MINUTES OF CUSTOMER AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
12TH APRIL 2012

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee:

Councillors Ms Edwards (Chairman), G Francis, Hazelton, Miss Lawrence, Mahoney, Mrs New, Sewell and Mrs Watson

Officers:

Debbie Dawson (Scrutiny Officer) and Veronika Beckova (Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer)

In attendance:

Councillor Leigh Hunt (Sustainable Inclusive Communities Portfolio Holder and Chairman of LSP); Anna Andrews (Targeted Support Youth Worker, Warwickshire Youth and Community Service) and Rugby Youth Council (Chloe Nichols, Josh Newman, Rebecca Urosevic)

36. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

37. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs Watson and Hazelton declared a general personal interest by virtue of being Warwickshire County Councillors.
Councillors Leigh Hunt and Mrs New declared a general personal interest by virtue of being Warwickshire County Council employees.
Councillors Ms Edwards declared a general personal interest by virtue of being member The Hill Street Youth and Community Centre Association.
Councillors Miss Lawrence declared a general personal interest by virtue of being trustee of Fareham Youth Trust.
Councillors Mrs New declared a general personal interest by virtue of being a member of Fareham Youth Trust.
Councillor Leigh Hunt declared a general personal interest by virtue of being the Chairman of Rugby LSP and member of Coventry and Warwickshire LEP.

39. RUGBY YOUTH COUNCIL – STANDING ITEM

Rugby Youth Council members (Chloe Nichols, Josh Newman and Rebecca Urosevic) gave a presentation on transport and young people in Rugby. The presentation is attached at Annex 1.
Further to the presentation, the following comments were made:

- The Rugby Youth Council (RYC) members were aware that the problem is beyond the influence of this committee, but had been keen to bring their presentation to Rugby Borough Council (RBC) first before raising it with Warwickshire County Council (WCC).
- One of the councillors present had attended a meeting of WCC Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) earlier that day, which had included an item on bus service reductions. There is an ongoing consultation at WCC on these issues.
- The committee suggested that the Youth Council members take a copy of the presentation to COSC.
- There is an issue around provision of safe cycling routes both to and within the town centre. This is in part being addressed by the Sustrans project, and one of Rugby’s cycling routes (linking the Town Centre with Newbold) will be completed later this year. Provision of safe storage areas for bicycles in the town centre also needs addressing.
- One of the options discussed was the use of the two WCAVA community minibuses. It was suggested that the RYC members make contact with the Community Transport Manager to explore this further.
- WCC had a scrutiny task group looking at post-16 transport and the Scrutiny Officer undertook to liaise with the officer supporting that group to make them aware of the Youth Council’s work.
- The committee welcomed the presentation and commented positively on the evidence included.

**RESOLVED THAT** – RYC members be thanked for their attendance and the presentation.

### 40. HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE

The Committee received an update from Councillor Mrs Watson (Part 1 – agenda item 6) on health and wellbeing.

- At the last meeting of the Customer and Partnerships Committee, Councillor Mrs Watson and Dr Charlotte Gath gave presentations to update the committee on significant policy and organisational changes in health and social care bodies and how they are being implemented in Rugby. Councillor Mrs Watson updated the committee on the latest developments.
- Rugby GPs have voted for Rugby CCG to form a confederation with Coventry CCGs. Coventry GPs were due to be voting on the proposal that week.
- Councillors and officers at WCC had raised a number of concerns about this potential arrangement.
- The Borough and County Councils have not yet been formally consulted on the proposals and it was understood that a letter of support would be required from both councils.
- The alternative is for Rugby CCG to stay independent. Merging with other CCGs is not an option as most of the CCGs in Warwickshire are already large enough to function on their own.
- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was launched in March and is available on the WCC website, which includes data from the Observatory.

The Committee was also informed about developments regarding scrutiny of health matters across the county (as detailed in the report to the Committee) and it was suggested that local health issues should be discussed at every
meeting of the committee and become a standing item on the agenda. A good starting point would be to look at the health inequalities profile for Rugby.

Andy Hardy, Chief Executive of University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, had agreed to attend the committee's next meeting in June 2012 to present the UHCW Integrated Business Plan. Members suggested that he also be asked to update the Committee on the impact of the Birch Ward closure over the winter and on plans for the future of St Cross Hospital, as well as transport and parking at UHCW.

It was suggested that an in-depth review on the impact of the reduction in medical services at the Hospital of St Cross should be submitted for consideration at the following year's overview and scrutiny work programme workshop.

**RESOLVED THAT** –

(1) Councillor Mrs Watson be thanked for her update;
(2) Health and wellbeing be added as a standing item on the agenda; and
(3) Review of the impact of the reduction of medical services at St Cross Hospital be submitted to the overview and scrutiny work programme workshop in February 2013.

41. **REVIEW OF YOUTH PROVISION**

The committee considered the report (Part 1 – Agenda Item 7) providing the feedback from Cabinet and the Local Strategic Partnership Board.

Following comments were made:

- The report had been discussed at the last meeting of the Area Committee.
- Mr Mark Gore should be presenting a further report to Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board in June.
- A report on the proposals emerging from the LSP had been included in the Forward Plan for RBC Cabinet consideration in August.
- The Youth Consortium now had representatives from Rugby Youth Council and had scheduled its next meeting at an appropriate time for young people.
- A follow-up to the review should be scheduled for April 2013.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the Rugby Youth Council continues to have a standing invitation to all of the committee’s meetings.

