

CABINET MEETING – 17 APRIL 2014
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

MINUTES, PART I

Author(s):

Head of Law and Governance

Purpose of Report:

Presents the minutes of the last meeting held on 13 March 2013 Part I.

Action Required:

To confirm the minutes as a correct record.

At a meeting of the CABINET held in the CIVIC CENTRE (COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1) on Wednesday 13 March 2013 at 2.00pm.

Present:-

Councillor H. Trueman in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Gofton, Kelly, G. Miller and P. Smith

Also present:-

Councillors Shattock, Tate, N.Wright and Wood.

Part I

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 February 2013 Part I (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report - see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Receipt of Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Speding and P. Watson.

Scrutiny Committee – Policy Review Final Reports

The Scrutiny Committee, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Executive Director for Health Housing and Adult Services submitted a joint report (copy circulated) to set out the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee following its scrutiny policy reviews into Accessing Mental Health Services in Sunderland; the Role of the Local Authority in Health Issues and the Operation of the Work Programme in Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Tate, reminded Cabinet Members that last month, the first three policy reviews undertaken by the Panels, were presented to Cabinet. He added that today's report included the outcome and recommendations of a further 3 policy reviews and in the absence of Councillors Howe and T. Martin, he advised that he, together with Councillor Shattock, would introduce the policy reports.

Councillor Shattock highlighted that the policy report from the Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel aimed to look at the variety of services available to people in Sunderland and how they accessed these services. She explained that the review recommendations would be the responsibility of the Health, Housing and Adult Services Directorate and the attached action plan would monitor progress on the recommendations.

Councillor Shattock reported that the review had sought evidence from a variety of stakeholders which had proved extremely beneficial. It was evident from these visits that there was a high level of dedication and passion in Sunderland to help those suffering from mental illness, and in developing these recommendations she welcomed the fact that their views were reflected throughout the report.

Cabinet Members were advised that from this evidence gathering, and more, the Panel had formulated a number of conclusions and recommendations based around themes of:

- developing awareness of mental health and the services available;
- involving frontline staff in service design and delivery;
- enhancing access pathways; and
- monitoring additional funding for mental health services.

Councillor Shattock, as Scrutiny Lead Member, hoped that the Cabinet agreed with the Panel's findings and endorsed this piece of work. In conclusion she thanked all the Panel Members, officers and key stakeholders who had taken part in the review.

Councillor Miller expressed his appreciation to the Scrutiny Panel for the comprehensive work undertaken in relation to the review to understand and evaluate how people access and were signposted to mental health services and the impact of spending reductions on choice and availability of services. He commended the event which had been held in June which had involved a range of individuals, professionals and agencies in addition to a number of visits to services and questionnaires and surveys.

Councillor Gofton reported that the action plan which had been developed by the Scrutiny Panel which identified a number of recommendations with identified leads and timescales was very clearly laid out.

Councillor Tate then drew attention to the Policy Review into the Role of the Local Authority in Health issues. He explained that all of the witnesses spoken to welcomed responsibility for public health being transferred to the local authority. He explained that the Panel had been encouraged by the degree of commitment shown in tackling health inequalities and they could see there were huge opportunities to develop existing good practice.

Councillor Tate reported that the Review Panel felt that it would be local government services such as housing and environmental health that might have the most significant impact on public health outcomes. He advised that the most positive outcomes would be achieved by using the knowledge the local authority had about local neighbourhoods. The Panel therefore made a number of recommendations which were intended to build on that local knowledge base: For example by:-

- Increasing the number of Health Champions
- Using community assets to deliver health and well-being services
- Exploring what could be done through regulatory work in terms of health benefits

Cabinet Members were advised that the Panel did not just consider the emerging health strategy but the impact of all public sector strategies and that was why they had a recommendation that a Health Impact Assessment was integrated with the equality analysis to build in that checklist at the very start of a project.

