

FULL COUNCIL

5 JULY 2022

REPORT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND LEAD MEMBER FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND WELLBEING

1. COUNCIL UPDATE FROM THE DEPUTY LEADER

1.1 Purpose of Report

1.1.2 To inform Council of the matters considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 14 June 2022, decisions I have made as Deputy Leader and lead member for Partnerships and Wellbeing and other matters of interest.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 This report highlights some of those decisions which have been made, but not all. Members wishing to view all decisions made can find these at <http://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/mgInternet/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

1.2.2 Attached to this report is a list of decisions made.

1.3 Health and Wellbeing Board 14 June 2022

1.3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board considered progress in the following areas:

- Update on the development of the ICS Financial Framework and the approach to resource allocation.
- Solihull Together progress report.
- Tacking Health Inequalities report.
- Solihull Safeguarding Adults Annual report.
- Employment and Skills Support.
- End of Year Report – Better Care Fund

1.4 Decisions

1.4.1 29 June 2022

1.4.2 I was updated on the Council's bid for funding under the Government's Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP).

1.4.3 I approved the Council signing up to the Veterans Pledges as part of the West Midlands Combined Authority Commitment to Collaborate and was informed of future plans to ensure compliance with the Pledges.

1.5 Good News and Issues of Interest

1.5.1 **Platinum Jubilee Virtual Reali-Tea!** On 8 June, 30 carers and those being cared for celebrated 70 years of the Queen's reign with afternoon tea. They reminisced over photos and documents from the library archives showing how Solihull has changed since the 1950s. A short Virtual Reality experience was showcased, which transported people back to 1953 to see Solihull High Street as it looked. This free event was supported by The National Archives' Testbed Fund. The 3D content created for the event will be available for subsequent use in nostalgia and other events.

- 1.5.2 **Cultural Hatchery:** The Culture Team has been successful in securing £144,000 additional funding to create a dedicated space within The Core to support those working or looking to work in the Arts and Cultural Sector. The funding will provide dedicated resources, professional input and commissions for up and coming artists to enable them to test out their cultural offerings.
- 1.5.3 **Cultural Education Partnership:** The Culture Team has also secured £12,000 from Arts Connect to set up Solihull's first Cultural Education Partnership. The Partnership will ensure that access to excellent arts provision exists for children and young people Borough-wide, with a focus on priority groups, whilst ensuring the youth voice is heard in decision making. Solihull was the only area in the West Midlands without a local partnership. The Partnership will provide the infrastructure to ensure that access to high quality arts are at the heart of our work with young people.
- 1.5.4 **Solihull Community Housing Building Safety:** Work has been taking place on a two-year Building Safety Implementation Plan that will reflect the demands of the new Building Safety Act. Roles, responsibilities, and timescales are all being formulated to ensure full compliance. Oversight of the plan will be monitored by the Building Safety Task and Finish Group which forms part of the wider health and safety governance arrangements at SCH.
- 1.5.5 **Payzone:** SCH has secured a contract with Payzone which offers tenants more places, such as shops, at which they can make rent payments. Many of course do so already via Direct Debit and other payment options including PayPoint and the self-serving My SCH Account.
- 1.5.6 **Pinnacle cleaning contract:** Pinnacle FM Ltd has won the contract to clean all SCH buildings, including the 37 high rises and more than 500 low rise blocks. The contract comes into effect on 1 July. Pinnacle will also look after the cleaning of SCH's two main offices, community centres and other multi-occupancy buildings such as Ipswich House and Saxon Court.
- 1.5.7 **Saxon Court Garden:** Residents at Saxon Court have had some wonderful news. Thanks to a generous donation of more than £6,000 from Severn Trent Water's Community Fund, they have been able to develop a fantastic 'Sensory Wellness Garden'. This is all the more beneficial for those residents who spent so much of their time in their own flats during the pandemic. The lovely new garden is a beautiful outdoor space that residents can enjoy and also relax in with their friends and family.
- 1.5.8 **SCH Wellbeing:** The Wellbeing Team has forged close links with health and social care partners. Working with the Falls Team at Solihull Hospital, the Wellbeing Team introduced a Falls Risk Assessment tool. The results have shown huge successes and of the 281 Home Hazards Assessments (HHA) completed in the past 6 months, there has been an overall reduction of 72% in individuals who reported a fall. The 'Fear of Falling' score reduced on average by 46%. The service has also began monitoring onward signposting referrals, which stood at 137 in April and May, again supporting independence and raising awareness of community amenities to ensure easy appropriate access for members of the public.
- 1.5.9 **Move for Me Conference:** I attended the Girl Power 'Move for Me' Conference on 8 June at Coleshill School. Year 9 girls from Arden Academy, John Henry Newman CC, Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst, Lyndon School, Coleshill School and Langley School took part in the event which was to enable attendees to understand the importance of being physically active to support their mental and physical health and for attendees to have a clear understanding of where they can access further support/sessions. It was a fabulous event which the girls seemed to enjoy.

