

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel held on Monday, 20 February 2017 at 5.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Hannah Hockaday (in the Chair)

Councillors Steve Hastings
Alicia Denny
Yahiya Chowdhury
Lee Hunt
Matthew Winnington

6. Apologies for absence (AI 1)

All members were present; Councillors Chowdhury and Denny apologised for their late arrival and Councillor Hunt apologised that he would need to leave at 6pm.

7. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of members' interests.

8. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 26 January 2017 (AI 3)

The minutes of the EDCL Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 26 January 2017 were approved as a correct record.

9. Review 'Smarter Cities' (AI 4)

- i) Dr Jason Horsley, Director of Public Health (for Portsmouth and Southampton councils)

Dr Horsley introduced himself as the newly appointed Joint Director of Public Health (DPH) for both Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils, and gave a presentation entitled 'Smarter Cities and Improving Health - Is there an App for that?'. Firstly he set out definitions of health, which is more than the absence of disease, mental health is important as well as physical wellbeing. The World Health Organisation defines health as:

"a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity"

Healthcare services are approximately 25% of the contributors to improving health (see diagram) - gains in life expectancy include nutrition, sanitation and other lifestyle factors (smoking, drinking, food and exercise) as well as the physical environment (including air quality, housing and

green space provision). In Portsmouth physical inactivity is second to smoking in causing early deaths.

The aim of Public Health is to make people to change their lifestyles; just giving education alone will not lead to major changes in behaviour and there is the need to look at the scale of the problems. 63% of adults in Portsmouth are classified as obese or overweight. There is the need to look at the physical environment and the choices made (car/cycling/walking). Dr Horsley's aim was to focus on how these environments can be changed, not just educational messages.

Dr Horsley asked what was meant by 'smarter cities' with the use of technology to improve outcomes (rather than outputs which can be quantitative such as number of hips replaced) where individuals can measure the improvements e.g. living longer, or not experiencing pain. There should be lasting and sustainable improvements from the use of technology - he gave the example of the initial spike in physical activity caused by Pokemon Go but this had reverted to previous levels by week 6.

As DPH Dr Horsley was often approached regarding the use of new Apps - but he needed to be convinced of their benefits as these can be expensive to develop and update and the novelty can wear off fast (as seen with step-counters which may encourage more physical activity but there is not fast weight loss seen where users 'reward' themselves). Some route/map applications had merit in giving useful information, such as showing cycling and walking options, which could help 'nudge' people into making the more healthy choices.

Areas in which technology can help include:

- Monitoring sugar levels for diabetics
- Fall alerts in homes of older persons
- GPS tags to alert families of dementia sufferers
- Giving cues and reminders for taking medication or attending medical appointments

Another possible area of use is in communication with health professionals, although this will not necessarily be as effective as a face to face consultation and can lead to more social isolation (which in turn can heighten anxieties and mental health costs).

Two priority areas to make a difference in Portsmouth were to reduce smoking levels and encouraging a shift in the use of public transport. In exploring how physical activity and active travel could be encouraged Dr Horsley stressed the importance of the **infrastructure**:

- Provision of bike lanes and walking routes
- Safety via smart lighting and increased footfall (which in turn can lead to reduced crime levels¹)

¹ Reference was made to the pedestrianisation of streets in central Bogota, Colombia

- Internet search engines can offer prompts on how long different modes of travel will take
- Barriers need to be reduced - for more direct routes, providing affordable alternatives and incentives (such as Park & Ride where bike use could be encouraged too), use of electric bikes to help with hills (although Portsea Island itself is flat)

Risks with technology include:

- Where devices only work for a short time or there is a need to reinvest
- Devices that may increase social isolation or reduce physical activity
- Advances that may cause other problems e.g. driverless cars

During questions from members Dr Horsley raised the following points:

- Examples of good practice from elsewhere included more efficient bike lights
- The ability to think about the design of cities such as looking at intersections to prioritise walking
- In Nigeria there had been re-mapping of bus routes with GPS tagging on the routes people most used to get to work to ensure the bus routes followed the flows and to encourage use
- With the physical restrictions of Portsmouth there was even more need to look at the importance of **green space** and to ensure it is accessible and well used, with use of lighting and provision of WCs
- Walking routes (which can be backways) need to be well signed either physically or via Apps showing how long it takes to get to destinations

Discussion then took place regarding the involvement of the Director of Public Health in **consultation on planning developments** - Dr Horsley felt this would be useful but this would need to be proportionate regarding major development. He reported that at Bristol Council there is a rule on when health impact assessments are undertaken on developments, and at Wakefield there is a requirement to look at the impact of a proposal when it relates to loss of green space in deprived areas, and they have a checklist of things to be considered by the developer. He was keen to try to protect the city's green spaces via pre-application discussions so that Public Health make helpful suggestions which are conducive to the local population's health, which in turn would mean that developers were more likely to get planning permission. There is the need to embed public health early in the planning process, especially for the larger developments.

It was asked if '**rewards**' should be considered to change behaviours such as to encourage more physical activity or stopping smoking? Dr Horsley felt that whilst incentives can be successful there is the political issue of whether to reward people for doing the right thing? The barrier is resources and it would be unlikely that private funding could be found.

The consideration of **cemeteries** as open space was raised. Claire Upton-Brown confirmed that this could be looked at as space for public benefit, such as garden schemes, beehives etc.

