

**PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 11.30 AM**

CALL IN OF DECISION MADE BY CABINET 2 FEBRUARY 2020:

YOUTH SUPPORT

Called in on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group by the Group Leader

After some consideration we wish to call in the decision cabinet made concerning the future of "Youth Support" this was Agenda Item 7 of the meeting held on 22 January.

We are concerned at about the likely impact that adopting the report's recommendations and the model proposed in 5.5 of the report entitled "Shropshire's Model for Youth Provision". There is also concern at the way the Task and finish Group looked at this prior to the paper coming to the cabinet. Several members are concerned at the incorrect information given it and the refusal to ask other outside, interested parties to come along and be interviewed by its members.

We also have asked other interested parties, including SYA who were quoted at the cabinet meeting as being in support of the modified proposals.

Our understanding is SYa who were quoted as being supportive only did so if the way forward is properly costed and supported.

The letter sent is included the following

SYA can only endorse and support the proposal if the way forward is properly costed and resourced which means:

- Funding is secured and in place prior to delivery
 - o For both elements of the proposal you are considering,
 - o Which includes securing funding from other sources to maintain current staffed youth clubs and support to the voluntary sector.
- Workforce in place, with a clear structure and lines of responsibility
 - o If financed as set out in your proposal; there will be multiple funders, employers and commissioners. All with different agenda's, roles and responsibilities. This is actually more complex than current arrangements and needs to be properly planned
 - o A clear partnership approach will need to be developed to reduce duplication, confusion and competition.
- Transition arrangements made for all current provision to transfer to new funders before Shropshire Council funding is withdrawn.
 - o For commissioned clubs
 - o For the support of over 120 voluntary clubs that are dependent upon the help currently commissioned by Shropshire Council.

We note that

Recommendation (A) Agree to cease the current commissioning model via LJC's.

A number of youth clubs are funded via their LJC. These include

Ludlow. Youth support received is around £13,000. No agreement has been sought by SC with the Town Council and it is unlikely they will be able to afford to fully fill the gap caused

by the withdrawal of the funding. They (Town Council) are already having to take on other services vacated by Shropshire Council. This may well cause the employed youth worker to be made redundant. SC have not worked with others to find other support for this post. As per first bullet point in 5.5.1 of the report. They have also not worked to fulfil other bullet points listed in 5.5.1

Wem. Youth Support receives around £6500 via the LJC. TC presently already supports the Youth Club so it can open a second night so covering a much wider age group which are oversubscribed. In their submission are very concerned with the lack of detail currently provided for them. A short one to one meeting is the only discussion held and as stated very little information was given.

In their response various statements are made

“..... If Shropshire Council stops providing funding to the youth club to fund the new model, then it is the Town council’s opinion this would most probably cause the Wem Youth club to close.....”

“.....has serious concerns about this proposal and is dismayed that Shropshire Council has not been transparent in this process by providing information on exactly how they plan to fund the appointment of these new Youth Workers.....”

“.....To conclude the Town council is of the opinion that the consultation is misleading as so much vital detail has not been provided.....”

“.....Wem town council urge you to reconsult on these proposals and provide full financial information on how the new model is to be implemented and how it will impact on existing provision....”

Their submission which seems to have been ignored further states that any generic youth worker appointed will not be able to provide the quality of support needed due to the wide geographic area that will need to be covered.

Wem Town Council also pose a number of questions

SYA plays a key role in the provision of training and services to youth clubs across the county and before any decision is made to cut the funding to this organisation the Town Council would like to request clarification on the following

- Who will carry out volunteer DBS checks?
- Who will carry out training including volunteer recruitment, young leader, youth work and safeguarding courses?
- Who will provide support on policies and procedures for new and existing clubs?
- Who will provide support to write funding applications?
- Who will represent Shropshire Youth clubs on a strategic level on a county, regional and national basis?
- Who will co-ordinate the loaning of equipment to supplement club resources?

Shropshire Council should ensure that it has the capacity to provide these services in house before any cuts are made to SYA.

For further information the precept for Wem is already £159 due to taking over other facilities previous supply by Shropshire council

Bishops Castle. Comment for Shropshire councillor Ruth Houghton,

I am very strongly of the opinion that the Youth Support decision should be called in for two reasons:

- 1) The ESSIA papers have not been completed properly
- 2) Given the date of the EESIA papers being signed the revised recommendation at Cabinet could not have been considered

3) Substantial changes were made to the proposal during consultation and responses may have been made based on the original proposals, unaware of the revisions. The consultation should therefore be rerun

Shrewsbury Town Council. Comment from Shropshire Councillor David Vasmer.

I am also aware that information circulated regarding facilities in the Shrewsbury area as in the original consultation proposals were based on inaccurate information about Youth Provision in Shrewsbury. This was only corrected after being announced to the Task and Finish Group.

Shropshire Council member XXXXXXXX I feel we need to call in the decision made by cabinet on Wednesday, but would rather someone else did this. XXXXXXXX also sent an email withdrawing his support.....

