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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - KIRKLEES RURAL

Thursday 29th September 2016

Present: Councillor Michael Watson (Chair)
Councillors B Armer, D Bellamy, J Dodds, D Firth, C Greaves,
E Holroyd-Doveton, T Lyons, A Marchington, N Patrick, K Sims,
Smith, J Taylor, G Turner and R Walker

Parish Council Representatives and Co-opted Members: K Armitage, R Brook and
M Moores

Apologies: Councillor H Richards, Councillor N Turner and J Margetts

In attendance: Approximately 30 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 21 July 2016 be approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the public

It was agreed that all items be considered in public session.

5 Deputations / Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions.

6 Kirklees Cycling and Walking Strategy

Alison Millbourn of Kirklees Public Health gave an update on work towards the cycling and walking strategic framework and delivery plan. The aim is for more people to be cycling and walking to work, for sport and leisure. People need to be more active to prevent obesity. Air pollution is also a major cause of death in Kirklees.

Stakeholders have come together to form a delivery plan. There will be public consultation on the strategy in October.

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The five over-arching objectives are:

- (i) More coaches, leaders and volunteers, support for people to cycle and walk and to sustain activity.
- (ii) More and better places to cycle and walk, a high quality infrastructure providing safe and enjoyable opportunities to participate.
- (iii) Building skills and confidence to cycle and walk, access to appropriate training opportunities.
- (iv) More cycling and walking opportunities, provision of a broad range of opportunities and events.
- (v) Information, media and communications, provision of information and campaigns to encourage people to appreciate the benefits.

The committee discussed what local communities expect to see as part of the strategy and delivery plan and what the local opportunities and barriers are to achieving it.

RESOLVED – That Alison be thanked for the update.

7 Yorkshire Ambulance Service Plans in Kirklees Rural area

Andrew Simpson of Yorkshire Ambulance Service gave an update on proposed service changes to meet increased demand across the Yorkshire and Humber region.

The service is commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Unit to provide a service for the whole of the Yorkshire and Humber region.

The average response time for emergency calls which are life threatening is 8 minutes and for other incidents it is 19 minutes. Patients are taken to more specialised centres. This means better outcomes for patients even though they travel further. Treatment starts in the ambulance.

The staffing situation was that in recent years many qualified staff had left for higher paid jobs for example in the DHSS or Police custody suite. Staff were expected to take more clinical decisions while out on operations. Staff did not receive a pay rise for 5 years. There has been a recent rise by one band to help recruit and retain the workforce. Clear career paths have also been put in place.

Sick patients were being managed for longer, they are more infirm and have more complex issues. In the last year there has been an additional 8% increase in demand for the service, the equivalent of an additional 900 call outs in comparison with the previous year. On a daily basis there is a 30% variation in workload. The highest workload is in the winter time.

In Greater Huddersfield there were 80-90 incidents each day, of which 8-10 are life threatening.

An independent assessment of demand across the whole region had resulted in a recommendation for an additional 242 staff, there are 60 vacancies to fill by April

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2017. This would increase the core staff from 25% to 35%. Stations were being asked to work to new staffing rotas, which would increase efficiency from 75% to 90-95% working on a cluster basis across West Yorkshire.

At the same time the number of rapid response vehicles would decrease, in Honley from 4 to 2 vehicles. While the number of double crew ambulances would increase overall in West Yorkshire, they would reduce from 8 to 5 in Honley.

Also in the Greater Huddersfield area there were 13 community responder sites and defibrillator access. The Fire and Rescue Responder Service at Skelmanthorpe Fire Station was responding to urgent calls for a trial period. Community volunteers including school children were also being trained to respond to heart attacks.

Andrew indicated that the staffing figures were based on patient demand so took into account factors such as people living longer, housing developments etcetera.

A lot of work had been done with the Calderdale and Huddersfield Hospitals Trust to analyse transport and scenarios should either the Calderdale or the Huddersfield site close. Closure of either site would not increase the number of call outs but would increase the time taken for each job. An additional 10,000 staff hours would be needed to compensate for it. This would be accounted for in the commissioning arrangement negotiated for the service in 4- 5 years' time when the hospital changes would come into effect.

Where patients are transported to depends on patient preference and where the specialist centres (therefore better quality care) for health conditions are. Locally Honley ambulances tended to go more to Pinderfields instead of Dewsbury, strokes now go to Pinderfields instead of Barnsley, ambulances wait longer at hospital and then tend to stay further afield. Quality of care on arrival at hospital is key.

Staff based at Honley Ambulance Centre indicated that they could not put the new staffing rota together as this was the worst performing area. The station was a stand by service for other areas and was predominantly working in towns and cities, while staff from other areas covered the rural area.

Andrew indicated that it is key that people who need the service the most get it. The additional patient increase in demand by 8% means at present there is no time for the standby service. Discussions are taking place with staff and Overview and Scrutiny would be looking at the proposals.

RESOLVED – That Andrew be thanked for the update.

8 **Community Projects - Feedback**

The Committee received updates from community groups on the outcomes of projects it has funded.

RESOLVED – That updates be noted from the Friends of Churchfield regarding the rebuilt wall, Shepley Spring Festival and Denby Dale Parish Council regarding Skelmanthorpe Library building.

9 District Committee Budget Report

The Committee considered a number of proposals for funding.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the return to budget of £1,942 capital underspend be noted regarding PROW improvements CVBW 197, Colne Valley Ward.

(2) That funding be approved as follows-

£450 revenue for provision of additional litter bins Tintern Ave and Manor Road, Golcar

£1,000 revenue for community safety activity in response to local issues that may arise in Holme Valley North Ward

£663 revenue for a Christmas tree in the centre of Meltham

£1,000 revenue grant to Honley Business Association towards the Honley Christmas lights switch on

£1,000 revenue grant to Holmfirth Christmas Team towards the purchase of Christmas lights in Holmfirth

£3,000 revenue to resurface the snicket off Abbey Road South, Shepley

£3,500 revenue grant to Clayton West Cricket Club towards a new mower and roller

£8,197 revenue for various Christmas trees in Colne Valley, Golcar, Denby Dale and Kirkburton

£29,387 capital and £613 revenue for replacement fencing and tree work on the river corridor in the centre of Holmfirth

£16,000 New Homes Bonus match funding towards Crossing the Pennines bid to resurface Scout Lane, Cop Hill, Slaithwaite

£39,500 New Homes Bonus towards provision of an off street car park on Springwood Road, Holmfirth.

10 The Hall Education Charity

The Committee considered a nomination to fill the vacancy on the Hall Education Charity, which requires a special knowledge of the Holmbridge area.

RESOLVED – That Mr Beardsell be appointed to serve a further term and Mr Trevor Bellamy be appointed to serve on the charity for a 4 year term from 18 October 2016.

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11 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

12 Dates of future meetings

The dates of future meetings were noted as follows:

Tuesday 22nd November 2016 (change from 24th November), Holme Valley North

Saturday 25th February 2017, Golcar

Thursday 23rd March 2016, Holme Valley South