FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Wednesday, 29 March 2023

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor F Birkett (Chairman)

Councillor Ms S Pankhurst (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs P M Bryant, Miss T G Harper, Mrs J Needham and Mrs K K Trott

Also Present: Councillor Miss J Burton, Executive Member for Health & Public Protection (for items 8 & 9)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs T L Ellis.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday 01 November 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Savings Opportunities

The Chairman announced that, as members would be aware, savings opportunities to close the £2.4m budget gap required by financial year 2026/27 are currently being explored by officers, with a view to the Executive considering the options proposed in the summer of this year.

By the end of April, the Scrutiny Panel Chairmen will be asked for their ideas and those of their panels regarding any savings opportunities that they feel should be considered as part of the savings programme. The Chairman urged members to think about the services within the Health and Public Protection portfolio and to advise him of any ideas they may have where savings opportunities could be explored.

The Chairman stated that everyone has a part to play in finding ways to bridge the gap and every idea will be seriously considered, regardless of whether it has the potential to realise a small or large amount of saving. The Chairman also stated that he would be happy to talk through any ideas with members so that he could then put them forward as potential savings opportunities in April.

Wicor Recreation Ground car park

The Chairman announced that he would like to make members aware that a petition was received and accepted by the Council yesterday to “Scrap the proposals to introduce parking charges at Wicor Recreation Ground in Portchester” and is now live on the Council’s website.

The petition cut-off date will be late morning on Monday 03 April so that it can be verified, and all signatures counted, in readiness for a decision regarding parking charges at Wicor Recreation Ground to be considered by the Executive on Monday evening.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OR ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

Councillor Mrs P M Bryant declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 on the agenda as she is a member of Fareham Rotary Club, which owns the Wheelhouse at Hillhead coastal car park.

5. DEPUTATIONS

Deputations outlined in the table below were received in respect of item 7 – Extension of Coastal car parking Charges:

Name	Type of deputation
Stephen Potter	Written
Karin Wipfler	Written
Paul Woodman	Written
Roger Britton	In Person
Becky Reed	Written
Karen Asher	Written
Maria Sabiston	Written
Jodie Littlefield	Written
Linda Johnson	Written
Emma Wells	Written
Simon Freeman	Written
Graeme Moir	Written
Joanne Taylor	Written
David Edwards	Written
Liz & Michael MacEnri	Written
Phil Marlow	Written
Lyn Edmunds	Written
Alex Rawlinson	Written
Sarah Holmes	In Person

7. EXTENSION OF COASTAL CAR PARKING CHARGES

This item was brought forward on the agenda and heard directly after item 5.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Ms C Bainbridge and P M Nother addressed the Panel on this item.

Deputations were received in respect of this item, as outlined in the table at item 5 on the agenda.

Councillor Mrs P M Bryant declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as she is a member of Fareham Rotary Club which owns the Wheelhouse at Hillhead Coastal car park.

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Leisure and Community which invited Members to scrutinise and make comments to the Executive in respect of the proposed extension of coastal car parking charges in the Borough.

At the request of the Chairman, it was confirmed that 123 comments have been received from members of the public regarding the proposals. 58 referenced the potential issues with local roads, 83 raised concern regarding access to sport - particularly for older and younger people, 36 related to the

impact that the charges would have on AFC Portchester and 58 referenced other matters such as the impact on Shearwater overflow car park.

Councillor Mrs Trott noted the need to find increased revenue to off-set expenses but felt that the proposal prioritised income over the health and well-being of residents. Councillor Mrs Trott also noted that Wicor is a recreational/leisure car park and that charges are not being proposed in similar car parks in other parts of the Borough.

Members discussed the potential impact that the proposals may have on local roads and felt that it would be important to ensure that appropriate enforcement by Hampshire County Council is carried out. In response to a question raised by Councillor Miss Harper regarding the impact of pay and display parking installed at Hill Head coastal car park, the Head of Environmental Health reported that Hampshire County Council's view is that, within a short period of time, people get used to having to pay.

Members were concerned about the cost of living crisis and the impact that these proposals might have on families who are already struggling. However, it was felt that the taxpayer should not be expected to cover the cost of parking charges, that season tickets are available which have worked well in other coastal car park locations since charging was introduced and that there are alternative car parks nearby that do not charge to park.

The excellent work done by AFC Portchester in providing significant health and wellbeing benefits to the local community was recognised by the Panel during the discussion on this item.

The Chairman commented on the positive impact that public engagement has on the Council's decision making process and noted the concerns that had been raised in respect of the proposals. The Chairman reminded members that the final decision on this matter did not rest with the Panel and that members were being asked to consider the proposals and pass any comments to the Executive to assist with the decision that would be made at the meeting on the 03 April 2023. The Chairman explained that, if approved by the Executive, a four-week consultation to amend the Fareham Borough Council Off-Street Parking Order would be undertaken in May 2023.

RESOLVED that the Health & Public Protection Scrutiny Panel agrees unanimously that the recommendations contained in the report be taken forward to the Executive for consideration.

6. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

(1) Review of parking charges at coastal locations and options identified in September 2020 Review

There were no comments or questions for clarification in respect of this item.

(2) Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order

There were no comments or questions for clarification in respect of this item.

(3) Traffic Regulation Order at Council owned car parks - consideration of Consultation responses

There were no comments or questions for clarification in respect of this item.

(4) Proposed changes to Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order

There were no comments or questions for clarification in respect of this item.

8. APPROVAL OF SCOPING REPORT - SCRUTINY OF PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Miss J Burton, Executive Member for Health and Public Protection, addressed the Panel on this item.

The Panel considered a draft scoping report for inclusion with an invitation to Portchester Crematorium to attend the meeting of the Panel on 20 June 2023 to provide members with an opportunity to scrutinise the Crematorium's preparedness for maintaining an effective service for the residents of Fareham.

Members discussed whether the proposals for a new crematorium to be built at Daedalus would have an impact on Portchester Crematorium and noted that this would most likely be covered at the meeting on 20 June.

RESOLVED that the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel approves the draft Scoping report for inclusion in the invitation to Portchester Crematorium to attend the meeting of the Panel on 20 June 2023.

9. HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY PANEL PRIORITIES

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Miss J Burton, Executive Member for Health & Public Protection, addressed the Panel on this item.

In discussing the Scrutiny priorities for the Panel, the following items were discussed:

(i) That representatives from Queen Alexandra Hospital be invited to attend a meeting of the Panel towards the end of the next municipal year to report on the new Accident & Emergency facilities at the Hospital. It was agreed that a scoping report would be prepared for the Panel to approve for inclusion in the invitation.

(ii) That an update on the implementation of the revised CCTV arrangements following the dissolution of the Fareham & Gosport CCTV Partnership be provided. This will also cover other areas of Community Safety that will be of interest to members following a recent Audit. Proposed dates will be provided at the next meeting.

(iii) That the Police and Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones, be invited to a future meeting of the Panel to report on current issues.

RESOLVED that the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel agrees that items (i) to (iii) as outlined above be added to the Scrutiny Priorities Plan.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 7.00 pm).