

Policy & Resources Committee

Date:	7 February 2017
Title:	Reports - External Organisations

Thame Barns Centre (Cllr Dodds)

Nothing received as at 1/2/17.

Citizens Advice (Cllr Austin)

(based on information received from Jon Bright)

1. CA wished to record its gratitude to the Town Council for its recent grant.
2. SODC has approved CA's bid for 4 year funding from 2017/18 albeit with a 5% reduction each year. Vale's decision will be received in February.
3. CA will serve 9,000-10,000 clients this year, more than last (8,600).
4. CA value for money figures are twice the national Citizens Advice average.
5. CA are trying to improve regular communications with a short monthly email to county, district, town and parish councillors.
6. CA is now recruiting new volunteer advisors. Perhaps an item for the newsletter and website.
7. A key focus currently is working closely with the SODC/VOWH housing teams and housing associations to reduce homelessness, manage the transition to Universal Credit and reduce levels of debt.

Health Hub (Cllr Champken-Woods)

I have had a meeting with Karl Savage Practice Manager, Rycote Practice ref the Health Hub.

The GP partners met with Montpellier on 1/12/16 to discuss potential ownership models of a new health hub. This was very productive and a further meeting is planned in February. Should the numbers not add up for Hallam Land then obviously other sites could and would be considered.

On a positive note discussions have taken place with BHT about the development of a rapid assessment service which would provide the health centrepiece of the plan. BHT have moved a long way and are now offering a geriatrician (shared with a similar model in Marlow), near patient testing, specialist nurses and therapists (e.g. Falls) and other diagnostics.

Further meetings are planned with BHT and OCCG in the next few weeks, slow and steady but things are starting to take some shape.

NALC (Cllr Dyer)

The Town Clerk regularly circulates all NALC updates to all Councillors so there is nothing new to report.

However, it is worth noting that NALC were very effective, both through their own direct lobbying and in urging submissions from towns and parishes, in staving off the threatened cap on precepts. This will be kept under review at DCLG, and precept trends around the country will be closely monitored, but for this year at least we have been given some breathing space.

NALC have also been very active in lobbying for amendments to the Neighbourhood Planning Bill which would give further protection to the weight of Neighbourhood Plans, and they continue with other campaigns such as trying to secure a contribution from business rates to the benefit of towns and parishes, and efforts to increase the devolved percentage of CIL's.

Thame Business Forum (Cllr Dyer)

Last met on 22 November, where the main theme of the meeting was to discuss the current deficiencies and future needs for employment land in Thame, as reported at the Neighbourhood Planning Continuity Committee last week. The next meeting of the Business Forum is on 7 February, the same date as Policy & Resources, so any further update will be given verbally at that meeting.

Thame & District Housing Association (Cllr Butler)

Nothing received as at 1/2/17.

21st Century Thame (Cllrs Emery & Fickling)

Nothing received as at 1/2/17.

Welfare Trust (Cllr Champken-Woods)

Nothing received as at 1/2/17.