

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF HEALTH SERVICES TASK AND FINISH GROUP
THURSDAY, 15 JULY 2021 AT 1.00 PM

Present: Councillors D Bowater
 R Goodchild
 V Harvey (Vice-Chair)
 S Jones
 T Morris
 S Owen
 G Perham (Chair)

Also in attendance: I Haynes, Head of Grounds and Environmental Services
 M Saccoccio, Town Clerk
 S Sandiford, Deputy Town Clerk, Depury Town Clerk
 Cllr T Stock (Central Bedfordshire Council)
 A Selous, MP.

Members of the public: 0

13/HS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Nikki Barnes (NHS), Patricia Coker (Central Bedfordshire Council) and Dr J Henderson due to a meeting of local Primary Care Trust clinical directors regarding the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

Whilst appreciating the demands of the pandemic, the Task and Finish Group expressed disappointment that key participants were unable to attend the meeting.

14/HS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R Goodchild declared a personal interest as a member of the Salisbury House GP Practice Patient Participation Group.

No pecuniary declarations were made or dispensations requested.

15/HS QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

16/HS MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) The Task and Finish Group received the minutes of the Health Services Task and Finish Group meeting held on 18 December 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health Services Task and Finish Group meeting held 18 December 2020 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

(b) There were no updates to give in respect of the minutes. The Task and Finish Group noted that it had requested sight of the strategic outline case and involvement in the service modelling work. Frustration was expressed at the lack of access to planning processes for the integrated hub project as it was felt that this did not allow elected Members to meet their responsibilities to residents.

It was disappointing that despite the Task and Finish Group having agreed to a later follow-up meeting than had been desired, no interim updates or additional information had been received in the meantime.

17/HS CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL: INTEGRATED HEALTH AND CARE HUBS UPDATE

It was agreed that a vote of thanks be sent to Dr J Henderson to pass on to all involved in the Leighton-Linslade Covid-19 vaccination programme which had been so very successful and run extremely well.

RESOLVED to request that a formal letter of thanks be sent in respect of the local vaccination programme.

Town Council officers had sourced and circulated copies of the presentations given to the Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board in April 2021 and in July 2021 in respect of the integrated health hub project.

The group noted the information but expressed frustration that these were generic documents regarding Central Bedfordshire and contained very little information specific to Leighton-Linslade.

A query was raised to clarify whether the integrated hub was proposed to be a physical shared building rather than a "virtual hub". A physical site was intended, based on a hub and spoke model, with the GP Practices possibly forming the spokes and providing various services from those locations, in addition to the centralised services to be provided from the hub. The Group supported the development of a physical hub building as it was understood from residents that this was what they expected and wanted.

The location of a possible hub was discussed and it was clarified that although land off Vandyke Road was the current suggested site (having been earmarked for health uses by the developers in the planning applications for the Leighton Buzzard Eastern Urban Extension), no firm decision had yet been made. Access to that site, particularly for non-drivers was raised as a concern. It was felt that a more central location would be preferable and more accessible for residents. Sites including the former Pledge Chairs factory site,

land south of the High Street and Bridge Meadow were discussed although it was noted that both sites were subject to planning applications for development. It was suggested that negotiation with developers on the Clipstone Park (planning application CB/11/02827/OUT) site could take place, with a view to using any capital receipts to fund purchase of a more suitable site or indeed the refurbishment of an existing appropriately located building.

The Group was advised that the next step for Leighton-Linslade was development of an outline business case, investigation into funding streams and consultation. It was noted that the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group was due to become an Integrated Care Service with two Boards, one at strategic level.

It was clarified that the service modelling work, now intended to be undertaken in 2022, would inform which services were needed to be provided from a health hub site and that these services would be specific to Leighton-Linslade. Services could include social care and mental health services, as was the case for the Dunstable hub. Social prescribing was being offered in Dunstable and should also be available for Leighton-Linslade.

The Task and Finish Group expressed frustration that despite being the largest town in Central Bedfordshire and subject to significant housing growth over recent years, the Leighton-Linslade hub would possibly be the last to be delivered. It was noted that initial discussions regarding a shared site had not been welcomed by individual GP Practices and that this had contributed to the delay in Leighton-Linslade. It was understood that GP Practices were now working more closely together in the provision of local healthcare services across their sites. Concern was voiced that the financial interests of the three current surgeries might present a conflict of interest in the development of a Leighton-Linslade Hub. The Group was also concerned to ensure that any funds or potential sites earmarked for health facilities would not be lost or otherwise distributed as had happened in the past.

18/HS NEXT STEPS

The Task and Finish Group agreed that another meeting should take place as soon as practicable at which information specific to Leighton-Linslade could be shared and at which all relevant parties could be present. The request to see the strategic outline case and the evidence which contributed to it was repeated. Elected representatives felt strongly that more involvement was needed as they were held accountable by electors.

Mr Selous offered to write to both the NHS and Central Bedfordshire Council underlining the importance of such a meeting.

RESOLVED to set up a further meeting as soon as practicable for all relevant parties, at which matters specific to Leighton-Linslade could be discussed and more detailed information shared with elected representatives.

The meeting closed at 1.57 pm.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 15 JULY 2021.

Chair

27 SEPTEMBER 2021