

LEISURE AND YOUTH POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

Meeting held on Monday, 15th January, 2018 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford (Chairman)
Cllr Liz Corps (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr J.B. Canty
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr P.I.C. Crerar
Cllr Sue Dibble
Cllr L.A. Taylor

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr T.D. Bridgeman and Cllr J.H. Marsh.

11. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September, 2017 and the Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Environment and Leisure and Youth Panels held on 7th November, 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

Following the joint meetings of the Panels, where it had been proposed that the decision regarding the future of the Southwood Golf Course be deferred for twelve months while all other options were pursued, it was noted that the Cabinet decision had been to close the Golf Course.

12. HAMPSHIRE CULTURAL TRUST

The Panel welcomed Ms. Janet Owen, Chief Executive Officer, Hampshire Cultural Trust, who attended the meeting to give a presentation on the working arrangements for the Trust.

The Panel was advised that the Trust had been founded in November, 2014 to promote Hampshire as a cultural county and to operate the 23 venues within its portfolio, two of which, the Aldershot Military Museum and the West End Centre, were in the Borough. The Trust had an annual turnover of £7.5 million, employed 138 staff, assisted by over 400 volunteers, and cared for 2.5 million objects. The Trust had been established to enrich and transform the lives of people through cultural experiences, which connected well with the Rushmoor priorities. It was advised that the Trust was led by a strong leadership team supported by a number of trustees, with varying skill sets, to help drive the trust forward.

It was advised that a refurbishment programme was currently underway and the Aldershot Military Museum had benefited from an updated logo, new signage and a

refresh of the shop and café facilities. A new ticketing system had also been introduced that allowed annual entry with tickets purchased with Gift Aid.

Supporting and empowering local communities had been a priority for the Trust, an example in the Borough of this had been The Gurkha Connection, an exhibition of photography, by young people in Hart and Rushmoor, of serving Gurkhas, veterans and local members of the Gurkha community. This exhibition had first been displayed in the Military Museum and had recently opened in Southampton. Other projects included the Arts Council funded Reaching Out Project, a curriculum linked learning programme for young people in heritage venues, and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded Horizon 20:20 project, which worked with vulnerable people in venues such as the West End Centre.

Ms Owen informed the Panel of the financial position of the Trust, and reported that, year on year, a financial surplus had been achieved with unrestricted reserves of circa £700,000. Performance management had significantly improved during 2017/18, including clarity on key performance indicators and targets at venue level.

Ms Owen explained that, moving forward the Trust had identified what worked effectively and had segmented their portfolio into four categories:

- Social Impact through community arts and museum venues (Aldershot Military Museum)
- Cultural partnerships – education and wellbeing
- Milestones
- Culture Hubs – including arts centres (The West End Centre)

These categories helped identify what worked and prioritised the focus for each venue. 2018/19 would see the West End Centre become part of the new Cultural Hub and Community Work Streams and the Aldershot Military Museum would welcome a dedicated Community Manager. It was also noted that a new website was being developed for the Trust; this would include a sub site for the West End Centre with a new box office system. The West End Centre would also be launching “Gallery Live” which would be significantly promoted through social media and both venues would continue to be part of the development programme for 2018/19 onwards.

In response to a query regarding funding, it was advised that the Trust had a 25 year agreement with Hampshire County Council (HCC), other funding was secured through grants, philanthropic funding and ambassador schemes. Going forward fundraising would be strengthened through the employment of a dedicated fundraising manager. This resource would allow for other funding streams, such as social impact funding, to be explored.

A request was made for more detailed financial information of the two venues in the Borough, and Ms Owen undertook to provide this after the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Ms Owen for her presentation.

13. **HEALTHY WEIGHTS AUDIT - UPDATE**

The Panel welcomed Mr. Martin Sterio, Health and Physical Activity Officer and Mr. Jamie Adcock, Planning Officer, who attended the meeting to give an update on the outcomes of the recent Healthy Weights Audit. The audit had been carried out in response to National Child Measuring Programme (NCMP) data which identified that Rushmoor was above the County average at both Year R and Year 6 and above the National average for Year R and only slightly below it for Year 6. The audit had assessed the effects of the local environment on younger years obesity levels in the Borough and the role that schools played in addressing the issues.

