of the project was to provide eligible residents with affordable, bespoke, door-to-door transport to health, wellbeing and preventative services across Derbyshire. Eligible passengers were residents who had difficulty in travelling on local bus services, and those who were unable to travel because public transport was not available.

The transport service – aCTive Travel – took the form of either a Community Car Scheme or a Dial-a-Ride service. Approximately 75% of aCTive travel journeys related to health service use, although the County Council had also identified at the outset that use of the monies should also have a social value for frail and vulnerable people, and therefore a minority of journeys related to non-healthcare purposes. A previous survey undertaken by the County Council had identified people who would otherwise have no access to local services without the provision of Community Transport services.

The aCTive travel service operated countywide. Community Transport schemes had been identified as the service provider for aCTive travel, as they had eight operating bases across the county and were well placed to meet the diversity of individual needs. They also had a good understanding of the

communities they served, and had wheelchair accessible vehicles and a personal and supportive service. Environmental Services was to undertake an assessment of people's needs for community and voluntary transport to identify gaps in existing provision, and the information gathered would be used to help inform decisions about the development of the sector and its role in providing an efficient and responsive service.

Cabinet had approved £80,000 funding per annum for five years for the aCTive travel initiative, starting in April 2010, to be matched by £80,000 a year from the PCT. The Health contribution had been funded from PCT underspends each year, and no separate budget had been allocated. As a result, after the transition of Public Health to the County Council, there was no clearly identifiable matched health budget for the initiative for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

The funding of £160,000 per year had originally provided £20,000 for each of the eight Community Transport schemes, but two had recently merged and that scheme received £40,000. Community Transport services also received other funding from Adult Care and the CCGs for specific services, but that was separate to this initiative. CCGs had identified monies to fund a continuing 'health' contribution of £50,000 to the aCTive travel initiative at least for 2013/14. As £80,000 was required, a £30,000 contribution for the Public Health budget was needed to support the £50,000 total contribution from the four CCGs.

The proposed funding was additional funding to existing grant arrangements. As a recipient of a grant, the Community Transport organisations were not contractually obliged to deliver any services, although the Council may be able to claw back grant which had not been spent or was misapplied. It was a continuing requirement that each Scheme provided regular reports throughout the year on the use of the funding in addition to the annual report and accounts.

RESOLVED to approve the Public Health contribution of £30,000 for the aCTive Travel project for 2013/14.