42. **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The committee considered a report (Part 1 – Agenda Item 8) concerning updates on the progress of task group reviews and details of the committee’s forward work programme.

1. **Progress on scrutiny reviews**

1.2 *Housing stock and housing need*

The chairman of the task group, Councillor Claire Watson, informed the committee that the next meeting will take place on 24 May and the final action plan with time scales and designated people will be discussed. The task group will also meet
again at a future date to review progress against the action plan. The task group will come back to this committee in June with an interim report.

2. Review proposals and committee work programme for 2012/13

2.1 Task group reviews

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed the following reviews at its last meeting on 19 March 2012:

- Town Centre – The Planning Services Working Party is working on planning policies in the Town Centre and the review may duplicate this work. There is a statutory process to be followed for the production of a Development Plan Document and this involves an evidence gathering stage. Rugby has also placed a bid to the Portas Pilot Scheme, the outcome of which will be known in May. It was therefore suggested that the proposed review should be removed from the work programme. Instead, it was agreed that the committee would schedule a themed meeting on the Town Centre in June 2013 to consider progress on existing work and assess the impact and success of the big events planned in the town centre, which had been a recommendation of a previous scrutiny review.
- Housing Income Protection: minimising council rent areas – this should be scoped in June 2012 and started later on in the year.
- Inward Investment – this should be scoped in June 2010 and would be scheduled to begin in quarter 3.

2.2 Committee overview items

The committee confirmed the overview items. It was noted that the committee had a fairly heavy work programme for the coming year and it may be necessary to resource a task group to undertake some of that work if it becomes unmanageable.

RESOLVED THAT – the forward work programme for the committee be approved.

43. VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED THAT – the Committee places on record its appreciation of the work undertaken by Councillors Claire Edwards and Councillor Claire Watson in their capacities as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee respectively for the 2011/12 municipal year.

CHAIRMAN
Transport and Young People

A presentation by Rugby Youth Council
April 2, 2012
Transport affects every young person, whether it’s getting to your job, getting to school or college, or even getting to health services. Public transport forms a pillar in the lives of many young people”.

(Debate from UK Youth Parliament)
Issues raised by Young People

- Buses:
  a) Time keeping
  b) Safety & monitoring
  c) Drivers being rude
  d) Buses not arriving
  e) Inconsistency of bus stops
  f) Drivers unfamiliar with routes
  g) Inconvenient times
  h) Ramps and access for disabled passengers
  i) Costs

- What alternative is there?
Issues raised by Young People

- Cycling (still some issues):
  - Safer routes (both prevention of RTAs and being in sight so a lower likelihood of attacks/hijacking)
  - Cycling proficiency
  - Storage for bicycles
  - Promotion of cycling itself
  - Training of drivers about cyclists
  - Better connections with rural areas
Fact:

Young people make....

- 75% fewer trips by rail
- 50% more trips on foot
- 206% more trips by bus and coach

...compared to adults.

This includes trips to and from school/college; if this is so important, why should young people pay for it? Especially as the compulsory leaving age for school is now at 18.
**Costs of travelling in Rugby**

- **Child (5-15):**
  - Single – £1.35
  - Return – £2.25
  - Dayrider – £3.00

- **Adult (16+):**
  - Single – £1.95
  - Return – £3.25
  - Dayrider – £4.00

- Most people in the 11-18 category (‘young people’) are either adults or are challenged about their age, and so pay the adult fare.

- £3.25 could buy their lunch!

*Adult fares are like throwing your wallet at the driver though, unless you have a regular income.*
Costs of travelling in Rugby

- Alternate answer; passes for a certain length of time
- Costs of longer passes taken directly from the Stagecoach website:
  - Rugby 7 day mega card: £12.90
  - Rugby 28 day mega card: £44
  - Rugby 13 week mega card: £141
  - Rugby 52 week mega card: £515

- Again, this is out of many young people’s price ranges.
Example: Warwickshire College

- Stagecoach: £660 from Rugby to Leamington College
- Around £73 per month, as not all time is spent at college
- Where is a *young person* meant to be getting £73 a month from?
- Currently, there are problems with unemployment generally; therefore also with youth unemployment!
Proposals by Rugby Youth Council

...two different sides
“Cut in fares of 20% would lead to an increase in bus travel of 13%”.

For example in Newcastle a child fare has been introduced where a flat rate of £1 enables travel for a whole day.

Single fares were reduced by 30p. This caused a 11% increase in child riders.

If Newcastle as a large area can manage giving this saving to its residents, why can’t Rugby? £3 is very expensive for many young people!
Rugby: the ecotransport town of the future? (eg. Cycling)

- Health would increase as young people, in particular, will be exercising more
- Lessen the risk of RTAs from bus problems (recent incident in Coventry!)
- Young people will become more independent and responsible for their own vehicle (preparation for a car perhaps?)
- More environmentally friendly
- More tourists into the area – USP
- People can take their time and travel whenever they like!
Thank you for your time...