Councillor Tate reported that the Panel felt it was important that, for new partners to be able to work effectively together, a review took place which would consider the roles and relationships of health bodies within the new structures. He added that this would produce a partnership protocol which would help to provide clarity of roles and relationships and would assist new working arrangements. Scrutiny members had proposed that they use their experience of policy development to carry out the relevant evidence gathering to contribute to the production of a partnership protocol.

In response, Councillor Kelly thanked the Review Panel for the detailed study carried out in the context of the increased powers and responsibilities relating to health that were given to local authorities by the Health and Social Care Act, 2012. He emphasised that the main focus of the review had been to ensure that the transfer of responsibilities from the NHS to local authorities would lead to a transformation in delivering improvements to the health of local people.

Councillor Kelly highlighted that the responsibilities for public health would transfer to the Council on 1st April 2013 and this report would support the thinking in how the work of all parts of the local authority could be harnessed to improve the health of local people, allowing for input by elected members and officers as well as wider partners to progress this important issue. The recommendations would allow the Council to build on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy to have a whole systems approach to improving health and life chances for individuals, families, neighbourhoods and communities across Sunderland.

The attention of Cabinet Members was drawn to the action plan which set out actions in response to the recommendations. Work had already begun on these actions with a number of actions identified to be taken forward following the transfer of the public health team from Sunderland TPCT.

Councillor Tate then presented the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel's review into the operation of the Work Programme in Sunderland. He explained that the Panel had taken the opportunity to visit the offices of the two Work Programme providers operating in the city, namely Avanta and Ingeus. He added that this allowed the Panel to ask questions of senior staff from both firms and also speak to a number of their clients to get their views on the training and support on offer.

Councillor Tate reported that it was from these discussions the basis of the Panel's recommendations had been formed. He advised that underpinning these recommendations was the importance of the Work Programme providers working with and cooperating with the Council and its partners at a strategic level and providing detailed and transparent performance data to the Council on a regular basis. The Panel also noted that the Council had an important role in keeping them as informed as possible of potential investment and employment opportunities in the City and that the Council make the most of out procurement and training policies to help promote job opportunities for local people.

In concluding the presentation Councillor Tate thanked all of the members of the Panel for their hard work and also the officers who have assisted during the process.

Cabinet Members having thanked Councillor Tate and the Scrutiny Committee Members for their very detailed examinations of the Policy Reviews, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee and the proposed Action Plans for their implementation be approved.

Human Resources Committee – 21 February, 2013 – Localism Act 2011 – Pay Policy Statement 2013-2014

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) to recommend to Cabinet to approve of the draft Pay Policy Statement 2013-2014 for subsequent adoption by Council and publication by 31 March 2013.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman reminded Cabinet Members that in February 2012 Personnel Committee considered the pay transparency implications of the Localism Act 2011, including the requirement to produce and publish an annual Pay Policy Statement and reported that this was subsequently agreed by Cabinet and adopted by Council on 28th March 2012. He advised that the policy needed to be updated and published for 2013-14 on the Council's website.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Human Resources Committee noted that the changes to the 2013-2014 Pay Policy Statement were minimal, particularly as there had been a freeze in pay increases. Changes were confined to dates, replacing references to Personnel Committee with Human Resources Committee and deleting references to posts that had been deleted. The Human Resources Committee formally agreed the Pay Policy Statement 2013-14 attached to the report be recommended to Cabinet and Council for adoption and publication by 31 March 2013.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council to adopt and publish the 2013-2014 Pay Policy Statement by 31 March 2013.

Rent concession in respect of the former Thompson Park Nursery building, Thompson Road, Sunderland.

