

Community and Wellbeing Policy Development Advisory Group
15 SEPTEMBER 2020

Present: Councillors: Tricia Youtan (Chairman), Andrew Baldwin, Frances Haigh, Roger Noel, Lynn Lambert, Kate Rowbottom, Jim Sanson, Ian Stannard, Belinda Walters and James Wright

Apologies: Councillors: Chris Brown and Colin Minto

Also Present: Councillors: Ruth Fletcher and David Skipp

6 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Group received the notes of the previous meeting.

7 **COVID 19 - SERVICE UPDATE FROM THE HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

The Head of Environmental Health & Licensing joined the PDAG to give a service update. The department had maintained its services and continued to support businesses successfully during the pandemic, despite an increase in demand for their services.

The presentation began with an overview of the Commercial Team's inspections of businesses and investigations of complaints made by the public. There was a backlog of food safety inspections because of premises closures during lockdown.

Environmental Health had also worked with partners to produce Covid-19 risk assessments and safety policies, which businesses were now required to undertake to protect their employees and the public.

The Licensing team had offered free Tables and Chairs licenses across the district in response to the pandemic, to enable people to eat outside. The pandemic had also caused challenges for Taxi drivers across the district.

The Housing team were continuing with disability adaptations and housing inspections after a lull caused by the lockdown.

There had been a rise of reports of bonfires over the first period of lockdown. However on the whole the messaging regarding bonfires being unacceptable had been effective.

The Head of Environmental Health & Licensing gave an update on Covid-19 Infection rates and Track & Trace within the district. There had been a small number of local outbreaks, which reflected rising infections nationally.

8 **COVID 19 - SERVICE UPDATE FROM THE HEAD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The Head of Housing & Community Services joined the PDAG to give a service update. A new full time employee had joined the Community Development Team, funded through the West Sussex voluntary sector alliance. The new post will allow the team to meet additional demand created by Covid-19, and support the district's Community Partnerships and new community groups.

The Head of Housing & Community Services reminded the Group that a report would be considered by Cabinet on 24 September, which recommended that the Council's Community Lottery continue after a successful first year. It was noted that the Lottery had already raised just under £57,000 for 81 local causes.

The Heath & Wellbeing Team were aiming to shift to delivering programmes with focused outcomes in areas where specific needs had been identified, including helping older residents become active again after the lockdown with the Strong and Steady programme.

Throughout Covid-19 Housing Services had dealt with rising demand for Corona housing placements. 19 rough sleepers had been housed at usual establishments plus an additional resource at the Chatsworth Hotel in Worthing and permanent housing solutions will have been identified for all of them. The Head of Housing & Community Services gave an overview of the plans to grow the Housing Team in response to an identified demand that is set to grow.

The Ministry of Housing, Community & Local Government have made additional funding for rough sleepers available and Housing Services have submitted a bid for facilitating 24/7 supported accommodation.

The Community Safety Team have been reviewing the current Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). A revised order will be consulted on, if approved by Cabinet, with a view to being adopted 1 April 2021. The PSPO applies across the whole of the district to prevent nuisance and anti-social behaviour. The revised PSPO would retain existing activities whilst also adding a range of others including: intoxication by psychoactive substances; antisocial behaviour in car parks and stairwells; selling of periodicals which include a prize completion dependant on skill; no unlicensed busking; and no drinking alcohol in The Causeway and Gardens of Remembrance. The Group noted that the PSPO did not cover criminal activity.

9 **FORWARD PLAN EXTRACT FOR THE COMMUNITY MATTERS AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO**

The Forward Plan extract was noted.

The meeting closed at 6.32 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm

CHAIRMAN