All 29 primary, junior and infant schools in the Borough had completed the survey, which asked 56 questions on physical activity and healthy eating. In addition, an environmental study was carried out of the catchment areas for each school, identifying the number of leisure facilities, sports clubs, green spaces, play areas and fast food outlets. A profile had been produced for each school identifying the findings from both the survey and the environmental study; the report also included specific recommendations for each school.

In summary, it was felt that the audit had found that the issues around younger years obesity were more to do with the environment and home, irrespective of what the schools were doing to address the issue. It was also explained that there were links between areas of deprivation and obesity in young people, with data from schools in areas of deprivation in the Borough showing some Year R children remaining overweight through to Year 6. The Panel also noted that only seven of the 29 schools surveyed had access to their NCMP data, an issue which would be raised with Public Health, and only a small number engaged in national/local schemes such as the daily mile, school travel team and cooking programmes for parents. A number of the schools had also identified that unhealthy weights linked to mental health issues, low self esteem, bullying and anxiety.

In the longer term, Mr. Sterio advised that work, through a whole partnership approach with, Hampshire County Council, Public Health, the school nurse team, the Active Travel Team and younger years groups, would be prioritised in the catchments/schools that had pupils whose weight was significantly above the county/national average. In the shorter term, schools would be encouraged to sign up to local/national initiatives and good practice would be shared.

The Panel discussed the presentation and the issues in their own Wards. It was felt that approaching parents with children with weight issues needed to be carried out sensitively and in a considered way. In response to a query it was noted that schools received £18,000 a year funding for physical activities within the curriculum.

The Panel **ENDORSED** the work being undertaken and requested that an update be made at a future meeting.

14. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel **NOTED** the current work programme and were advised that playgrounds and football clubs would be considered for the next meeting of the Panel. Members were reminded that, should they wish to raise any issues for future meetings, this should be done through the Chairman or the Panel Administrator.

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm.

CLLR MRS. D.B. BEDFORD (CHAIRMAN)

BOROUGH SERVICES POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

Meeting held on Monday, 22nd January, 2018 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr A.R. Newell (Chairman)
Cllr R.L.G. Dibbs (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Liz Corps
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr Marina Munro
Cllr B.A. Thomas

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr T.D. Bridgeman and Cllr S.J. Masterson.

15. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th November, 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

16. **ADDRESSING LOCAL ISSUES OF STREET DRINKING, ROUGH SLEEPING AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE BOROUGH**

The Panel welcomed, John Halfacre (Temporary Chief Inspector) and Phil Mayne (Sergeant) from Hampshire Police; Caroline Ryan (Community Safety Manager); Suzannah Hellicar (Housing Options Manager); Simone Gleed and Tony Keall (Society of St. James); Tina Harvey, Kirsty Quinn, Faye Thorpe and Chris Nyamunga (The Home Group); and, Lesley Herniman and Tracey Ashton (The Vine), who had been invited to the meeting to give presentations on activities and measures being taken to make positive changes in the Borough around the issues of street drinking, rough sleeping and associated behaviours.

The Panel was advised of the current position in the Borough, and in particular the situation in Aldershot Town Centre. It was noted that the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) were now in place in each of the two towns. The PSPOs allowed the Council and the Police to enforce acts of anti social behaviour within the exclusion zones. Civil injunctions had been placed on some offenders, which had been undertaken by the individuals, however, should these restrictions be breached the offender would be taken to court and dealt with appropriately. In addition, a number of ancillary measures were being considered to combat and deter nuisance; these included demountable cameras to help deter criminal activity and the Positive Change Campaign – to encourage the public to give donations to appropriate charities. The Safer North Hampshire Partnership also worked across Hampshire to share problems and identify best practice.

Chief Inspector Halfacre advised on the work being carried out by the Police. It was reported that Operation Cadbury had been instigated to assist with the situation in the town centres, the idea of which was not to punish people, but to refer them through the appropriate services. However, if behaviours fell below appropriate levels individuals would be prosecuted according to the law. The Panel was advised of Section 35 dispersals, new legislation which had replaced Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO). New Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) placed both positive and negative demands on individuals, if these were breached three times the individual would be required to go back to court for further sentencing. It was reported that three of the prolific offenders were currently in prison and one had recently been released.

