

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Challenge and Improvement Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 22 December 2015 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan (Chairman)

Councillor Sheila Bibb
Councillor Alexander Bridgwood
Councillor Stuart Curtis
Councillor Chris Darcel
Councillor Stuart Kinch
Councillor John McNeill
Councillor Pat Mewis
Councillor Malcolm Parish
Councillor Angela White

In Attendance:

Ian Knowles	Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer
James O' Shaughnessy	Team Manager, Business Improvement and Corporate Governance
Karen Whitfield	Leisure and Cultural Services Team Manager
Dinah Lilley	Governance and Civic Officer

Apologies:

Councillor David Bond (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Adam Duguid
Councillor Steve England
Councillor Trevor Young (Vice-Chairman)

Also in attendance: Rob Croot, Chief Financial Officer, Lincolnshire West CCG

Membership:

Councillor Malcolm Parish substituted for Councillor England.
Councillor Sheila Bibb substituted for Councillor Duguid

Visiting Members:

Councillor Gillian Bardsley
Councillor Owen Bierley

47 MINUTES

- (a) Meeting of the Challenge and Improvement Committee held on 19 November 2015 (CAI.32 15/16)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Challenge and Improvement Committee held on 19 November 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

48 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

49 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE (CAI.33 15/16)

The Committee gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule, setting out the current position of previously agreed actions, as at 14 December 2015.

It was reported that all actions within the report were marked as completed since the previous meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the Matters Arising Schedule as at 14 December 2015 be received and noted.

Note Councillor Bridgwood joined the meeting at 6.49pm

50 SCRUTINY OF PUBLIC BODY – LINCOLNSHIRE WEST CCG

Rob Croot, Chief Financial Officer of the Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group attended the Committee to give a presentation and provide responses to previously supplied questions.

Mr Croot's powerpoint presentation outlined the definition of a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which had emerged via the Localism Act 2011 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012. CCGs were part of, and regulated by, NHS England. There were four CCGs in Lincolnshire and were subject to public accountability, with patient and public participation.

The Lincolnshire West CCG covered 37 practices and over 100 GPs. Age and growth profiles for the area were shown, and the annual budget of £305m was described. The breakdown of the allocation was shown, with the greatest proportion being Acute Hospitals spending, accounting for 48% of the budget.

The Vision, Mission and Goals for the CCG were set out.

The people of Lincolnshire West receive compassionate care and excellent health services that promote healthy lifestyles and prevents illness.

We will achieve our vision by:-

- Working with others to ensure high quality and co-ordinated healthcare.
- Working with you to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce inequalities.
- Working together to encourage the best way of doing things.

1. Continually improve the health of all those living within Lincolnshire West
2. Reduce health inequalities and improve the quality of life for all
3. Help patients access high quality, responsive healthcare of their choice
4. Work together to develop healthcare designed for the needs of our patients, their families and carers.
5. Ensure we have effective, value for money services that improve patient experience and safety.

The Lincolnshire West CCG structure was shown which described lines of accountability and formal relationships with external partner organisations, and a further slide listed those partners.

Neighbourhood teams were being developed to enable people to be:

- Supported to remain well, independent and safely at home
- Maintained as close to home as possible during a crisis
- Supported to return home quickly and safely following a stay in hospital
- Supported to experience a good death when at end of life.

By working together these teams would aim to:

- Work in a multi-disciplinary way to provide more joined up care. People would be treated and cared for closer to home where possible and would only be admitted to hospital when necessary.

The future remained uncertain with the prospects of integration, devolution, Lincolnshire Health and Care strategic plans, and increasing financial pressures.

The Chairman thanked Mr Croot for his presentation and proceeded to put the questions which had been previously circulated.

1. How can the work of the CCG and West Lindsey District Council be more joined up to ensure that we are working together on our respective priorities at local issues? For example during our Corporate Plan refresh West Lindsey have identified priorities relating to dementia care and prevention as occurrences of this disease are set to rise by 60% in 2030 and one in five of our residents have a disability.

Mr Croot's response was that dementia care was a priority of the CCG and Neighbourhood Teams a key part of the work. Dementia care primary navigators were to start to seek out issues and bring these to the attention of medics. Work was also ongoing to identify those at risk of diabetes and preventable illnesses. Local firms such as Ping had a good record of

employee care and had become a local partner in order to share good practice.

2. There appears to an issue both recruiting and retaining qualified health professionals in Lincolnshire. What is the current level of vacancies and how do the CCG plan to address this? Also taking into account the planned growth for Gainsborough additional GP surgeries will be required. How do the CCG plan to address this?

Recruitment and marketing initiatives were ongoing and work being undertaken with the local Medical Committee. There was a national shortage and were currently 40 GP vacancies in Lincolnshire, of which 2-3 were in Gainsborough. Health Education East Midlands Primary care development group for Lincs (SH) was providing funding for international recruitment, federated working, and new models of care. Concern was expressed about the level of housing growth and it was necessary to ensure that developer contributions were received.

Committee Members questioned why s106 agreements required financial contributions rather than the building of a new centre, and it was explained that a new practice would require a new provider and it was preferable for practices to collaborate. It was also asked what marketing initiatives were being undertaken and it was hoped that close working with West Lindsey District Council would continue and develop further.

