

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Tuesday, 20 June 2023

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor M J Ford, JP (Chairman)

Councillor (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs T L Ellis, Miss T G Harper, Mrs J Needham,
Ms S Pankhurst, Mrs K K Trott and S Ingram (deputising for Mrs
P M Bryant)

Also Present: Councillor Miss J Burton, Executive Member for Health and
Public Protection for items 7 and 8.



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs P M Bryant.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OR ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

(1) Extension of Coastal Car Parking Charges

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

7. SCRUTINY OF PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM SERVICES

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 received a presentation from representatives of Portchester Crematorium to inform members of the Panel of the ability of the Crematorium to accommodate the needs of a growing population within the Borough of Fareham and beyond.

The presentation covered the governance arrangements of the crematorium, the way it is funded and an overview of its current capacity to deliver services. The presentation also explained how a Development Plan is approved every 2 years which outlines current and future developments based on projected population growth and highlights key challenges and opportunities going forward. A copy of the presentation is attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

In discussing the capacity of the Crematorium to meet future demand, the Panel was assured that based on ONS statistics, which predict future population figures and numbers of deaths, demand for services can continue to be met. Any future changes to ONS projections which take into account the planned development at Welborne Garden Village will be reported to the

Crematorium Joint Committee so that they can be taken into account in the Crematorium's Development Plan. The Panel also noted that the Crematorium's operating permit will allow the current operating hours to be extended should this become necessary.

The Panel discussed the impact that the new cremator burners will have on the environment and noted that whilst it is not possible for the crematorium to achieve carbon neutrality, the new cremators will be used efficiently by maximising capacity at each use and that the Crematorium is exploring other opportunities to offset its carbon footprint such as recycling flowers and ensuring the gardens of remembrance are peat free.

RESOLVED that the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel notes the content of the presentation.

8. OPPORTUNITIES PLAN 2023-2027

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

Councillor Mrs K K Trott left the meeting during this item.

The Panel received a presentation which provided an overview of the way in which the Opportunities Plan has been developed and the significant Year 1 project proposals that relate to the Scrutiny Panel area. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes as Appendix B.

Members commented that it would have been useful to have received details of the proposals in advance of the meeting for prior consideration and to consider any further suggestions to put forward for inclusion within the Plan. The Head of Finance and Audit advised that this is a 2 year plan and that any additional ideas put forward can still be considered for inclusion in the Plan.

The following suggestions were put forward for inclusion in the Plan:

- (i) An increase to the charges at Portchester crematorium as the current charges are lower than other local crematoria; recognising that this would need to be a decision of the Joint Committee due to Partnership Arrangements with neighbouring Local Authorities.
- (ii) The Members Allowances Scheme be reviewed to consider whether there are savings that can be made.
- (iii) Services be made more competitive to encourage Welborne developers to use the Council's Building Control Partnership for Building Regulation services rather than private consultants.

RESOLVED that having asked questions, made comments and put forward further proposals for consideration, as outlined above, the Health & Public Protection Scrutiny Panel notes the content of the presentation.

9. APPROVAL OF SCOPING REPORT FOR SCRUTINY OF QUEEN ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Panel considered a Draft Scoping report for inclusion in an invitation to Queen Alexandra Hospital to attend a future meeting of the Panel to answer members' questions on the ability of Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS

Trust to manage increasing demand on services from within Fareham and beyond, particularly with the development of Welborne Garden Village over a number of years.

RESOLVED that the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel agrees that the draft Scoping report be included in an invitation to Queen Alexandra Hospital to attend a future meeting of the Panel.

10. HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY PANEL PRIORITIES

Members discussed the future scrutiny priorities for the Health and Public Protection Panel and agreed that there were no additional items for inclusion on the Scrutiny Priorities Plan at this time.

(The meeting started at 6.01 pm
and ended at 7.39 pm).