The last task and finish group attendance was by just 5 Councillors ,two of those present have now withdrawn our support Either way there are lots of questions to be asked about how the group was given information, I felt we were railroaded into a decision without being given the opportunity to stop off to have time to get all the information we needed to make an informed decision, also unhappy about cabinet member being part of the group, and leading the decisions,? Basically, I feel the whole task and finish group was a farce!

Dear Claire

The paper informing the public and Cabinet of the proposals for the youth service was of course discussed at the meeting held on Wednesday 22 January.

As brought up by me a report, **not** the cabinet report was subject an ESIIA. This was signed off on the 15th ,17th, and 20th August. This before the consultation started and whilst a task and finish group were considering the proposal and of course deciding what, if any, recommendations it was to make. I also note the words at the bottom of the first page (P17 of the cabinet papers). This notes and makes comment regarding how different the cabinet report is to the papers considered by those who signed off the ESIIA is not known by me or many others.

There are included in the ESIIA (updates) comments, updates from some person, identity unknown dated 15th November. Whether these were or had been agreed by all or none of those who originally signed the form is not known, is not stated, is not recorded. There is nothing to indicate for future reference if needed, stating they agreed, they were consulted or involved in any discussion included in the document produced at cabinet. In essence to my thinking the ESIIA submitted in the cabinet report is faulty and should not be accepted as part of the cabinet report and the consequent decision. Listening to the presentation I did not hear any mention of this discrepancy by the cabinet member or officers during their presentation.

I am given to understand that some redundancies may take place as a result of this decision so there is a need to ensure that everything is legally correct.

I have now been informed that the ESIIA is not legally wrong. However as stated by some above it is not transparent. In the opinion of many not good practise and is being questioned by a number of others.

Regarding in detail the report considered by cabinet.

It is noted that on P4 of the report it quotes that £157,260 of support is at present being given by LJC's. Some limited support, both in time and money, is to be given to enable this to continue for a limited time in 2020/21.

- Details of the transition arrangement are to be disclosed. What is stated though is that LJC funding is to cease. Timescale again is not identified, is this to be weeks or months. Elsewhere in the report it states that between £100,000 and £43,000 will be cut. As in many cases detailed discussions have not been started and delays will obviously be incurred plus the need to ensure that the proposed detached youth workers are fully in place the cuts to be made in to LJ's is expected to be very drastic in order to meet the financial commitment. We ask for more information concerning this to be supplied as so ensure the effect as detailed in the ESIIA is adhered to.

We query what work has in fact been carried out to enable delivery of other parts of the recommendations.

- What commitments if any, have been obtained from other voluntary organisations. We would also include Parish & Town Councils in this comment. Our understanding is that very few commitments have been obtained and more importantly are unlikely to be obtained. It is noted that the word "explore" is used in recommendation (e)

Also noted is that in (e) and (f) the words "explore", and "principles" is used.

- We are unsure exactly what this means. No reassurance is given as to what commitment is actually being made here to ensure the current 120 voluntary clubs commissioned by Shropshire Council

At a meeting attended by some members a possible new organisational chart for the new model was shown. No chart is now being officially provided

- We ask that some details of how what is proposed is to be implemented be given and so show how the ESIIA and the chart shown on P5 of the report is to be complied with.

Our request is that this proposal is looked at as part of the call in and if agreed re-examined by cabinet with much fuller information included as requested by many many respondents

Finally, the statement was made at the cabinet that SYA were in support of the document. At the top of this submission is a copy of the statement they sent into Shropshire Council As is demonstrated by comments within this message and in the body of the report to Cabinet no commitment is made in the resolved decision.

The alternative proposal:.

- **Alternatives to be explored and discussed at the meeting held to look at the issues raised by this call-in notice.**
- **It is hoped a free ranging discussion will be held which would involve all likely partners. This may involve re-opening the consultation with an alternative set of questions..**
- **The possible solutions listed below is not exhaustive and it maybe that better alternatives may be identified during these discussions.**

LJC funding to remain in place until local solutions have been identified and at least equivalent funding agreed. Progress on this to be reported to the appropriate local LJC December 2020.

Where these solutions already exist then the local partners in that area to be fully involved in how any of the funding released is to be used to help deliver improvements in Youth Support locally. The advice of both SC and SYA to be obtained and invited to present possible ways this improvement could be implemented locally.

Where not already in place a more local solution to be developed with and involving present and possible future local partners. All partners involved in these discussions will be treated as equal participants and fully involved in developing the preferred local solution.

LICs will be the lead organisation to lead on this and so take it forward where no other local body exists or is willing to take the lead.

SYA to continue supplying the help and assistance required to deliver the universal open access to youth clubs whilst these remain in operation.

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The budget allocated to support future Youth Support in Shropshire for 2020/21 to be as previously agreed, £365,000. Any funding not required to deliver the above support to be used to employ detached youth workers to help our most vulnerable young people.

Roger Evans