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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - KIRKLEES RURAL

Thursday 24th March 2016

Present: Councillor Edgar Holroyd-Doveton (Chair)
Councillors B Armer, D Bellamy, R Barraclough, J Dodds, D Firth,
C Iredale, N Patrick, H Richards, G Turner, N Turner, M Watson

Co-optees: Parish Councillor R Franks

Apologies: C Greaves, T Lyons, A Marchington, D Ridgway, J Taylor and J
Margetts (Co-Optee)

In attendance: Approximately 25 members of public

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone and members of the committee introduced themselves.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 February 2016 be approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the public

RESOLVED – It was agreed that all items be discussed in public session.

5 Deputations / Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 District Committee funded projects 2015 - 2016

Community groups gave feedback on projects funded by the district committee during the past 12 months. These were Honley Business Association, Milnsbridge Village Association, Friends of Churchfield, Scissett First School, Holmfirth Wartime Weekend, Denby Dale and Kirkburton young people community reporting and Kirklees Rural Youth Summit.

It was noted that the projects were good examples of how district committee seed funding has been used to lever a variety of community activity and involvement. The youth summit was an example of collaboration across the district; over 30 young people had attended to explore the key themes for the local area and local communities.

RESOLVED – That community representatives be thanked for providing feedback.

7 District Committee Delegated Budgets

The Committee considered a number of applications for funding.

RESOLVED:- That the funding be allocated as follows:

- (a) £12,380 capital and £3,000 revenue for Streetscene improvements in Kirkburton ward, the work done to be reported to the committee.
- (b) £4,475 revenue for CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) outreach advice provision 2016 – 2017 in Denby Dale ward.
- (c) £2,250 revenue to Shepley Spring Festival 2016 for an audience development project with local communities.
- (d) £1,392 revenue to Kirkburton Parish Council for hanging baskets Summer 2016 in Kirkburton ward.
- (e) £1,440 revenue for floral decorations Summer 2016 in Holme Valley North ward (£1,200) and Holme Valley South ward (£240).
- (f) £1,000 revenue to Friends of Churchfield towards the rebuild of a dry stone wall at Churchfield, Denby Dale.
- (g) £3,200 capital for Speed Indicator Devices in Colne Valley ward 2016 – 2017.
- (h) £250 revenue contribution to the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations for staging an open public celebration on 10th June 2016.

8 Calderdale and Huddersfield Hospital Proposals for Service Changes

Carol McKenna, Chief Officer and Steve Ollerton, Clinical Chair of Greater Huddersfield Clinical Commissioning Group gave a presentation on the proposed changes as part of the public consultation process. Andrew Haigh, Chair of Calderdale and Huddersfield Foundation Trust also attended.

The consultation was planned to run for 14 weeks, to 21st June with drop in sessions booked in across the district and a public meeting on 18th April 6pm -8pm at the John Smith's Stadium.

There were a number of questions and comments related to the impact of the proposals on the Kirklees Rural area. These included:-

- Why isn't there a Kirklees wide health authority? Changes at Dewsbury and Pinderfields Hospitals will mean there is no emergency unit in Kirklees. Huddersfield has a larger population area than Calderdale.

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- Transport links to Calderdale are poor, there are concerns about ambulances getting through the Elland by-pass. People want the best care but find travel difficult for example it takes one hour to travel from Holme Village to Calderdale Hospital. People in rural areas who need emergency care will travel to other areas like Barnsley. Seven minutes is quoted as the average time it takes an ambulance to reach Calderdale hospital from Huddersfield, which means that some journeys are longer than that.
- There is insufficient car parking at Calderdale Hospital.
- The deciding factor for the emergency unit being in Calderdale appears to be value for money and the PFI funding. Why can't both Calderdale and Huddersfield hospitals be of the same standard.
- Concerns about local services being able to meet national targets.

The representatives responded that:

A lot of work has been done with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service, every journey has been analysed over the last 12 months. There are plans for the dual carriageway at Salterhebble to be widened.

Decisions about future services are not just based on population numbers. The majority of people would be seen at the urgent care centre. At present some emergency cases are taken to Leeds. Increasingly different hospitals recognised the need to work together and to have wider networks with a view to sharing skills and resources.

The reason for change is quality of care. The current structure is not sustainable because there are not enough emergency doctors to staff all existing hospitals. NHS advisers had looked into this and recommended that there should be 12 emergency consultants in the Accident and Emergency units. There had never been more than 7 over the last 5 years.

Sixty percent of people going to Accident and Emergency will continue to use the local hospital urgent care centre. Some people are using Accident and Emergency because they will be seen within 4 hours, not because they need emergency services.

The value for money issue is that £90m needs to be spent on Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, which is 60 years old and riddled with asbestos. The Trust had tried to renegotiate the PFI contract over the last 3 years but the investors were not interested in renegotiating.

RESOLVED – That Carol McKenna, Steve Ollerton and Andrew Haigh be thanked for attending the meeting

9 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

10 Dates of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place in the new Municipal Year.