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) seeking approval to grant a retrospective rent concession to the tenant of the former Thompson Park Nursery building, Thompson Road, Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Miller highlighted that the former Thompson Park Nursery building was a Council owned building located within Thompson Park and the Nursery had been closed with effect from 30 September 2007. He outlined that the report sought retrospective approval to a rent concession for the current tenant, the Sunderland Carers Centre, a charitable organisation that worked in partnership with the Council to provide valuable community services

Councillor Miller reported that the building was in a poor state of repair and the granting of a lease with provisions for a rent concession in line with the Council's policy and Best Value obligations enabled £162,000 worth of works to be undertaken by the tenant to a property which would have otherwise fallen into disrepair

Councillor Smith having commended the work undertaken to the building, it was:-

4. REOLVED that approval be given to the granting of the rent concession, as detailed in this report, to the tenant of the former Thompson Park Nursery building, Thompson Road, Sunderland.

Sunderland City Council Local Development Framework : Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek a recommendation to Council to approve the Sunderland Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options for public consultation.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Blackburn reported that the Core Strategy would sit at the heart of the City's Local Development Framework which replaced the Unitary Development Plan. He added that it would be one of the key delivery tools of both the Sunderland Strategy and the Economic Masterplan and would provide a spatial vision for the city until 2032 setting out non-site specific policies for the City regarding the broad distribution of new housing, employment, retail and waste development.

Councillor Blackburn highlighted that with the impending revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy, the City now had the opportunity to set its own more up to date growth requirements and evidence had been prepared to inform these new requirements. He reported that the key proposals within the Core Strategy were to deliver:-

- A minimum of 15,000 new dwellings.
- some 81 hectares of employment land
- 78,900 square metres (gross) of comparison goods and 7,500 square metres (gross) of convenience goods floorspace with the City Centre being the priority location for these requirements
- Two strategic sites to the North of Nissan and at Vaux / Farringdon Row
- A broad range of uses in those areas identified as Locations for Major Development.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Core Strategy must pass through a number of statutory consultation stages prior to its adoption which was programmed in November 2014. Councillor Blackburn detailed how public engagement had so far shaped this version of the Core Strategy. He reported that given the introduction of some fundamental new elements to the plan particularly in relation to employment land, the Council was committed to consulting on the Core Strategy in April and May 2013, prior to progressing to the next statutory draft of the Core Strategy, the Publication Draft. He therefore requested Cabinet to recommend to Council that the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options was approved for consultation and that the Deputy Chief be authorised to make any final amendments to the document prior to its formal publication in April 2013.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council to:-

- (i) approve the Sunderland Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (including the Sustainability Appraisal Report) for the purposes of public consultation and as a material consideration in assessing planning applications, pending its finalisation following public consultation, and
- (ii) authorise the Deputy Chief Executive to make any required amendments to the Sunderland Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (including the Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment Reports) as necessary prior to its publication for public consultation.

A19 Low Carbon Enterprise Zone: Local Development Order (Turbine Park and Vehicle Test Centre site)

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to advise of the responses received following consultation on the A19 Low Carbon Enterprise Zone: Draft Local Development Order (Turbine Park and Vehicle Test Centre site) and to seek approval of the revised A19 Low Carbon Enterprise Zone: Local Development Order (Turbine Park and Vehicle Test Centre site).

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Blackburn highlighted that as part of the coalition Government's plans to stimulate economic growth and job creation, a new wave of Enterprise Zones (EZ) had been launched. He reported that the EZ for Sunderland comprised two adjoining sites located to the south of the Nissan car plant and these were shown on the plan attached to the report. He reminded Cabinet Members that at its meeting in June of last year Cabinet agreed to consult on a draft Local Development Order (LDO) for the EZ and this report sought its approval.

Councillor Blackburn explained that a LDO granted advance planning permission for specified types of development and removed the requirement for a developer to submit an application for planning permission where it was considered that the impact of development would not be significant. He advised that the report detailed the range of uses permitted for the EZ.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Consultation on the draft LDO took place during July and August last year and a total 13 responses were received, 12 expressing support and 1 objecting to the Order. Consideration of representations had resulted in some minor changes to sections of the LDO. Following submission to the Secretary of State he had confirmed that he did not wish to intervene in the making of the Order and the Council was now able to progress the matter.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the amendments made to the A19 Ultra Low Carbon Enterprise Zone: Draft Local Development Order (Turbine Park and Vehicle Test Centre site) in light of responses received during the public consultation and consultation with the Secretary of State be noted;
- (ii) the revised A19 Low Carbon Enterprise Zone: Local Development Order (Turbine Park and Vehicle Test Centre site) be approved.

