

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 30 November 2017 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Councillor C Hart – Cabinet Member

Also in Attendance – Councillor D Allen

69/17 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 19 October 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

70 /17 **BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 5 2017-18** - The report on the current budget monitoring position 2017-2018 was presented to the Cabinet Member.

RESOLVED that the Revenue Budget Month 5 2017-2018 be noted.

71/17 **SYRIAN VULNERABLE PERSONS RESETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR DERBYSHIRE** – The report updated the Cabinet Member on the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (SVPR) Scheme in Derbyshire; Derbyshire had been asked by the government, through East Midlands Councils (EMC), to pledge accommodation for Syrian refugee families. Government funding was available for a five year period, on a sliding scale from £8,520 in year one (to assist families with property set up costs, transport from the airport, English language lessons, case worker support and the scheme's co-ordination) to £1,000 in year five when it would be anticipated that families would continue to need English language lessons and support to gain employment. Most families would continue to require some level of case worker support, depending on their needs and how integrated and self-sufficient they were. The County Council were responsible for the financial arrangements of the scheme and coordinates claims for the funding from the Home Office.

In May 2016, approval for the recruitment of two posts to help to coordinate activity on behalf of the Partnership Group was granted and these would continue to work to support the existing families in Derbyshire and deal with the arrival preparations and arrangements for future intakes of refugee families. Key worker support is provided by Upbeat Communities, a Derby based charity who specialise in working with refugees and asylum seekers and they will continue to work with the families directly and deal with the day to day issues which arise.

The Partnership Group would continue to oversee, shape and develop the operation of the scheme in Derbyshire. Derbyshire County Council would lead on strategic communications planning for the SVPR scheme and would act as a single point of contact for strategic media releases and enquiries involving

more than one district and/or borough. The partnership had offered support which would allow resettlement of up to 50 refugees in family groups during 2018/19.

The SVPR scheme would continue to provide a focused programme of support, fully integrating refugees into their local communities. The response from Derbyshire communities had been overwhelmingly positive and there were many examples of communities coming together to welcome and support families. The key worker support service had enabled the development of strong links with communities and increased capacity and specialist expertise across organisations within Derbyshire.

RESOLVED – that the Cabinet Member (1) note the achievement of successfully settling 48 people in 11 family groups as part of the SVPR scheme in 2016/17;

(2) approve the continuation of the partnership approach outlined and agree that Derbyshire County Council will continue to act as the single point of contact and lead partner for the scheme including responsibility for the financial arrangements; and

(3) approve the offer that Derbyshire will be making to the government to resettle up to 50 people from March 2018.

72/17 HELPLINE SERVICE FOR VULNERABLE VICTIMS OF HATE CRIME - The report outlined the growing success of the 24-hour third party reporting and helpline service for victims of hate crime. The helpline was established in Derbyshire in October 2008 to address the under-reporting of this type of crime. The service was facilitated by Leeds-based charity Stop Hate UK and was funded by Derbyshire Constabulary, Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council. The contract was held by Derbyshire Constabulary with financial contributions from Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council.

Derbyshire County Council had promoted awareness of the service, which was available through telephone, text, British Sign Language (BSL) (using Interpret Now), post and online for support and information. Take-up and the average number of callers per quarter had increased, with 48 contacts made in Quarter Two in 2017-18, which made a rolling 12-month total of 138 contacts.

The total cost of the service per annum was £16,000, made up of contributions from Derbyshire County Council £7,000, Derbyshire Constabulary £5,000 and Derby's City Council £4,000. In order to align the contract with financial years, the three funding partners wanted to extend the contract to the end of March 2018.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member approve a contribution of £3,500 be made from the Community Safety Budget to continue supporting the third party reporting and helpline service for victims of hate crime.

73/17 COMMUNITY SAFETY PROJECTS – The report outlined a proposal that supported a further programme of work to undertake clean-ups and graffiti removal. From 2011 to 2016, Community Safety supported a programme of this work which had a positive impact on resident's perception of crime and anti-social behaviour in their local areas. The Probation Community Payback Scheme was used for all general clean-up work supported by a contractor for graffiti removal.

Nominations for potential sites would be sought from Elected Members, District and Parish Councils, Community Safety Partnerships and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) departments. Sites would then be assessed for suitability and, wherever possible, work would be undertaken by Community Payback or by a contractor where this is not possible. Following the implementation of Transforming Rehabilitation and the split in Probation Services, Community Payback was now delivered by the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company (DNLRCRC). Clean up work would include clearing up woodland, allotments and recreation grounds by cutting back vegetation and removing litter, basic painting and decorating and graffiti removal.

RESOLVED the Cabinet Member agree the sum of £15,000 to support the delivery of the Community clean-ups and graffiti removal programme.

73/17 FEEDING DERBYSHIRE MID-TERM REVIEW - An evaluation review of the Feeding Derbyshire programme was presented to the Cabinet Member. Feeding Derbyshire had been operational since September 2015 and was one of 12 official pilots of the Feeding Britain strategy; receiving funding from the Authority for its first three years, to August 2018. Evaluation had demonstrated the excellent social return on investment of the Feeding Derbyshire programme through its good use of food that would otherwise be wasted, through the numerous volunteers and through the social benefits of bringing communities together.

A Cabco report approved on 19 October 2017 set out the findings of the mid-term evaluation for the period September 2015 to February 2017. The successful projects included the Food Hub run by Fareshare East Midlands, breakfast clubs, school holiday activity projects and community cafes, all of which had the potential to be independently sustainable beyond year 3.