3. Across just our District there appears to be a vast difference in waiting time for GP appointments which could lead to health issues escalating or people self-medicating. Are there any plans in place to standardise waiting times and if not how will this be improved?

This issue was closely related to the recruitment problems above, and it was difficult to keep up with demand. It was not always possible to see a GP of one's choice, however urgent cases were being prioritised and should be seen the same day.

The Chairman noted that as time was getting on, rather than working through the remainder of the answers to the questions that had been provided, Mr Croot provide his answers to the Governance and Civic Officer, who would then circulate these around the Committee.

The Chairman thanked Mr Croot for his informative and interesting presentation, and looked forward to receiving the remainder of the responses.

51 PRE BUDGET SCRUTINY (CAI.34 15/16)

The Director of Resources presented Members with an update on progress of the development of the 2016/17 Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Budget Strategy 2015/16 to 2019/20 was approved by Council in March 2015. This established a baseline for services to prepare initial revenue budgets for 2016/17 onwards based on the cost of providing the current level of service and approved policy decisions, against the estimated reduction in funding, thus resulting in a net savings target for each future year.

The purpose of the Medium Term Financial Plan was to link the Council's strategic planning process with the budget process and to ensure consistency between them. It was a mechanism that attempted to match future predicted resource and expenditure, identifying potential shortfalls and provided the financial framework for the next five years. Its purpose was to inform members and to suggest a way of dealing with future financial pressures facing the Council.

The process to prepare and update the baseline to develop the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 – 2020/21 commenced in July this year.

Councillor Darcel sought clarification on some of the figures and the Director of Resources agreed to meet with Cllr Darcel separately. The Chairman reminded Members that if they had specific questions on report details they should contact relevant officers prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED that Members be assured of progress towards delivering a balanced financial position and maintaining sustainability going forward

52 REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND DELIVERY – ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEMBER WORKING GROUP (CAI.35 15/16)

The Director of Resources introduced the report describing how the progress and delivery model was developed by a working group in 2013 and implemented from April 2014. The measures agreed by that group were listed in appendix A of the report. The group agreed a set of measures that formed a 'balance scorecard' approach for each service area. Progress and delivery provided a quarterly report to members on an exceptions basis highlighting the under and over performing measures and projects.

The proposed working group would be asked to look at the following aspects of performance management:

- (a) Review the measures attached at appendix A and confirm they are the appropriate measures
- (b) Consider how these measures provide a performance framework for the organisation that allows members to monitor progress against the Corporate Plan, service delivery and implemented projects.
- (c) Consider the reporting format for future reports.

Members of the Committee agreed that it would be useful to see regular reporting on some aspects of the Council's business rather than just be exception. This would be for the working group to determine.

Councillors Darcel, Bond, England and Curtis agreed to comprise membership of the working group. It was proposed that the first meeting of the Group take place early in 2016 and report back to the March meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED that:

- a) Councillors Darcel, Bond, England and Curtis make up the Working Group to undertake the review of Progress and Delivery; and
- b) the working group review the measures that form part of the progress and delivery and consider a performance management framework that enables members and officers to have assurance that services and projects are performing well and being delivered.

53 FORWARD PLAN (CAI.30 15/16)

The Governance and Civic Officer presented a report setting out the items of business due to be considered through the committee system and asked Members to identify any reports that they wished to be brought before the Challenge and Improvement Committee for pre-scrutiny.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

54 WORK PLAN (CAI.31 15/16)

The Work Plan for the business of the Challenge and Improvement Committee was presented.

Members of the Committee requested that a number of issues be considered by the Committee:

With the development of Agile Working in the Council, it was felt that the Committee would like to see what benefits or financial implications had arisen from the policy, and whether the exercise had been worth it in terms of office space rental, officer availability, increased or decreased costs. Councillor Kinch had a number of issues to be raised and would email the list.

It was suggested that the recently approved review of car parking be scrutinised for its impacts and to see if its objectives had been met by the end of the year. The Director of Resources pointed out that the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee had requested that a further report on the impact of fees and charges (including car parking) be submitted to the Committee six

months after implementation, and that same report could be put before the Challenge and Improvement Committee.

It was suggested that a representative be invited from Anglian Water to address the Committee, particularly in light of the flood risk implications for some planning applications. It was further noted that some matters were within the remit of the Environment Agency rather than Anglian Water and it may be useful to have both together.

The Director of Resources indicated that given that there were only two meetings of the Committee remaining in the current civic year some of the above items would need to carry forward. However some of the matters discussed would be resource intensive in terms of officer time.

The Chairman also requested that a Task and Finish Group be set up to look into the workings of the Civic Office, as soon as possible in the New Year. The matter could be included within the remit of the existing Democracy Working Group, however given that the current vice-chairman was a member of this group his position could be compromised, therefore the Challenge and Improvement Committee Chairman agreed to take his place.

The Director of Resources agreed that the implications and feasibility of the above items being included in the workplan be discussed at the Chairman's briefing prior to the next Committee.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Work Plan be noted; and
- (b) the suggestions made throughout the course of the debate and listed above, be considered at the next Chair's Briefing.

The meeting concluded at 8.11 pm

Chairman