City Centre Development Opportunity; Closure and Demolition of Crowtree Leisure Centre

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to the closure of Crowtree Leisure Centre and the appointment of contractors, through an existing framework agreement, for the design of a scheme to secure the demolition of the building and to dispose of the cleared site in accordance with the Council's Strategy for Surplus Assets.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman highlighted how the future prosperity and growth of the City Centre was in part dependent on having a supply of development sites that met the modern day needs of developers and investors and that this was one of the stated aims of the City's Economic Masterplan. He reported that the Economic Masterplan recognised the contribution that a high performing City Centre could make towards the economic wellbeing of the City and in this context identified the site of the Crowtree Leisure Centre as an expansion to the Bridges shopping centre. He advised that the re-alignment of St Mary's Way and the new public square proposals meant that it was now the right time for the site of the Crowtree Leisure Centre to be brought forward as a development opportunity.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Crowtree site would enable the extension of the Bridges and provide an opportunity for new retail units of a size that would add to the range currently available in the city centre. Whilst predominantly retail, any new development could also include other complementary uses such as food and drink.

The Chairman reported that authority was sought to progress with the preparation of the site as a development opportunity and as a consequence to commence the process that would see the demolition of the Leisure Centre during the course of this year. He explained that Crowtree itself was no longer fit for purpose and had since October 2011 been used only on a club and block booking basis. He added that the significant capital investment that would be required to make Crowtree fit for purpose could not be justified given the level of investment that the Council had made in alternative and more accessible leisure provision across the city.

Cabinet Members commended the level of investment that had been made by the Council in leisure provision across the city since 2004 so as to provide equitable community access and use to a wide range of accessible sports and leisure facilities. The Chairman reported that he was aware that ongoing meetings were taking place with the Bowling Club Members to find an alternative solution for them.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the closure of Crowtree Leisure Centre be approved;
- (ii) the appointment of contractors through the Scape National Framework to secure the demolition of the Crowtree Leisure Centre be approved as set out in the report; and
- (iii) the Deputy Chief Executive be authorised to explore options for the development of the site and if appropriate to market the site in accordance with the Council's Strategy for Surplus Assets and to report back to Cabinet on the results of the marketing exercise.

School Admissions Arrangements – September 2014

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval for the proposed school admission arrangements for September 2014 and to note further changes to the 2013/14 Schools Admissions Code.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Smith highlighted that the report sought approval of the school admission arrangements for September 2014 prior to submission to Department for Education and publication for parents making application for school places for September 2014. She reported that the proposed admission arrangements had been consulted on, determined, and would be published, in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2012. She added that this included admissions policy and procedures, over-subscription criteria and Published Admissions Numbers (PANS).

Cabinet Members were advised that in order to establish the City's co-ordinated school admission scheme for September 2014 Sunderland City Council was required to carry out consultation on the proposed scheme by March 1st 2013. All local schools were consulted (including VA and Academies) as were CE and RC dioceses and neighbouring local authorities.

Councillor Smith reported that in line with the new Admissions Code a number of changes had been incorporated as set out in 5.3 of the report. She advised that it was important to note that the Published Admission Numbers (PANS) would be set differently from 2013/14 as "Own Admissions Authorities" such as academies were no longer required to consult when they proposed to either increase or keep the same PAN although they must notify the local authority. She clarified that consultation would be required if it proposed that a PAN should be decreased and admissions authorities were able to admit above their PAN in year.

Councillor Smith highlighted that 2014 would again see increased demand for primary school places with 'hotspots' in Washington, Hetton and the west of Sunderland. In addition current applications for the city's Roman Catholic schools were also in excess of the number of places available. She reported that as a solution in Washington it had already been proposed that Biddick Primary PAN would increase from 30 to 45 in 2013 and this would subsequently help to meet demand in 2014 however a further increase would still be required to increase the number of local places in 2014 and Cabinet would be requested to consider these in due course;

Cabinet Members were advised that discussions with Easington Lane Primary School were likely to result in an increase in the PAN from 30 to 45. This would reduce anticipated over demand 2014 but also respond to over subscription in September 2013. In addition following discussions with the Roman Catholic Diocese a proposal had been made to increase the PAN of St Joseph's Primary School (Sunderland) from 30 to 45 responding to an increased demand for places

Councillor Smith reported that the following academies had informed the Council of their intention to increase their PANS for the 2013 Academic Year. These were:-

- Holley Park Primary School –30 to 35
- Benedict Biscop CE Primary School – 30 to 35
- Bexhill Academy – 45 to 60

She added that in the secondary sector there were only a small number of schools over subscribed for 2013 with significant falling rolls and surplus places. The local authority was working with schools to understand the full implications and impact of the falling rolls and would bring forward proposals to address these issues. Monkwearmouth Secondary School had responded to future falling rolls by reducing its PAN from 210 to 180 for the September 2014 Academic Year

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that approval be given to:-
 - (i) the admissions policy and procedures; and
 - (ii) the published admission numbers (PANS).

Commissioning of Short Breaks for Disabled Children from September 2013

The Executive Director Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek agreement to procure Short Breaks for disabled children from September 2013 for a period of three years.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Smith reported that the current contract had been in place since 1st August 2009 and was commissioned as part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme. She advised that the existing contracts had already been extended by 12 months to end of July 2013 on the understanding that there would be a full re-commissioning of contracts from July 2013. However following consultation they had now been further extended to the end of August 2013 so that there was not a change of provider during the school summer holidays.

Cabinet Members were advised that the new contracts would be based upon new specifications focusing on outcomes for children and young people as extending existing contracts would not allow this important improvement to be made

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the process and consultation undertaken to shape and influence the commissioning of Short Breaks for disabled children be noted,
- (ii) approval be given for these services to be procured for a period of three years from September 2013; (with a break clause exercisable by the Council. This break clause needs to be inserted as from September 2014 families have the right to request individual budgets), and
- (iii) a further report on the outcomes of this process be submitted in October 2013.

Proposal to review discretionary Home to School Transport from September 2013

The Executive Director Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an overview of the home to school travel arrangements, and to propose a review of the discretionary arrangements that were currently in place.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Smith reminded Cabinet Members of a proposal identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2013/14 to realise efficiencies of £318,000 on the overall home to school transport budget of £2.2 million. She reported that the proposal around discretionary transport, which would effectively withdraw this provision, would realise efficiencies of £185,000 per annum.

Cabinet Members were advised that the first part of the report focused on the statutory home to school transport policy, the requirements for which were set out in the Education and Inspections Act 1996. Under this legislation, Councils were required by law to provide travel assistance to those pupils who qualified under the policy. A copy of Sunderland's policy was attached at Annex 1 of the report.

Councillor Smith clarified that those who qualified for statutory support were:

- Secondary aged children who lived more than three miles from their nearest secondary school and primary children who lived more than two miles from their nearest primary school;
- Those unable to walk to school because the journey was deemed hazardous;
- SEN pupils whose needs prevented them from walking to their nearest or most appropriate school;
- Children from low income families who lived more than two miles away from their nearest school or nearest faith school.

A very large proportion of the budget was used to support SEN pupils.

Councillor Smith reported that the discretionary policy had two dimensions to it. Firstly the dedicated bus transport to Barnwell, St Michael's Primary Schools and Oxclose Community Academy had arisen from historic closures of other schools in the area, where no end date to provision was given and so this had come to be expected as custom and practice. Pupils who benefited from this discretionary transport would not qualify for free transport under normal distance criteria and the cost of three buses currently stood at £105,000 per year. The second discretionary element was denominational and currently all children who lived more than 3 miles from their nearest faith secondary school received a free travel pass which cost £196 per pass and £90,000 overall per year.