- 1.5.10 **Launch of Solihull Youth Hub:** I was pleased to finally welcome West Midlands Mayor Andy Street to launch our Solihull Youth Hub at the Recruitment and Training Centre in Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre on 13 May. Alongside colleagues from the Department of Work and Pensions and the Employment and Skills Team, I heard directly from one of our Kickstart employees about how moving into work has been such a positive experience for him and that he really enjoys working for our organisation. It was great to hear about how partnership working is directly helping our residents to move into employment.
- 1.5.11 At the Centre, activity has really increased – the team has continued to support Jaguar Land Rover and Randstad to recruit to their new jobs, as well as supporting employers local to the Airport and the NEC. In June there was a Summer of Opportunity' Jobs Fair linked to the Commonwealth Games opportunities, as well as local jobs and training in hospitality, security and cleaning present.
- 1.5.12 In the last year, the Employment and Skills Team has achieved some great outcomes – 643 new customers were supported by the team and delivery partners, with over 200 customers moving into work and training. Work in schools is progressing, with more face-to-face delivery in schools and colleges which helps to prevent young people becoming NEET when they leave education.
- 1.5.13 The Team continue to support schools to make steady progress with Careers Education with many recent Ofsted visits, mentioning Careers as a strength in the school.
- 1.5.14 The Team has nominated Grace Academy for a CEC Careers Champion award in recognition of their hard work and achievement of all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks.
- 1.5.15 **Commonwealth Games Active Communities Programme:** This Sport England grant funded 'Community wellness programme' is in the process of engaging focus groups to better understand their needs and barriers in terms of mental health and physical activity to help shape the programme approach and is establishing a group of residents to help form a community panel which will provide insight and help influence progression. Work is underway to celebrate sport and physical activity during the two weeks of the games in Solihull town centre. Working in partnership with Touchwood and Solihull BID we are inviting local clubs/organisations to get involved in the celebrations by hosting an interactive stall showcasing their sport and/or physical activity, offering residents and visitors to Solihull a chance to try something new!
- 1.5.16 **Queens Baton Relay:** The route has now been confirmed and released to residents. A leaflet highlighting the route, areas to view the Baton and advising on community activity has been produced and is receiving a very positive response.
- 1.5.17 **Commonwealth Games Drop-In Sessions:** We have been holding 'drop-in' sessions across the Borough and again the response has been extremely positive. Queries range from traveling during the Games to how individuals can get involved.
- 1.5.18 **BBC Gardeners World:** We have six schools participating in designing a Commonwealth Wheelbarrow that will be displayed at BBC Gardeners World [School Wheelbarrow Competition - BBC Gardeners' World Live \(bbcgardenersworldlive.com\)](http://bbcgardenersworldlive.com). Photographs of the wheelbarrows will go on display at The Core during Games' time.
- 1.5.19 **Recycling Commonwealth Flags:** We are currently working with 12 schools to design a Recycled Commonwealth Flag consisting of recycled materials. The flags will go on display at The Core during Games' time.

