

Committee and date

Ellesmere Area
Local Joint Committee

14 July 2011

Item/Paper

6

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE ELLESMERE AREA
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2011 AT
WELSHAMPTON PARISH HALL, WELSHAMPTON, ELLESMERE.**

7.00 p.m. – 9.05 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Fiona Howe

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Present:

Members of the Committee:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Steve Davenport | Shropshire Council |
| Anne Hartley | Shropshire Council |
| Brian Williams | Shropshire Council (Chairman) |
| Pat McClaughlin | Ellesmere Town Council |
| Chris Symes | Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council) (Vice-Chairman) |
| Ian Ward | Ellesmere Rural Parish Council |

Officers:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| John Rowley | Assistant Director, CYPS (Lead Officer) |
| Val Beint | Corporate Director of Health and Care |
| John Skelton | Senior Organisational Development Officer (Support Officer) |
| Corrie Davies | Community Action Officer |
| Fiona Howe | Committee Officer |

There were approximately 31 members of the public in attendance

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Dickin (Cockshutt-cum-Petton Parish Council) and Mrs Kay Egerton (Ellesmere Rural Parish Council), (Councillor Ian Ward was in attendance as her substitute).

2. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief explanation on the purpose of the Local Joint Committees. He went on to explain the format of the meeting and key items on the agenda.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests received.

4. **NOTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the note of the meeting held on 20th October 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. **SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL'S FUTURE ROLE WITHIN PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Corporate Director of Health and Care addressed the meeting, advising those present of the proposed changes to the National Health Service stating that the intention was for the paper to receive royal assent by November 2011.

The main changes involved GP Commissioning, changes to Public Health, setting up the Health and Wellbeing Board, the introduction of HealthWatch and strengthening of Healthy Communities Scrutiny.

GP Commissioning - GP Commissioning would be set up in shadow form by 2012, with the intention being fully implemented by 2013. It was noted that the Primary Care Trust would cease to exist from April 2013.

Public Health – Public Health was currently part of the Primary Care Trust, but would transfer back to Councils in 2013, which would give local authorities the opportunity to influence and improve health and wellbeing and tackle health inequalities.

Health and Wellbeing Board – The board would bring together GP's, the Council, HealthWatch and other stakeholders to undertake a strategic role in identifying health needs and improvements, and would provide the framework and priorities within which local health services are commissioned.

HealthWatch – There would be a national and local HealthWatch. HealthWatch England would be overseen by the Care Quality Commission and the local HealthWatch would replace Local Involvement Network (SYNCH).

Strengthening of Health Scrutiny – New arrangements for Healthy Scrutiny would be implemented and the group would have specific powers and responsibilities to consider any NHS provider.

The next step in the process was for the Health and Social Care Bill to be agreed in Parliament and the local development of GP Commissioning Consortia, Health and Wellbeing Board and HealthWatch to get underway. A discussion ensued on the work being undertaken by the shadow GP commissioning consortia, where the importance of Patient Participation Groups feeding in

information to the Consortia was stressed.

In response to questions, the Corporate Director of Health and Care stated that, at the present time, there were only a handful of GP practices involved in the GP commissioning consortia, and that patients should encourage their surgery to get involved. It was noted that each area of Shropshire would have a GP representative on the board.

The Chairman thanked the Corporate Director of Health and Care for her attendance and assistance during the debate.

6. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT)

The Chairman welcomed PC Howard Lewis of West Mercia Police to the meeting.

PC Lewis addressed the meeting, advising that police numbers for Ellesmere and the hinterland were almost at full strength, with only one further CSO required for Ellesmere Town. He stressed that crime figures showed no serious issues had been reported.

A resident requested an update on the proposals to move the CCTV due to the trouble at the mere (play area). PC Lewis stated that costs had been looked at and the proposals to move the unit would be built into the costs of the play area.

It was noted that there were problems with parking on Birch Road (TA Hut), as some cars were parking at the end of the double yellow lines and at the brow of the hill, and with the road being on a bend it has been causing problems for coaches travelling to Ellesmere College and lorries leaving the ABP site, as well as other road users. PC Lewis indicated that PC Crump had spoken to Highways about the issue, but advised that unless double yellow lines were installed it would be hard to enforce parking restrictions. It was noted that double yellow lines were going to be installed to resolve the problem.

A member of the Town Council advised that they were encountering anti social behaviour from youths in St Marys Church grounds. It was stated that youths were drinking on the steps to the church and leaving cans, bottles and general rubbish in the grounds. A request was made that a patrol visit the area to help resolve the problem. PC Lewis advised that the Police were trying to address the attitude of youths in the area, and stated that 2 young males had signed an acceptable behaviour contract, as they had been caught drinking in the area. This was the first step to address anti social behaviour and would enable the police to take further action if they breached their contacts. It was agreed that a CSO would patrol the area in the evening to address the problems being experienced.

7. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET

The Chairman gave a presentation on the key messages arising from the Shropshire Council budget for 2011/12. As a result of the government spending review, Shropshire Council had already taken a number of difficult decisions to manage the reduction in funding from central government.

As a result of Government actions, £19.863 million savings needed to be identified in 2011/12, which did not include the £10 million already identified within the current financial year. The Council were being asked to make further savings of £20.1 million in 2012/13, £17.834 million in 2013/14 and £9.22 million in 2014/15.

There were already pressures on the budget, but in addition, the Council were required to ensure that its reserves were increased to a figure of £10 million, which would need to be identified from existing budgets over the next 4-5 years. It was noted that fees and charges for many services would be increased to provide additional income, but this would only provide a small proportion of the required savings. The Chairman referred to the tabled information relating to the Medium Term Financial Plan, indicating specific areas of savings within each of the directorates, stressing that the Council would be working towards transforming and remodelling the way services were provided to help achieve the savings required for the next 4 years.

It was reported that there would be no capital spend in the next 4 years and that only schemes which had already been contracted would continue.

In summary, the Council still required to find a further £48 million and the future financial situation for the Council was going to be extremely difficult to address.

In response to questions raised by members of the public, the Chairman confirmed that there were no planned school closures or federations for the Ellesmere area. He also confirmed that there was no plans to increase Council Tax in the next few years.

A discussion ensued on the proposed cuts in Education grants. The Lead Officer addressed the meeting, stating that Shropshire Council was receiving less government funding in this area due to the falling number of pupils within Shropshire. He added that the school reorganisation would have been undertaken regardless of other budget cuts, as there were less children in the school system, and the Council had to look at the most efficient ways to use the funding. He confirmed that Shropshire received the same base funding figure as other areas, but it did not receive additional top ups.

8. LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

The Chairman reported that as a result of budget reductions and a need to reduce the running costs of Local Joint Committees, Ellesmere Area LJC would be reducing its meeting numbers from 4 to 3 for the coming municipal year. He added that the meeting would now be serviced by a Community Action Officer and Committee Officer, and that the Lead Officer and Support Officer roles were being abolished. The Chairman thanked all Officers present for their assistance over the past 2 years.

The Community Regeneration Officer presented information on consultations currently taking place, including the Bus Strategy, Local Transport Plan and the Community Infrastructure Levy. She also advised residents that the NHS were undertaking a consultation on the reconfiguration of services within the county, which was due to conclude on 14th March 2011.

She reported that a World Book Night would be held on 5th March 2011 at the Boathouse, where local residents were being encouraged to get involved. A local toolkit event for the Market Town Regeneration Programme was being held on 1st March 2011 in Lakelands School, Ellesmere, where representatives from key community groups were being encouraged to attend, but stressed that attendance was by booking only.

Ms Davies provided feedback on some of the projects which had been previously funded. She also reported she had recently attend a Business Clinic in Ellesmere, stating that it had been extremely successful and well attended. Information on available funding sources was also provided, such as Big Lottery Reaching Communities grant, which was offering funding of between £100,000 to £500,000, and that if groups and organisation wished to obtain further information they should contact Jill Porter on 01743 237878. There was also funding available through the Heritage Lottery Young Roots, which was currently undersubscribed.

Ms Davies thanked all those present for their support over the past 2 years and confirmed that Julie Ruler, Community Action Officer, would be replacing her in the coming municipal year.

9. LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET

The Chairman introduced the report, which set out details of grant funding applications, which had been received (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Prior to the consideration of the funding applications, it was noted that the following years budget had been reduced to £14,000 per annum, but that they hoped that the money could still benefit many local projects.

RESOLVED:

That the following projects funded from the 2010/2011 budget, be approved:

- (a) Ellesmere Civic Society – That a contribution of £840 be approved to install a commemorative plaque recording historic fund raising for the construction of the Ellesmere Canal.
- (b) Cockshutt PCC – That a contribution of £732 be approved to undertake the first phase of the repair to the church clock.
- (c) Ellesmere Amateur Dramatics – That a contribution of £167 be approved to support a one off centenary event.
- (d) Cockshutt Village Hall – That a contribution of £500 be approved to upgrade the village hall sound system.
- (e) Dudleston Football Club – That a contribution of £1653.54 be approved for the provision of new goal posts, nets, first aid kit and materials.
- (f) Mere News Community Magazine – That a contribution of £500 be approved to provide replacement computer equipment.

Lead
Officer/
Finance

That the following project be deferred to allow for further information to be obtained:

- (g) Lakelands Take a Note Project.
- (h) Ellesmere Allotment Society.

10. LETS TALK

The Chairman invited questions, comments and statements from the floor.

In response to a question raised by a member of the public, the Committee confirmed that roadworks being undertaken on Shrewsbury Road were to widen the existing highway, improve sightlines and the inclusion of a footpath. It was noted that the hedge had been set back and replanted, but that further work would be done stage by stage, depending on cuts within the highway budget.

11. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates of meetings in 2011-12 had not yet been confirmed.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....