Cabinet Members were advised that the proposal in the report was to review the Council's position with a view to withdrawing all discretionary transport. This was in keeping with similar reviews both regionally and nationally in other local authorities. It was explained that there were two options described in the report which looked at the timing of the proposal and also a commitment to consider any other options to withdraw discretionary transport that arose from the consultation.

Councillor Smith reported that the consultation would be city-wide to obtain as many views as possible and would commence immediately after the Easter break lasting the full half term. She added that a further report would be submitted to Cabinet in June 2013 on the outcomes of the consultation.

Cabinet Members having welcomed the opportunity for the service users to feed into the consultation process, it was:-

10. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) approval be given to consult on the review of current discretionary transport arrangements to schools in Sunderland; and

- (ii) it be noted that a further report will be prepared for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting in June 2013 on the outcomes of public consultation on this matter.

The Transition from Shadow to Full Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Executive Director of Health Housing and Adults Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to set out the steps necessary to transition the Sunderland Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board from Shadow status, by establishing the Board as a Council Committee and to endorse the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Miller highlighted that the Health and Social Care Act stated that each local authority must establish a Health and Wellbeing Board as a Committee of the local authority for its area by 1 April 2013. He reported that the Board had a statutory minimum membership which brought together key NHS, public health and social care leaders in each local authority area to work in partnership and in accordance with the Act it was proposed that all members of the Board would have equal voting rights.

Cabinet Members were advised that in order to achieve this it would be necessary to amend the Council's Constitution and to also set out the Board's terms of reference and rules of procedure.

Councillor Miller advised that the Health and Wellbeing Board was required to produce and adopt a joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy that covered NHS, social care, public health and potentially other wider health determinants such as housing by April 2013. He added that in order to meet the challenge of the change to how public services were being delivered and in an environment of reducing resources, the strategy had been developed to take an assets based approach to the improvement of health and wellbeing in Sunderland to empower residents to take control over the decisions affecting their health and wellbeing. He explained that the Strategy described the three main components of an assets based approach to health and wellbeing, namely:

- Design Principles – those ways of working which must underpin all commissioning decisions and ultimately ways of working for which the Board holds responsibility – including consideration of the Clinical Commissioning Group's commissioning plans
- Assets – the core assets which could be built upon in Sunderland to impact on the health and wellbeing of residents
- Strategic Objectives – the ultimate goals of the strategy which would focus the development of high level actions and commissioning plans that would follow.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Health and Social Care Act also set out the transfer of public health functions into the local authority, so it was necessary to make

provision in the council delegation scheme to reflect the statutory duties of the Director of Public Health.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

11. RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council to:-

- (i) establish the Health and Wellbeing Board as a Council Committee,
- (ii) approve the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board,
- (iii) approve the Health and Wellbeing Board Procedure Rules,
- (iv) approve the Health and Wellbeing Strategy,
- (v) agree delegations to the Director of Public Health, and
- (vi) agree that the membership of the Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board will be:-

Leader of the Council (Chair)
Cabinet Secretary (Vice Chair)
Health Housing and Adults Services Portfolio Holder
Public Health and Wellness Portfolio Holder
Childrens' Services Portfolio Holder
Opposition Member
Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adults
Executive Director for Children's Services
Director of Public Health
Chief Officer – Clinical Commissioning Group
Chair Clinical Commissioning Group
Member Clinical Commissioning Group
HealthWatch representative (to be confirmed by HealthWatch on commissioning)
Chief Executive of the NHS Commissioning Board Local Area Team (or representative)
Chair of the Sunderland Local Strategic Partnership

Sunderland Telecare Service Contributions Policy

The Executive Director Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to introduce a revised Contributions Policy for its Sunderland Telecare Service. The Policy proposed to:-

- a) Increase the number of customers that will pay for the discretionary Telecare Service, where they do not have eligible social care needs and a Personal Budget in place to meet these.