- 1.5.20 **Carly's Commonwealth Games Quest is Here!** To celebrate, North Solihull Schools Partnership has written a short story and created resources to support Solihull Schools in bringing the magic of the Commonwealth Games to as many children and young people as possible. Join Carly and her friends go on a quest to obtain knowledge on the History, Geography, PE, Art, PSHE and Science of the Commonwealth Games. Can they collect all 6 gems and win themselves a ticket to the opening ceremony of the Games?
- 1.5.21 **Tappin' In and Sing Solihull:** On the 18 May a celebratory event took place at The Core Theatre of two exciting community engagement projects. The performance was opened by Sing Solihull., a community choir that has been meeting at The Core on Thursday lunchtimes. This was good training for many of the members who will form part of the choir performing at the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony.
- 1.5.22 The audience were then transported to Lily's Tea Parlour to meet the Chelmsley Wood Tappin' In tappers. The audience were treated to several tap numbers the group had been working on. The Tappin' In project forms part of the Birmingham International Dance Festival as well as the Birmingham 2022 Festival. The group have been meeting weekly since the beginning of the year. Aimed at combatting social isolation and increasing access to dance, the project has been happening at locations across the West Midlands, the culmination being a performance in Brindley Place and a world record attempt for the largest shim sham.
- 1.5.23 This was a fantastic evening which showcased some of the engaging community arts projects happening in Solihull.
- 1.5.24 **Celebrating Communities Fund:** Two of the most recent awards through the Celebrating Communities Fund have provided projects to observe the Commonwealth Games. The Friends of Shirley Park received £1,823.00 to host a sporting activity day in Shirley Park on 26 July to coincide with the passage of the Queen's Baton. Likewise, Hampton in Arden Sports Club were awarded £5,000 to provide a focus point for the event featuring a stage area and large screen.
- 1.5.25 **Commonwealth Games tickets for children and young people:** Working with the Organising Committee ticket team, the Council is providing over 750 tickets to children and young people in care, care experienced young people, foster carers and children and young people who receive benefits related free school meals. This is to attend the whole range of sports on display at the Games including tickets for final rounds and finals.
- 1.5.26 **Tourism Forum:** Last month we held our first 'in person' Tourism Forum for over two years, with updates from Touchwood Shopping Centre, West Midlands Growth Company and an overview of our 'Visit Solihull' advertising campaign planned in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games. Over the last month we have attracted over 20,000 visitors to the Visit Solihull website– with top pages visited including events, Commonwealth Games and the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. This will be used in conjunction with blog posts around attractions, shopping, dining and the Queen's Baton Relay to attract new visitors into the Borough this Summer.
- 1.5.27 **Shirley Economic Plan:** We continue to progress activities within our Shirley Economic Plan. We have recently held an ambassador meeting with local businesses and partners, covering commission of a new street art project using utility cabinets with local artists, completion of a heritage trail and event planning for the Queen's Baton Relay. We also covered business crime prevention in partnership with the Police and links to relevant business support through our Business Investment Team.

- 1.5.28 **Solihull Expo:** The Solihull Expo was held at the end of May giving local businesses the opportunity to showcase their offers in the exhibition space and through speed networking, to hear from experts across a range of subjects including cybercrime and 'doing business in Solihull. Hundreds of delegates attended and 40 business exhibited. I represented the Council on the 'Doing Business in Solihull' panel, setting out the advantages of trading in the Borough, setting out our future aspirations and answering questions about Levelling Up.
- 1.5.29 **Social Connectedness:** In April 2022, the Council hosted a multi-agency Social Connectedness workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to review our existing approach to tackling social isolation and loneliness and identify together how we can all improve people's physical and mental health through better social connectedness for vulnerable groups.
- 1.5.30 The workshop confirmed there is already an abundance of support being offered by the third sector to engage vulnerable people and communities across Solihull. Four common themes emerged when we considered "what more can we do together to help people be better socially connected?" These themes are now being considered as part of a refreshed approach for All Age Social Connectedness in Solihull:
- **Culture and Practice** – reference professional curiosity/strengths and asset-based practices in front-line services to recognise the importance of social connectedness, as well as the ways and means to promote social participation and inclusion.
 - **Better digital access** - ensuring that everyone has access to digital communication technology, and the skills to use it.
 - **Transport and mobility** – focusing on hyper local delivery and improving accessibility of services, groups, activities, and meeting points.
 - **Overcoming financial barriers** – promote and offer free money advice.

1.6 Future Decisions

- 1.6.1 My next decision-making session will take place on the 29 September 2022.