

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 13 NOVEMBER 2018

SUBJECT OF REPORT: POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT

TOWN OR PARISH: N/A

MEMBERS PRESENTING: COUNCILLORS ROZ WILLIS AND CHARLES CAVE

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Councillors receive and consider the report from the Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP), and the Chairman of the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Policy and Scrutiny Panel (SPED)

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report provides comment from the Chairmen of Policy and Scrutiny Panels, highlighting:

- a) key areas that the Panels have focused on for the current municipal year;
- b) on-going issues progressing into the next municipal year.

2. POLICY

The Corporate Plan sets out the vision for North Somerset as: *a great place to live where people, communities and businesses flourish*, and for the organisation to provide: *modern, efficient services and a strong voice for North Somerset*.

3. DETAILS

3.1 Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Panel continues to monitor our outside partners and Trusts, and also to liaise with Assistant Executive Member on Public Health, who will be reporting to the HOSP meeting on 31st January 2019.

Priority work continues with the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) and in particular 'Healthy Weston' and the 'Healthier Together' programmes. Work is continuing with the plans to make the Trust sustainable and fit for the future. University Hospitals Bristol Trust (UHBT) have continued in their work with Weston Area Health Trust (WAHT) and a formal partnership is expected to be in place by October 2019.

- 3.1.1 **The GP working group** remains very active and continues to engage with the issues as they arise. As previously stated, NHS England have announced extra funding for GP services and North Somerset will be receiving some of these funds to help the GP surgeries at most need. This is a 'Living Plan' group as changes are happening

frequently, at times on a daily basis. Further detail of the work of the group is as follows:

3.1.2 **Intensive Support Scheme (ISS)** is delivered by way of funding from NHS England to help recruitment within surgeries, ensuring that every practice is to have a 'consistent offering' for each patient. The funding has now been confirmed as £400k over a four-year period. The funding is dependent upon demonstration of a committed plan for the actual financial spend, to be in place by March 2019. This money will be used for a programme of 'work optimisation' which will release GP time to focus on their core service delivery. Key areas of focus are as follows:

- Home visiting - is an area to be reviewed as part of this work optimisation. Whilst the high value placed on visiting patients at home is recognised, the time intensity involved also places an extraordinary strain on already challenged practices. As a result, both national and local (example - Mendip Vale Practice) practices have experimented with alternative home visiting services, often being run with Paramedics or Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) working alongside GPs. These services have proven extremely successful. While some home visits to the more vulnerable patients or those with complex needs may be best attended by a patient's own GP, others could be done via alternative practitioners as described above. This could also provide better outcomes for individuals particularly where they need further escalation of care, such as identified need for hospital admission, as they could be seen earlier in the day. Practices are looking to develop a business case over the next six months to see if such a model would work in Weston and Worle.
- Care homes – there are a currently large number of care homes in North Somerset, particularly located in Weston, often with frail and complex residents. Not only does this contribute to a considerable extra workload for GP practices to provide care for these patients, it is also exacerbated by residents in one home often being registered across different GP practices. This serves to dilute the level of care that residents could receive when compared to all individuals in each home being registered with one practice. GP practices are presently working with Care Homes under a scheme entitled 'One Practice – One Home', with a view to moving the majority of residents in each home to the same practice. Practices clearly recognise the rights of individual resident choice, although it is hoped that clear explanation of the benefits will support agreement for this move. In reality, most care homes have already signed up to the concept.
- Access to GP appointments – forms the basis of one of the most common complaints levied by patients, and indeed practice staff, with an inconsistency of offer across the range of practices. Exploration of the use of various digital aids and models is underway to improve the way that practices can create better access for patients and increase capacity within the services they offer.
- Use of text for communicating with patients – this is already commonly used for appointment confirmation and reminders. It is familiar practice for many, with a feedback that the majority of patients value this convenient service. Work is to be undertaken with practices to help them adopt this technology in the near

future. The future for this technology could enable extension to communication for matters such as blood test results etc.

3.1.3 Locality Health Centre – The current contract to run the Locality Health Centre contract ends on 31st October 2018. The procurement process was put in place for the new locality contract. It was open to tender process which took place during the summer. Despite a small amount of interest, the sole bidder eventually withdrew from the process. One option proposed as a solution was dispersal of the Patient List, i.e. sharing the practice list between a number of other practices. However, Councillors Roz Willis and Ian Parker were vehemently against this particular move from the outset. Following intensive negotiations, we are pleased that a limited company with three local GPs as directors on the board has agreed to take the contract for the GP locality to run the practice. This arrangement means that the existing patients of the Locality Health Centre will not be required to re-register.

As indicated, this new provider is a limited company specifically formed by three local GPs, as described above, to deliver this service. Provision will commence on 1st November 2018, aligned with the end of the present contract.

Our thanks to Colin Bradbury (Area Director North Somerset CCG) with regards to Locality Health, and Dr John Heather (Chair of Weston and Worle Locality) ISS for their continued proactive and timely engagement with the working group.

We are aware of recent concerns regarding Clarence Park Surgery Weston-super-Mare but, due to legal implications, are unable to comment further at this stage. We can, however, offer reassurance that this is a matter which remains firmly in our focus.

