

Meeting POLICY COMMITTEE

Date Thursday 15 July 2021 (commencing at 10.30 am)

membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Ben Bradley MP (Chairman)
Bruce Laughton (Vice-Chairman)

Chris Barnfather
Richard Butler
Neil Clarke MBE
John Cottey
Jim Creamer
Boyd Elliott
Kate Foale
Glynn Gilfoyle
Keith Girling

Richard Jackson
Philip Owen
David Shaw
Helen-Ann Smith
Tracey Taylor
Michelle Welsh
Gordon Wheeler
Jason Zadrozny

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

None

OTHER COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Pringle

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Anthony May	Chief Executive's Department
Marjorie Toward	
Nigel Stevenson	
Michael Higginson	
James Silverward	
Keith Ford	

Adrian Smith	Place Department
Derek Higton	
Matthew Neal	

OTHER ATTENDEES

Miriam Duffy	National Rehabilitation Centre
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1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting of Policy Committee held on 17 June 2021, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

No interests were declared.

4 THE NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTRE - UPDATE

Miriam Duffy, Programme Director for the National Rehabilitation Centre, joined the meeting remotely to introduce the latest update report on the establishment of the Centre and to respond to Members' comments and queries.

RESOLVED: 2021/046

- 1) That, following Members' consideration of the report and presentation, no further information was required at this stage.
- 2) That the ongoing progress with the development of the Centre was welcomed and the revised timetable was supported.
- 3) That a further update be provided to a future meeting of Policy Committee

5 COVID-19 UPDATE REPORT

In response to issues raised by Members, officers agreed to:

- raise the issue of vaccination plans for University students in a meeting with the University Vice-Chancellors taking place on 16 July and to circulate an update subsequently to Members;
- provide an update to Members on efforts to increase vaccination take up by social care staff (both those of the Council and external providers);
- give further consideration about how best to address the variance in levels of vaccination take-up amongst schools in the County.

RESOLVED 2021/047

- 1) That, having considered the issues contained within the report, the continuing efforts of services to ensure effective service provision during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic be endorsed.
- 2) That a further update be submitted to Policy Committee in September 2021.

6 COVID-19 RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

In response to an issue raised by Members during discussions, officers agreed to amend the wording in the 2nd bullet point of the Inequalities section (page 13 of the draft Recovery Framework document) to underline that the risk of widening inequalities has already been realised.

RESOLVED 2021/048

That the COVID-19 Recovery Framework, as amended by the Committee, which outlined the support structures and flexible approaches to managing the uncertainty of the COVID19 pandemic through the remainder of 2021-22, be approved.

7 SMARTER WORKING – HYBRID WORKING STRATEGY FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL

In response to concerns raised by Members during discussions, officers agreed to share the planned guidance for Members about attending the 23 July Full Council meeting in person at County Hall, along with the risk assessment document which had informed that guidance.

RESOLVED: 2021/049

- 1) That the Council's Hybrid Working Strategy be approved.
- 2) That Personnel Committee receives future reports on the implementation, progress and review of the Hybrid Working Strategy, with the first review to be undertaken after 6 months.

8 WORK PROGRAMME

In introducing the Work Programme, the Leader agreed to the inclusion of the following items for future meetings (with relevant dates to be agreed by officers):

- Highways Review Working Group Update
- Economic Prosperity Committee Update, including the issue of devolution

RESOLVED: 2021/050

That the work programme be updated as discussed.

The meeting closed at 12.33 pm.

CHAIRMAN