The Panel was advised on what the Housing Options Team were doing to help address the issues. Ms. Hellicar reported that a partnership approach was being taken to help solve the problem through early engagement with individuals at risk of homelessness. A "Hub" Event was held on a weekly basis to bring the homeless together with agencies who could offer a one stop process for accessing services and housing support. It was felt important to assist individuals at an early stage to try and prevent the situation escalating. It was noted that the implementation of Universal Credit could have an impact on the levels of homelessness and the situation would be monitored closely. The Panel was also advised of the Homelessness Reduction Bill which had been implemented to allow all individuals at risk the same level of advice and prevention. In response to a question, it was advised that the option of "housing first", where individuals were placed in housing first before any support work took place, would be investigated as this had proved successful in other areas.

The Society of St. James representatives explained its work, in particular around the North Lane Lodge site, a wet hostel that had been created in collaboration with the Council. North Lane Lodge was a refurbished Air Cadets hut on ex-Military of Defence land. The refurbishment had created a hostel for homeless people, willing to engage, and consisted of nine small rooms, a communal area, break out rooms and laundry space. The expected lifespan of the facility was three years. The Lodge had been created to tackle issues around rough sleeping and street drinking and to provide access to accommodation to those that faced barriers accessing supported housing. The male only facility was staffed seven days a week and had 24 hour call cover. As part of the project, the Lodge offered access to life skill courses, such as cooking, painting, woodworking and fitness, and support services like counselling, and support sessions on substance abuse, mental health issues, budgeting and benefits. It was reported that since February, 2017 the Lodge had housed 15 residents, 11 of which had been sleeping rough, 13 who had mental health issues and 14 who were active drug/alcohol users. Of the 15 residents it was noted that one individual had been given a custodial sentence, two had abandoned the project and a further two had been given a "notice to quit". However, three residents were currently in the process of moving on to more independent living and three more had been identified as "ready to move on". To assist with the "moving on" process it was noted that the Society of St. James acquired properties, such as their site on Victoria Road, Aldershot due to open in February, 2018. These properties were shared houses with access to support and intervention.

The Home Group reported on the outreach work they carried out within the Borough. It was noted that two outreach workers worked within the town centres, providing familiar faces to the ones who were street attached/homeless. The process of supporting these individuals included, identification through 'Streetlink' an online tool to report rough sleepers and outreach work and an assessment of the situation, considering safeguarding for all and taking a person centred approach to each case as every individuals' needs were different. Outreach work would continue until the individual was willing to engage. The Panel noted the 'no second night out' approach which had been put in place to avoid people sleeping rough for more than one night at a time. This initiative was aimed at those sleeping rough for the first time when emergency accommodation could be provided via local authorities or local night shelters. Another initiative taken by the Home Group was to engage with individuals at risk of homelessness before their release from custodial sentences; this helped prevent crisis situations and in some cases being sent back to prison. It was advised that all the people homeless/street attached in Rushmoor had access to benefits, but still chose to sit on the streets and beg; in some cases, individuals could earn up to £100 a day.

The Panel noted the new holistic approach that The Vine was taking to help combat homelessness. Initiatives included advice and support with benefits, budgeting and housing issues, counselling, drugs and alcohol support and a range of stimulating leisure activities including art. It was noted that there were two outreach 'Vine' centres in the Prospect Estate, Farnborough and at Aldershot Park, Aldershot both funded by Vivid Housing, which ran alongside the main site in Station Road, Aldershot. It was reported that individuals felt comfortable within the environment provided by The Vine and within that setting they were able to access support and advice.

The Panel discussed the presentations and **ENDORSED** the approach being taken through joint working with multiple agencies across the Borough.

17. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel noted the current work programme.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

CLLR A.R. NEWELL (CHAIRMAN)

ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

Meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd January, 2018 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr D.S. Gladstone (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford

Cllr J.B. Canty

Cllr K. Dibble

Cllr C.P. Grattan

Cllr A. Jackman

Cllr Marina Munro

Cllr J.J. Preece

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Sophia Choudhary.

12. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th September and the Joint Meeting with the Leisure and Youth Panel held on 7th November were approved and signed by the Chairman.

13. SERCO - CONTRACT DELIVERY PERFORMANCE

Robert Noble and Jason Kinsella from Serco attended the meeting and advised the Panel on the Serco performance during the first six months of the contract delivery. The contract commenced on 31st July, 2017 and all 82 members of staff from the previous contractor had been TUPE'd over to Serco. The transition had been made easier due to the partnership working between Serco and the Council.

There had been no major changes to the grounds service due to the excellent standards that were already being achieved. The service had been supplemented with an edging programme. The edging programme would be a continual rolling programme carried out across the Borough. Environmental improvements had been introduced to the provision of toilets in the Borough and Serco promoted the most eco-friendly cleaning chemicals available on the market. The driving from site to site was now completed in a state-of-the-art fully electric van. The Whitespace hand-held devices also cut down travelling time by sending new jobs directly to the crew.

The Serco street cleansing strategy committed to provide residents with a simple, efficient and visible streets service throughout the Borough based on a two phased approach of manual sweeping/litter clearance operation and mechanical cleansing. Serco had taken a more neighbourhood area approach which included a barrow sweeping beat in Aldershot, Farnborough and North Camp Town Centres and ten

further barrow sweeping beats across the rest of the Borough operating on a 20-day cleansing cycle. There was also a large mechanical broom and two smaller mechanical brooms to support the barrow sweeping. Feedback received on street cleansing had been positive with compliments on the standard of detritus removed and visibility of staff. The litter picking, sweeping and weed removal had been time consuming and intensive. The team had identified that litter had built up due to the time spent in detail cleansing. As a result the cleansing schedules had been revised to enable the ten barrow beats to spend two-days per week litter picking. There were also plans to integrate some of the litter picking with the hedge trimming and edging work.

The team had increased staffing levels in certain areas to help get the levels of detritus down to meet the contract specification. The Whitespace handhelds would help highlight the trends and patterns in cleansing complaints and staffing levels/times would be adjusted to suit the needs of the contract. An Integration Supervisor had also been introduced to act as a link between the streets, collections and grounds services.

The Panel was then advised that Hampshire County Council had reduced the number of weed sprays in the Borough from two per year to one from 2017/18. To maintain the service, Serco had added weed control to the contract and committed to carrying out a further spray across the Borough with two sprays in some areas. A number of Serco staff had been trained to a national qualification standard in chemical weed spraying to enable the team to complete spraying during the Spring, depending on the weather, and maintain the standard during the Summer months.

Serco had committed to providing marketing investment to raise recycling awareness and participation levels. Serco would carry out glass recycling campaigns through communication activity and the delivery of additional recycling boxes. The team was also keen to improve the garden waste subscription within Rushmoor. Serco was committed to increasing the bulky waste reuse while reducing landfill. Site visits to local charities had taken place to discuss potential projects around the amount of bulky items collected and making residents aware of what could be reused would feature in the reuse strategy. The recycling of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) was underway and showed excellent signs of sustainability with almost three tons of WEEE items already collected. Work was also being carried out with the Contracts Team to identify a solution to begin textile recycling.

Serco aimed to use the partnership contract as a vehicle to grow and develop both commercial and commercial waste recycling services. The team planned to maximise the scale and penetration as quickly as possible.

It was explained that there were a number of added value projects and incentives introduced as part of the new contract that it was felt would benefit the local community. The Community Champions programme would seek individuals to assist in improving their environment for the benefit of the community. Champions would be supplied with smart phone technology to report incidents and attach photographs of places where there were social issues. Other areas of added value included visits to parks from the Fido machine to highlight dog-fouling issues, link to local charities, share information and knowledge with local groups and associations

and visit schools to educate children about recycling and set up planting activities in local parks. Serco was due to move its base of operations from Camberley to Lysons Avenue, Ash Vale in July 2018. The site was purpose built and would be a flagship site for Serco in the South East.

