

COUNCIL MEETING - 19TH APRIL, 2018

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 (2)

**COMMUNITY POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL –
ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In accordance with the arrangements for reviewing and monitoring the Panel's activities, this Report summarises the work that has been carried out by the Community Policy and Review Panel in 2017/18.

2. STRUCTURE/FOCUS OF THE PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

- 2.1 The Panel's main areas of responsibility are:

- Housing Matters
- Care in the Community
- Health issues affecting the Borough's residents

- 2.2 The Panel appointed five groups this year to take forward more detailed policy development and review work: the Health Issues Standing Group, the Housing Strategy Standing Group, the Registered Providers of Social Housing Review Group, the Vivid Housing/Rushmoor Borough Council Joint Business Meeting Group and the Welfare Reform Task and Finish Group.

3. PANEL ISSUES

- 3.1 The key items examined in 2017/18 were as follows:

(a) Housing and Homelessness Strategy

In June, the Panel provided input to proposed changes to the Council's Housing and Homelessness Strategy which had been adopted by the Council in February 2017. The changes related to Housing and Income Data and the Definition of Affordable Housing.

Also in June, the Panel received a presentation on North Lane Lodge and noted its success, with lessons learned being used to help to develop a future resource to meet the complex needs of the street homeless people in the Borough.

In September and March, the Panel provided feedback on the progress made in the delivery of the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2017-22, focussing on the key achievements, opportunities and challenges for the four housing themes:

- The right homes in the right places;
- Making the best use of housing stock;
- Helping people solve their housing problems and provide a suitable home when needed; and
- Enabling people to live in good quality accommodation that is right for their needs.

The Panel noted that the Strategy was designed to be a rolling document to enable it to be updated to reflect changes in national housing policies.

(b) Private Sector Housing Survey

In June, the Panel received a report on the findings of the Private Sector Housing Survey into, primarily, houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) which were in severe disrepair, overcrowded, illegally converted or under the control of rogue landlords. The Panel noted that the original aims of the survey had been met and that the information gathered would help to improve housing standards and safety for residents.

(c) Registered Providers' Review Report

In June, the Panel provided feedback on the key issues identified during neighbourhood visits in respect of the four Housing Providers reviewed in 2016/17. The Panel was advised that the Council provided assistance to residents with complaints against a Registered Provider by guiding them on what avenues were open to them to resolve these complaints.

(d) Health and Wellbeing

In November, the Panel received a briefing note on Local Air Quality and Health, and a presentation on Air Quality in Rushmoor highlighting the Council's responsibilities in terms of monitoring within the new UK Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) regulatory framework. The Panel noted that the main area of concern in terms of emissions was road traffic along the Blackwater Valley Relief Road (A331) with a Government-funded feasibility study being undertaken jointly by the Rushmoor, Guildford and Surrey Heath Councils, as well as Hampshire and Surrey County Councils, to investigate measures to improve the air quality along this road in as short a time as possible.

In January, an update was provided on the Supporting Families Programme in Hampshire, led by Hampshire County Council. The Panel provided feedback, noting that Government funding for the Programme was due to end in 2020.

The Panel received a presentation in January on the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and in discussion explored a number of issues, including the number of referrals, training and the Prevent initiative.

(e) Hampshire County Council – Medium Term Financial Strategy and Transformation to 2019 Savings Proposals

In November, the Panel discussed a report setting out elements of Hampshire County Council's (HCC) Transformation Programme 2019 which could have future impacts on areas of service covered by the remit of the Panel. The Panel was aware that HCC was seeking to make savings and efficiencies of around £140 million by 2019/2020 in response to grant reductions from central Government. The Panel was advised that a number of meetings had taken place with HCC representatives to explore options and to encourage collaborative working to achieve the proposed savings.

(f) Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System

In March, Sir Andrew Morris OBE, former Chief Executive of Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust, gave a presentation providing Members with an update on the Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System (ICS), which had evolved from the Frimley Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). The Panel was advised that Frimley Health ICS was one of the leading bodies, aiming to bring together the providers and commissioners of all health services, social care, public health and the voluntary sector to work in partnership to create a different model and approach on delivering care to improve health and care in their area. The views of clinical and professional leads as well as the current workforce have helped to co-design all service changes and developments.

The Panel noted that the ICS was promoting a new model of care which would mean that fewer services were delivered in an acute provider setting such as a hospital and more delivered at home, in a community-based care facility or in GP surgeries. Sir Andrew reported that the system was already showing decreases in accident and emergency attendances and non emergency admissions.

(g) Online Consultations (eConsult)

In March, Dr Andy Whitfield, Chair and Clinical Lead of NHS North East Hampshire and Farnham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), gave a presentation on the eConsult initiative which aimed to use online technology to improve patient access, GP practice efficiency and commissioner value. The Panel noted that this was being rolled out in stages with some local surgeries already using it live and receiving positive feedback from patients.

(h) Council Tax Support Scheme

In January, the Panel received a presentation on the Council Tax Support Scheme noting that the Welfare Reform Group had considered as part of its remit 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 Cabinet.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The Panel has worked extremely well during the year and we have examined a range of important services, which have a significant impact on the Borough. Within our managed programme we have helped to develop services and carried out in-depth scrutiny where necessary. The Panel's work programme, which contains some areas still to be examined, will be picked up in the new governance structure.
- 4.2 Finally and importantly, I feel that the Panel has worked very well together during the year. All Members have contributed at meetings and I would like to express my thanks for their support. In addition, I am also grateful for the support given by the officers to the Panel and myself as Chairman.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 The Council is asked to note and endorse the Panel's work.

M.D. SMITH
CHAIRMAN
COMMUNITY POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL