

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
HEALTH ENGAGEMENT PANEL HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,  
HERTFORD ON TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2012,  
AT 7.00 PM

---

PRESENT: Councillor N Symonds (Chairman)  
Councillors R Beeching, E Buckmaster,  
S Bull, K Crofton and P Moore

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews, P Ballam,  
Mrs R Cheswright, L Haysey,  
Mrs D Hollebon, G McAndrew, P Phillips and  
C Rowley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Barfoot	- Environmental Health Promotion Officer
Marian Langley	- Scrutiny Officer
George A Robertson	- Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services
Paul Thomas	- Environmental Health Manager

1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was moved by Councillor P Moore and seconded by  
Councillor N Symonds, that Councillor K Crofton be appointed  
Vice Chairman for the Civic Year 2012/13.

RESOLVED – that Councillor K Crofton be appointed  
Vice Chairman for the Civic Year 2012/13.

## 2 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Health Engagement Panel meeting on 6 February 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Members that, following the conclusion of the meeting of the Health Engagement Panel, there would be a workshop to consider health and wellbeing strategy priorities which linked into the formal consultation process co-ordinated by Hertfordshire County Council. A formal response would be submitted on behalf of the Council and the workshop had been designed to assist in this process.

The Chairman thanked former Chairman Councillor Mrs D Hone for her help and support in furthering the work of the Health Engagement Panel.

The Chairman drew Members' attention to the new arrangements in terms of recording attendance and reminded Members to ensure that the Attendance Sheet was signed before leaving the meeting.

## 4 REVIEW OF EAST HERTS PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY : 2011/12 ACTION PLAN YEAR END REVIEW

The Executive Member for Housing and Health submitted a report updating Members on the Council's work in implementing the 2011/12 Action Plan.

The Environmental Health Promotion Officer provided a presentation to Members summarising the content of the Action Plan for 2011/12 which contained 45 projects around key topic areas of:

- Smoking
- Physical Activity

- Healthy eating
- Obesity
- Other health factors
- Powers of influence

Of the projects, it was noted that 41 had been achieved. The 2011/12 Action Plan strengths were outlined and analyses of the success of the projects provided.

Councillor P Moore referred to a difficult situation at a children's centre when a child had been repeatedly given an unhealthy lunch by the mother. She queried what could be done to help carers ensure that healthy meals were provided without provoking a negative response and undermining the working relationships with vulnerable families. The Environmental Health Promotion Officer explained what projects had been undertaken to raise awareness of healthy eating in the District. He referred to the social complexities of relating to certain individuals and the need to work alongside them and introduce new ideas in a mutually supportive manner.

Councillor G McAndrew commented that, as a foster parent, it could be difficult introducing some children to healthy diets as previous caregivers had brought up these children on a diet of sweets and crisps. This was, he stated, a normal diet and way of life in some families. He urged those involved when working with such individuals, to move slowly when introducing new ideas.

Councillor K Crofton sought and was provided with clarification on the source of some statistics.

Councillor D Andrews queried the comparison of statistics relating to deaths from smoking with those from road accidents. The Environmental Health Promotion Officer undertook to review these figures.

Councillor G McAndrew queried whether social media could be used in promoting the health strategy. The Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services

stated that the communication team were looking at ways of making better use of new media and of the associated issues in ensuring the Council's reputation was not compromised.

Councillor S Bull referred to the project aimed at encouraging people not to smoke. The Environmental Health Promotion Officer stated that those individuals were encouraged to seek the advice from professionals. The use of electronic cigarettes was discussed. It was noted that the use of these cigarettes was not currently regulated, could be dangerous and these items were being tracked by Trading Standards.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Health Engagement Panel, thanked the Environmental Health Promotion Officer for his excellent work.

The Health Engagement Panel supported and commended the progress made in implementing the Public Health Strategy Action Plan for 2011/12 as set out in the report now submitted.

RESOLVED - that the progress made with implementing the Public Health Strategy's Action Plan for 2011/12 as set out in the report now submitted, be supported and commended.

## 5 WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman of the Health Engagement Panel submitted a report on the future work programme of the Panel.

The Executive Member for Housing and Health suggested that the Panel invite the district/borough council representative on the Health and Wellbeing Board (Cllr Lynda Needham from North Herts) to speak on the work of the Board and the role of district councils within the new arrangements. The Executive Member for Housing and Health also suggested that the local lead General Practitioners (GPs) be invited to speak on the issue of GP Commissioning Groups. This was supported.

Councillor R Beeching was concerned about the issue of "E"-

Safety (and children) and suggested that this be a matter for consideration. The Scrutiny Officer suggested that this matter could be referred for consideration within the wider remit of Community Scrutiny Committee under community safety and be part of their statutory duty to review at least one Crime and Disorder topic each year. This was supported.

RESOLVED – that the work plan, as amended be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Chairman .....
Date .....