The working group, chaired by Councillor Ian Parker and myself as lead, will be reporting to HOSP in January 2019 with further information on the work to date and any recommendations arising.

3.1.4 Additional North Somerset matters –

Wrington – HOSP became involved following concerns about the operation of the branch surgery raised by local residents in Wrington. The Panel agreed a written statement at its meeting on 20th September regarding the recent decision to close the Wrington branch surgery, as follows:

“The Panel notes the decision to now close the Wrington Branch Surgery and accepts the decision made. The Panel is however concerned by the time this has taken but is pleased to see that transport has been put in place to mitigate any difficulties.”

Congresbury – has undergone a temporary closure for 2 weeks commencing on 27th September. There is concern that the practice still remains on reduced opening hours at the time of writing this report, and members are seeking reassurance as to how long this ‘temporary’ period would persist, in view of the longer-term outcome for patients.

Riverbank Health Centre, Weston-super-Mare – consultation with patients, local councillors and Chairman of HOSP on a potential merger with St George’s Health Centre is due to commence towards the end of October. The aim of this merger would be to give patients better access to services. The merger would integrate Riverbank into Mendip Vale Medical Practice.

3.1.5 As ever thank you to the officers for all the help, research and input and also the HOSP Panel Members for their continued work. Thanks to my Vice Chairman Councillor Ruth Jacobs who is such a support and always willing to go the extra mile and also to Councillor Ian Parker for the work he has taken forward for the GP Working Group.

3.2 **Strategic Planning and Economic Development Policy and Scrutiny Panel**

3.2.1 **Planning Policy Steering Group**

Horse related development.

The current lack of policy guidance controlling the proximity of equestrian structures to dwellings in the ownership of persons other than the applicant. Discussions with officers are ongoing and it is envisaged that this can be taken forward either by way of a Supplementary Planning document under DM 52, or under the Local Plan process by amending DM52.

Pending – The Residential Design Guide redesign. Planning process.

EIA Screening

This is currently in discussion with officers, and recommendations will be forthcoming shortly.

3.2.2 **North Somerset Local Plan Working Group**

The terms of reference for this group are to discuss issues and advise on the options to be included in the consultation document of the Local Plan to 2036.

The working group are continuing to meet with officers, examining the key topics and content of the local plan to 2036. The group are focusing on how the requirements of the Joint Spatial Plan can be met in terms of the broad approaches to urban living, non-strategic growth, possible changes to the settlement hierarchy, local led adjustments to settlement boundaries, new strategic development locations, and local green belt adjustments. An employment led approach supporting businesses, the Airport and the Port.

Four meetings of the group were held in the spring early summer.

Subjects covered:

- Meeting 25th of April - Non-Strategic Growth, Settlement hierarchies, distribution of growth, settlement boundaries and evidence to support the plan;
- Meeting 10th of May - Role of Towns, urban intensification, area-based approach, role of Neighbourhood Development Plans;
- Meeting 22nd of May - Strategic Development locations, transport and infrastructure.
- Meeting 11th of June - Employment and Airport.

Further discussions are planned for this Autumn under the following headings:

Settlement Hierarchy, Settlement Boundaries and local Housing Growth

SHLAA, Issues and options document, Congresbury's NDP, new sites and settlement boundary change and its example for other settlements and how it will work through the Local Plan.

Urban Living

Transport

Economy, Consultation update and next steps.

It is intended that a report will be presented to the next full Panel meeting on November the 28th

3.2.3 **Public Transport and Parking Steering Group**

Recent focus has been on **Metro West** with its importance both in the wider region and locally within North Somerset and the enabling funding stream generally but particularly in relation to the line from Portishead and Bristol and its importance to North Somerset. This continues to be monitored.

Metrobus – the working group is next meeting on 29th October. There are regular briefings with First Bus, tackling issues such as reliability, and drop out in in the live information. Bus Strategy, challenges and punctuality.

Briefings are planned regarding issues around parking and the current **Parking Review**. The serious and worsening situation of commuter parking in areas close to Bristol.

3.2.4 **Highways and Maintenance Steering Group**

A recommendation was forwarded on the 30th of May to the Executive Member regarding potential savings to the Council from the introduction of new gully monitoring technology. The steering group's recommendations were formally endorsed by the panel on the 18th of July, although no further progress has been made as yet for contractual and financial reasons.

4. **CONSULTATION**

The Panels undertake regular consultation with officers, Councillors, the Executive Members and relevant partners through working group and steering group monitoring and Panel reporting.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

6. **LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

None

7. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

None

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None

9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None

10. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CHAIRMEN

Councillor Roz Willis, Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Charles Cave, Strategic Planning and Economic Development Policy and Scrutiny Panel

AUTHORS

Councillor Roz Willis

Councillor Ian Parker (Chairman of the HOSP GP Working Group)

Councillor Charles Cave

CONTACT OFFICER

Philippa Penney, Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager

Email: philippa.penney@n-somerset.gov.uk

Telephone: 01275 884010

BACKGROUND PAPERS

HOSP Policy and Scrutiny Panel agenda, reports and minutes 2017/18

<http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/committees/comidx209.asp>

SPED Policy and Scrutiny Panel agenda, reports and minutes 2017/18

<http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/committees/comidx200.asp>