The development of Feeding Derbyshire originated in the voluntary sector. Rural Action Derbyshire observed the rise of food banks in the County and worked with them and other partners to reduce the need for food banks. The Steering group applied for a Department of Health voluntary sector grant

to fund the programme for three years. When no decision was forthcoming, the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities approved the use of some of the ring-fenced Public Health grant to fund the programme from September 2015. The Authority assumed leadership of the programme at that point, taking responsibility for the investment of Authority funding.

Consensus was leadership of Feeding Derbyshire should be returned to the voluntary sector; the majority of activity delivered by the programme was carried out by voluntary sector organisations, the programme would be eligible for a range of funding opportunities if located within the voluntary sector and transferring the leadership of the programme from the Authority to the voluntary sector reflected the philosophy of the Authority's recently elected Administration.

Rural Action Derbyshire met all criteria established by the steering group. The Board of Trustees of Rural Action Derbyshire had welcomed the opportunity to take on the leadership of Feeding Derbyshire and planned to recruit a part-time project officer to manage the programme should the transfer be approved. Public Health and other Council officers would continue to support the development and success of the programme, while Public Health would continue to oversee the independent evaluation of Feeding Derbyshire and would retain control of the budget for this aspect of the programme.

The majority of the Feeding Derbyshire budget would be spent by March 2018. It was estimated that there would be up to £43,000 of unspent budget by 31 March, which it was proposed would be transferred to Rural Action Derbyshire to be used to support the programme. From April 2018/19 a grant of £20,000 a year for three years was proposed to enable Rural Action Derbyshire to take on the leadership role of the Feeding Derbyshire initiative with the funding being made available from the ring-fenced Public Health Grant budget.

RESOLVED that (1) any unallocated monies up to the value of £43,000 remaining in the Feeding Derbyshire budget be transferred on a restricted basis to Rural Action Derbyshire on 1 April 2018; and

(2) Rural Action Derbyshire receives a grant of £20,000 a year for three years from 1 April 2018 from the Public Health ring-fenced grant budget.

74/17 COMPLETED PROSECUTIONS UNDER TRADING
STANDARDS LEGISLATION APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2017 – the report on completed prosecutions from April to September 2017 was presented to the Cabinet Member. The majority of businesses trade legally however a minority neglect their legal obligations or deliberately set out to harm the interests of consumers or other legitimate businesses. The Authority can take legal action against traders by prosecuting them through the criminal courts. The appendix to the report provided a list of cases concluded during the first six months of the

financial year and reflected the wide range of legislation for which the department was responsible for. In total, during the period in question, 16 defendants were prosecuted resulting in the Courts imposing a total of £2,093 in fines and awarding £4,143 prosecution costs.

RESOLVED that the completed prosecutions under trading standards legislation April to September 2017 report be noted.

75/17 REGULATORY COMPLIANCE OFFICER TRAILBLAZER APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME – There were no dedicated apprenticeship schemes for anyone wishing to pursue a career in a regulatory discipline within a local authority such as trading standards, environmental health or licensing. Apprentices spend 20% of their time training however acquire the majority of their skills and knowledge ‘on the job’. It was anticipated by Government that private sector training providers would come forward offering to deliver the training and similarly, private sector ‘End Point Assessment’ organisations would be prepared to carry out the assessments.

The Steering Group had been in discussion with a number of training providers and EPA organisations including the University of Derby and a Derby-based private sector training provider. It was estimated that as many as 1,100 ‘Regulatory Compliance Officer’ (RCO) apprentices could be recruited over the first three years after the scheme was launched. The proposed Standard for the RCO was approved in September 2016 (see appendix to this report) and at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-standard-regulatory-compliance-officer>.

The Standard would be a Level 4 qualification, equivalent to a Foundation Degree. It was anticipated that it would take 24 months to complete and applicants would need to have attained GCSE Maths and English (Level 2) prior to attempting the End Point Assessment. The RCO Scheme had been allocated an indicative funding band of £6,000 (Band 8). It was anticipated that the apprenticeship would be attractive to capable school/6th form leavers who had attained good ‘A’ level results. They would also be available to existing members of staff who don’t currently hold a higher qualification in the subject area.

Feedback from training providers and EPA organisations suggested that the funding band is too low. Up to a maximum of 20% of the funding allocation (£1,200) could be spent on the EPA which would leave a balance of just £4,800 to deliver the training over a two year period. Of the 32 Level 4 apprenticeship standards that have been approved to date there was only one that had a funding Band of 7 (£5,000), one which had been allocated at Band 8 (£6,000) and the rest were at least Band 9 (£9,000) with three Level 4 apprenticeship schemes had the maximum funding allocation of £27,000. The average funding level was £13,613.

The Steering Group continued to engage with training providers and EPA organisations and was in discussions with the IfA. The Council's perspective as an employer was keen to see this new apprenticeship standard available for delivery as it would provide a route to bring new young talent into Trading Standards and address an area of skills shortage. This would also allow the Council to make further commitments against its apprenticeship levy account and provide further apprentices to count against the Council's requirement to meet the Government's public sector target of 2.3% of our headcount.

RESOLVED that (1) the progress made to create an apprenticeship scheme for the regulatory sector be noted; and

(2) the continued involvement of the Assistant Director of Trading Standards as the Chair of the Steering Group be approved.

76/17 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC RESOLVED - to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of the kind of information detailed in the following summary of proceedings:

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

- (1) To receive the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 19 October 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.