The Panel noted the presentation and raised a number of questions. Cllr Keith Dibble had carried out a local residents survey regarding the service and had received a number of comments on sweeping, street cleansing, weed removal and grass cutting. The responses would be passed to Serco. Serco was happy to receive any feedback from residents as it was constantly aiming to improve services. A customer tracker survey had recently been carried out with 250 random selected residents from across the Borough, the initial results would set a benchmark for future surveys.

The Panel suggested educational trips to the depot would be beneficial. Serco advised that some visits were planned but there had not been a great take up so further work was being carried out to get schools engaged. It was proposed that Serco liaised with local ward councillors to identify suitable residents to approach to become Community Champions. It was requested that a member of the Panel attended the Serco quarterly meetings as an observer and proposed Cllr Marina Munro. The suggestion would be put to the Portfolio Holder for agreement.

Action to be taken	By whom	When
Cllr Keith Dibble to share results from local residents survey with Serco	Cllr Keith Dibble	January 2018
Serco to liaise with Ward Councillors to select residents to approach to become Community Champions	Rob Noble/ Jason Kinsella	February 2018
The appointment of Cllr Marina Munro as an observer at the Serco quarterly meetings be put to the Environment and Service Delivery Portfolio Holder	Panel Chairman	February 2018
A six monthly performance delivery update from Serco be added to the work programme	Panel Administrator	January 2018

14. **FARNBOROUGH CIVIC QUARTER - MASTERPLAN**

The Panel received a presentation from Nick Irvine, Principal Planning Officer, on the development of the Masterplan for the Farnborough Civic Quarter area. The Farnborough Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) adopted in 2007 identified a vision and set of objectives for the town over a 10-15 year timeframe. The SPD focussed on the need to unify and strengthen the Civic Quarter and its functions and provide new public space. The Farnborough Civic Quarter SPD set out a vision, design and delivery principles and an example scheme layout to guide future development.

AECOM had been appointed as the consultant to lead on the development of the Masterplan and to take forward an outline planning application for the former police station site as a first phase of development on behalf of Homes England (formerly the Homes and Communities Agency). The landowners had entered into a memorandum of understanding in March 2017 to jointly masterplan the Civic Quarter, enable regeneration to come forward on a phased basis and work collaboratively throughout the design and delivery phase.

There were six plots within the development parcel which included the Iceland store, Library, former Police Station, Community Centre, Leisure Centre and Westmead House/Sulzers Roundabout. The Iceland store was in a strategic position that was integral to achieving improved connectivity. Discussions would be held with tenants to understand their position and future plans. Hampshire County Council was not in a position financially to relocate the Library at the current time, although it was keen to support the delivery of the wider masterplan. Demolition of the former Police Station had been completed in March 2017 and Homes England would be looking for expressions of interest in January 2018 with a full invitation to tender expected in March 2018. The Community Centre was owned by the Council and existing users would be relocated prior to redevelopment. Discussions would be held with the users to agree the way forward. Options for the redevelopment of the Leisure Centre were being considered, it was likely to be developed in parcels to enable a continuity of use of some of the facilities. Westmead House and Sulzers Roundabout was owned by the Wilky Group and there was currently well established office use with good occupancy levels. Options for the site were being explored and discussions would be held on whether the site should be retained or reprovided.

There would be public engagement activity carried out to inform the final masterplan to balance community use, public open space and leisure. The Panel felt it was important to maximise the channels of engagement to give all residents the opportunity to comment and feel that their view had been heard. The public engagement activity would run in late Spring/early Summer.

The Panel expressed concern regarding how the infrastructure would cope with additional housing in the town centre. The Panel was advised that Hampshire County Council was currently working on a Farnborough Growth Package to address the increase in traffic. Developers would also need to make a contribution to improve the infrastructure. A question was also raised regarding the provision of the skate park. The Panel was advised that an alternative location had been identified for a skate park and young people would be engaged to find out what they would like included in the new provision.

The Panel **NOTED** the update and proposed next steps.

15. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel discussed the current work programme and it was requested that issues on noise pollution relating to fireworks, co-ordination of temporary lights/road works and the Farnborough Growth Package be added to the work programme as items for a future meeting. The work programme would be discussed at the mid-cycle

meeting where it would also be confirmed whether a Panel meeting was required in both February and March.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

CLLR D.S. GLADSTONE (CHAIRMAN)

COMMUNITY POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

Meeting held on Thursday, 25th January, 2018 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr M.D. Smith (Chairman)
Cllr S.J. Masterson (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr M.S. Choudhary
Cllr R. Cooper
Cllr J.H. Marsh
Cllr Marina Munro
Cllr J.J. Preece
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr P.F. Rust

15. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th November, 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

16. **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - SUPPORTING FAMILIES PROGRAMME (SFP)**

The Panel welcomed Ian Langley (SFP Strategic Lead), Hampshire County Council, Julia Dixon (SFP Health Lead and SFP Central Team Lead for Rushmoor), and Qamer Yasin, Head of Environmental Health and Housing and Senior Responsible Officer for Rushmoor SFP, who gave a presentation to update Members on the Supporting Families Programme in Hampshire. The Panel was reminded that the Programme had been rolled out nationally in 2012 and was led in Hampshire by Hampshire County Council.

The presentation covered the following areas:

- Background
- Identification of eligible families
- Core principles
- Troubled families cohort
- Hampshire's delivery approach
- Rushmoor and Hart programme and process
- Characteristics and location of Rushmoor families
- Support available
- Finances for Rushmoor programme
- Evaluation and business case
- Challenges ahead

It was explained that, at present, Government funding for the Supporting Families Programme would end in 2020. The Panel discussed the presentation and, in particular, asked questions relating to the effect of the local programme being shared with Hart, young carers, levels of deprivation in the Borough, mental health issues, the importance of the evaluation of the Programme to demonstrate its effectiveness and the monitoring of families that had been through the Programme in previous years.

The Panel **NOTED** the presentation.

17. **SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY**

The Panel welcomed Caroline Ryan, Community Safety Manager for Safer North Hampshire, who gave a presentation on safeguarding.

The presentation covered the following areas:

- Background
- Role of local authorities
- Case studies – including Victoria Climbié, Alex Malcolm, Tower Hamlets
- Key legislation
- Serious Case Review
- Prevent (counter terrorism) – including case studies
- Modern vulnerabilities – including modern slavery
- Vulnerable adults
- Information sharing
- Rushmoor Borough Council's 'Safeguarding Champions'
- Recording and reporting procedures

The Panel discussed the presentation and explored a number of issues, including the number of safeguarding referrals that had been made in Rushmoor over the previous year, safeguarding training for Members, domestic violence, modern vulnerabilities and the Prevent initiative.

The Panel **NOTED** the presentation.

18. **COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

The Panel welcomed Amanda Fahey, Head of Financial Services, who gave a presentation on the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme 2018/19.

Members were informed that the Welfare Reform Group had met a number of times during the previous year. Its terms of reference enabled it to make recommendations in relation to the local Council Tax Support Scheme. The Panel was reminded that, prior to 2013, Council Tax benefit had been a national scheme. Since then, Rushmoor had developed its own scheme, which had been subject to an annual review, with a public consultation exercise carried out if any changes had

been proposed. The 2013 scheme had required working age recipients to make a minimum contribution of 8% regardless of their income.

Members were given a definition of Council Tax support and data was provided on the amount of support awarded and the breakdown of the classifications of recipients. It was explained that Rushmoor's current minimum contribution of 10% was at the low end of schemes within its audit grouping of Councils with similar demographics. The Welfare Reform Group had considered the responses from the public consultation exercise on potential changes to the Scheme for 2018/19 and had recommended a number of changes to the Support Scheme and to the level of Council Tax discounts to the Cabinet, including an increase in the minimum contribution to 15%. The Cabinet had considered these at its meeting on 9th January, 2018 and had decided that it was more equitable to increase the level of the contribution to 12% in 2018/19, with a view to a further increase to 15% in the following year, depending on how the increase to 12% impacted on recipients.

The Chairman explained that Members would have an opportunity to express any views on the proposed changes when the recommendations were considered at the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 30th January, 2018.

The Panel **NOTED** the presentation.

19. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel **NOTED** the updated work programme for the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

The meeting closed at 9.31 pm.

CLLR M.D. SMITH (CHAIRMAN)
