

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP  
HELD ON**

19 October 2017

7.30 - 8.19 pm

**PRESENT**

**Overview Working Group Members**

Councillor Ian Beckett (Chair)  
Councillor David Carter  
Councillor Simon Carter  
Councillor Michael Garnett  
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop  
Councillor Clive Souter  
Councillor John Strachan

**Officers**

Lisa Thornett, Customer Services Officer  
Simon Freeman, Head of Finance  
Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing

9. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

10. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

11. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

*The Working group agreed to look at Item number six (Community Engagement Strategy) on the agenda before item number five (Local Council Tax Support Scheme Proposals 2018/19)*

12. **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor David Carter asked that in reference to minute 5 regarding Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It states that a focus group would be arranged, however no contact has been made as yet.

Councillor Ian Beckett advised the group that there has been a delay however; communications regarding the group will be sent out in the next seven to ten days.

13. **LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME PROPOSALS 2018/19**

Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and James Straw, Senior Manager – Benefits, gave a briefing regarding the Local Council Tax Support Scheme Proposals 2018/19.

**AGREED** that the Overview Working Group:

- A. Acknowledges the current position regarding the 2017 / 18 Local Council Tax Support Scheme and endorses continuing stability within the scheme for 2018/19.
- B. Recommends to Cabinet that, following the results of the consultation process, the scheme is amended with effect from 1 April 2018 as follows:
  - i. To accept documentation from the Department of Works & Pensions as an intention to claim Council Tax Support;
  - ii. To disregard the new Bereavement Support payments for working age applicants; and
  - iii. To allow for discretion in regards to department of Works & Pensions notification for working age CTS claims.

Councillor Ian Beckett also wanted it noted that a number of Members of the Committee made observations of how we consult and the process that led up to the report in relation to the Community Engagement Strategy which the Council are due to embark on. This consultation could be one that is current and could be scrutinised as part of the review.

14. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY - SCOPING REPORT**

Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing gave a brief update on where the Council are currently at with regards to the Community Engagement Strategy. Jane advised the group that she aims to present an interim report to the group in the March 2018 meeting, with a view to the final report being presented in June or July of the new municipal year.

Members showed some concern with how the consultation was made and the length of time it has taken to get this far. Jane has agreed to recirculate, to the group, the report from the campaign company which will include the stakeholders that were consulted.

It was **AGREED** that in progression of the report should there be items that the Council should be acting on, likewise, if there is something that Council are truly making a positive difference; it should be brought back to the group at the next available meeting and incorporated into the report.

15. **WORK PLAN**

Councillor Simon Carter noted that currently at the January 2018 meeting there does not seem to be any reports. However Simon Freeman, Head of Finance has agreed to present the Treasury Management Strategy review in the January meeting.

This was agreed and had been added onto the workplan.

16. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW  
WORKING GROUP