- b) Give customers that have a Personal Budget in place the option of including the Sunderland Telecare Service within the services funded from this budget, with a financial assessment used to determine their overall contribution in line with the councils Contributions Policy for Social care provided through Personalisation.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Miller highlighted that the introduction of a revised Contributions Policy for the Sunderland Telecare Service was required in order to end the current inequity regarding who paid for the service. He reported that it would ensure that the service was fair and transparent whilst at the same time providing increased revenue income to support the ongoing sustainability of the service

Councillor Miller advised that in order to help shape the future Contributions Policy a public consultation exercise took place between 3 December 2012 and 10 February 2013. He explained that every Telecare user received a questionnaire which was designed to help the Council understand the impact of reviewing the Contributions Policy and in the case of some of the most vulnerable customers contact was also made with them, or with their named next of kin to ensure that the views of people who relied on the service the most were sought. He added that consultation also took place with key partners such as AgeUK, the Carer's Centre and Registered Providers of housing. An excellent response had been received of 1691 customers which equated to 13% which made the information that had been gathered statistically valid.

Cabinet Members were advised that based on the feedback from this consultation it was proposed to introduce a revised Contributions Policy with the following key elements:-

- All Telecare equipment would continue to be provided free of charge to customers,
- All customers would ordinarily be expected to contribute towards the monitoring and response elements of the service by making a flat rate contribution equivalent to £12.50 per month (which equated to £150 per year or approximately £2.88 per week). The charge would be reviewed on an annual basis. Levying the charge at this low level would help to ensure that as many people as possible remained with the service and that the Council could continue to address the prevention agenda,

There would be potential exceptions to this flat rate application of the charge namely,

- Where the customer was receiving Telecare as part of a time limited Reablement package.
 - Where customers could not afford pay the contribution.
 - Where the customer resided in a house and their partner or a dependent family member already made a contribution for the service.
- Service users would be billed annually for the service but the payment would be monthly,

- Customers that had been assessed with eligible social care needs and that had a Personal Budget to meet those needs already received a Financial Assessment to determine what level of contribution they needed to make to the cost of their care
- Customers that received a Personal Budget and also received the Sunderland Telecare Service could choose to make the flat rate contribution themselves or instead request that the Telecare Service be included in the service/support options funded from their existing Personal Budget, providing it contributed to discharging one or more of their eligible care needs.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

12. RESOLVED that the revised Contributions Policy for the Sunderland Telecare Service as set out in the report, be approved and be implemented from 1st April 2013.

Sunderland Community Equipment Service (CES) – Procurement of a contractor to carry out alterations to Leechmere Training Centre

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek Cabinet's approval to procure a contract to undertake alterations works to Leechmere Training Centre to convert it for use by Sunderland Community Equipment Service (CES).

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Miller reported that the CES was a jointly funded partnership between Sunderland City Council and Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust (STPCT) to provide community equipment and simple aids for daily living to meet the clinical and social needs of the residents of Sunderland, following assessment by a health or social care professional. He explained that Sunderland CES provided a procurement, storage, delivery, installation, demonstration, collection, cleaning, refurbishment and recycling service.

Cabinet Members were advised that the service currently operated from a privately leased warehouse on Leechmere Industrial Estate and the alteration work to Leechmere Training Centre would create efficiencies as the current lease arrangement would be terminated. The relocation of the Community Equipment Store onto the Council owned Leechmere site would place the store in closer proximity to the equipment refurbishment centre and enable a leaner flow of activity through the lifetime of the equipment cycle.

Cabinet Members having been advised that funding had been made available from the PCT to facilitate the relocation costs of the Community Equipment Service, it was:-

13. RESOLVED that the approval be given to procure a contractor to undertake alterations works to Leechmere Training Centre to adapt the building for use by Sunderland Community Equipment Service.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

At the instance of the Chairman it was: -

14. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a likely disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) (Paragraph 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(Signed) H. TRUEMAN,
Chairman.

Note:-

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.

