

Chairman - Councillor A P Edgeller

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

A G Cooper

P C Edgeller

A D Hobbs

P A Leason

D M McNaughton

M Phillips

D P Rouxel

J Thorley

Also in attendance:- Councillor J Hood - Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio

and:

Chief Inspector Giles Parsons, Staffordshire Police

Officers in attendance:-

A Nevin - Head of Wellbeing

J Presland - Head of Operations

G Whitehouse - Head of Regulatory Services

D Prosser-Davis - Environmental Health Manager

C Royall - Waste and Commercial Services Manager

V Cooper - Partnerships Manager

J Allen - Democratic Services Officer

CWB28 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2025, as previously circulated, were approved as a correct record.

CWB29 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J A Barron, L Nixon (substituted by Councillor P C Edgeller) and J T Rose (substituted by Councillor D P Rouxel).

Apologies also received from Councillor I D Fordham - Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio.

CWB30 Declarations of Interest

Councillor J Hood declared an interest in Stafford District Arts Council.

CWB31 Community Wellbeing Partnership (Presentation)

Head of Wellbeing and Chief Inspector Giles Parsons, Staffordshire Police, provided a summary of the work undertaken by the Community Wellbeing Partnership in the last twelve months.

Priorities for the partnership were set out, along with data on crime in the Borough.

Information was shared regarding funding streams and the work undertaken as a result of the funding. Many of the initiatives will be continued into next year due to the positive impacts made.

Achievements of the partnership over the past year were set out in the presentation.

A consultation for a Stafford Town Centre Cumulative Impact Assessment is underway. The implementation of the CIA would be supported by the police.

Priorities for 2025/26 were set out based on partnership data, this included implementation of new duties.

The presentation set out the projects that were delivered with an aim to reduce health inequalities.

The next year would see a continued focus on reducing health inequalities.

A Question and Answer session followed the presentation.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the presentation be noted.

CWB32 Councillor A P Edgeller - Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Draft Minutes of the County Council's Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 January 2025 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the draft minutes be noted.

Councillor M Phillips - Summary of Task and Finish (Food Waste) Working Group

Councillor M Phillips provided a verbal update from the first Task and Finish meeting held on 26 February 2025.

It was noted that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 22 May.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the verbal report be noted.

CWB33 Funding for Voluntary Sector Organisations - Called-in Item

The following matter was called in from the published Cabinet Minutes of 20 February 2025 by Councillors D P Rouxel, E L Carter and J T Rose for the following reason:

“I would like the Scrutiny Committee to consider if the “one size fits all” approach for funding these organisations which range from culture and sport to Hospices and Women’s charities is appropriate, and explore if there is a more appropriate approach that could be taken.”

Councillor D P Rouxel shared his thoughts regarding the proposed policy and stated that the assessment criteria is not clear enough. He asked for greater clarity and transparency.

Councillor J Hood, Cabinet Member for Community responded to the reason for call-in by stating that the criteria is weighted fairly and a wide circle of groups are coming forward asking for grants.

Head of Wellbeing commented that the voluntary sector is critical in the delivery of services and has changed of recent years. The policy is fair and allows more groups to apply for grants.

It was agreed that the publicity needs to be correct, so that groups know where to go to apply for grants.

Councillor A D Hobbs proposed that the current grants are allocated but the process is looked at again with Councillor D P Rouxel. This was seconded by Councillor A G Cooper.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the decision of the Cabinet in relation to Funding for Voluntary Sector Organisations (Minute Number CAB63), be noted and no action taken in relation to the decision to extend the current grant agreements, but that the terms of the policy be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

CWB34 Q3 Performance Report

Head of Wellbeing presented the Q3 performance report and confirmed that there is budget for Housing Strategy.

The Head of Regulatory Services reported that the private water supply testing was delayed by less than three months but is now back on track.

Head of Operations gave clarity regarding the use of S106 money for play areas.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report be noted.

CWB35 Air Quality Status Annual Report

Head of Regulatory Services and Environmental Health Manager presented the report.

It was noted that the report findings and location of diffusion tubes relate to 2023. Members with concerns regarding the air quality in specific locations to discuss with the Environmental Health Manager.

CWB36 Work Programme

Considered a report presenting the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

Members asked to add:

- Bereavement and Loss
- Children in Care/Housing
- Turning Point

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the work programme be noted with the inclusion of the additional items raised.

CHAIR