Lighting was also important to encourage use of walking routes, and the switch to LED lighting is important as this has a carbon footprint, and motion sensors also save energy.

The **dangers** of using mobiles and smart devices whilst walking was also raised and it was hoped that technology would be adapted to integrate alerts.

It was noted that whilst some of the **Apps** were very useful (such as scanning items for sugar and salt content) these did not necessarily address health inequalities or reach those most in need of the information. There could be benefits of Apps as teaching resources for children to promote health lifestyles in an interactive way but educational apps were not necessarily attractive to teenagers.

The Chair thanked Dr Horsley for his very interesting presentation.

ii) Lindy Elliot, Library and Archive Services

Lindy had provided information on the range of digital classes available at the libraries across the city, which included 'bridging the digital divide', which she further expanded on at the meeting. There is free access to the internet at the libraries (via a library card) for up to 4 hours a day. There was increased usage for those wishing to use printers (often for printing out on-line tickets) and an increase had been seen in those who do not have access to digital technology.

National statistics from 2014 (source Office of National Statistics²) had ranked Portsmouth 2nd highest for those without digital access and digital knowledge = 24.8% of adults.

Library staff had seen that low literacy levels could be a barrier in accessing websites and Apps., which could include some young people who were usually more comfortable with using technology.

The report to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport of 7 October 2016 set out the wide range of learning opportunities through the libraries, and the work taking place in partnership with Highbury College in providing a regular programme of activities which aim to bridge the digital divide by promoting and supporting the use of ICT. The report set out the following progress:

- 173 people had taken up volunteer-led ICT training in 2015/16
- By the end of March 2016, 147 adults with disabilities were introduced to some basic ICT modules provided on the 'Learn My Way' online platform, including 'Staying healthy with NHS Choices' and 'GP Services online'

² Table 5B on page 27 of the Internet Access Quarterly Update as published by the Office for National Statistics in May 2014 accessed:
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/rdit2/internet-access-quarterly-update/q1-2014/stb-ia-q1-2014.html>

- There is ongoing work with vision impaired residents and funding is sought for the use of accessible technology
- Children aged 9-11 years also attend free computer Code Clubs at Southsea Library
- Support is also given at the libraries to job seekers including help with writing CVs and application forms

The library staff members are trained to 'Make every contact count' and were able to sign-post people to the relevant groups and associations to receive further support.

In response to members' questions the following arose:

- Technologies were also used to help in translation where English is not a first language
- The issues of social isolation is also combatted through the group work at the libraries although some users will access services online or through audio books
- The connectivity between the 9 libraries (these all have full connectivity), mobile library and the University of Portsmouth and other technical libraries in the city - Lindy explained that whilst there are regular meetings to share information and some joint training, the services do not duplicate each other (such as the provision of academic texts at the UoP which are expensive materials and there is more specialist text now available on-line) but complement each other
- There is a national network of libraries and Portsmouth is one of 30 members of the Living Knowledge Network, to share information and tools on exhibitions and skill sharing workshops

The Chair thanked Lindy Elliot for her very useful update on the work of the Library Service.

iii) Feedback from attendance at Smart Cities conference

Councillors Hannah Hockaday and Matthew Winnington had both attended part of the 2 day conference by Ascent Events in London on 1st /2nd February.

Councillors Hockaday and Winnington gave feedback on the following areas of innovation from around the country:

- **City Verve** - funding had been secured for **Manchester** Council for a 'Smart Area' of the city at Oxford Road (their bid was worth £10m³) Innovation Bids were also being invited on a partnership basis with universities and businesses to make cities safer, an example was the development of an App to report potholes which showed in real-time the reporting and updating of progress with photographs of repairs
- **Sheffield** used a system called 'Changify' for urban innovation.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/manchester-wins-10m-prize-to-become-world-leader-in-smart-city-technology>

- **Milton Keynes** was also advanced in the design management of the city and efficient use of energy and providing education on how to be more efficient
- Future building designs - inverting the client/customer role to start with seeing what the customer will want
- In **Nottingham** there are district heating and energy co-operatives sharing energy as part of the Smart Cities European Remourban project⁴
- Use of **surplus assets** - '**Warp It**' - recycling of furniture for businesses - this may already be used in Portsmouth's Queen Alexandra Hospital, and in Glasgow this had been used to save money and was free to access for charities.
- **Digital Town** example of **Greenwich**- visitors don't sign into their council website but can use 1 App for their visit. **Bournemouth** was also cited as being accessible for planning for the whole day visitor experience (Visit Bournemouth website)
- **Joyride** is an App developed to show routes where people are avoiding, including safe routes for cyclists
- High tech **benches** can generate energy and be used as social hubs (instead of telephone boxes) and local authorities could attract sponsorship for selling branding on these
- **Cleverciti Systems** (from Germany) highlighted their parking management schemes to record space availability (and this information would also be sent to the TECS Scrutiny Panel for their current review of parking), which was now in practice in **Westminster**
- Chris Cooper from KnowNow was seen as a key contact
- **Bristol** council representatives had also made an offer for PCC members to visit there - they were seen to be 5 years ahead in Smarter City technology
- A further issue identified was use and ownership of personal data e.g. on bus use

Nick May further reported that in **Reading** a parking App helps to identify disabled parking bay availability.

No date for a **future meeting** was confirmed as contact would be made with Chris Cooper to ascertain his availability.

The meeting concluded at 6.55 pm.

⁴ <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/community/remourban/>

Councillor Hannah Hockaday
Chair