



Report for:	Council
Title of report:	Changes to Health in Dacorum Committee Terms of Reference and Chairman's allowance
Date:	27 September 2023
Report on behalf of:	The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ron Tindall
Part:	I
If Part II, reason:	N/A
Appendices:	none
Background papers:	none
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	none

Report Author / Responsible Officer

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Corporate Priorities	A clean, safe and enjoyable environment Building strong and vibrant communities Ensuring economic growth and prosperity Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular for those most in need Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery Climate and ecological emergency
Wards affected	All
Purpose of the report:	1. To seek approval for changes to the Council's constitution in respect of the name and Terms of

	<p>Reference for the Health in Dacorum Committee</p> <p>2. To seek approval to include a special responsibilities payment to the Chairman of the Health in Dacorum Committee, in line with other committee meetings</p>
Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s):	<p>1. That Council agrees to the proposed revisions to the name and Terms of Reference for the Health in Dacorum Committee.</p> <p>2. That Council authorises the Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services) to make the required changes to Part 2 of the Constitution to reflect these changes.</p> <p>3. That Council agrees to 0.5 of a special responsibilities payment being paid to the Chair of the Health in Dacorum Committee, and for this to be included in any future Independent Remuneration Panel reviews.</p>
Period for post policy/project review:	The constitution is under continuous review by the Monitoring Officer and updates are proposed to Council when required.

1 Introduction/Background:

- 1.1 The Council is not a direct provider of health services but provides a non-statutory overview and scrutiny function of external local health care providers. This function is carried out by the Health in Dacorum Committee and the current terms of reference are set out in the Constitution as follows:

HEALTH IN DACORUM COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

To perform a non-statutory role of overview and scrutiny of matters relating to the provision of Health Services in the Borough by external local health providers.

- (i) The Health & Well-Being in Dacorum Committee will consist of 7 Members of the Council together with 3 Co-Opted Members (who shall have full voting rights) which shall include 2 representatives from the Patients Forum.
- (ii) The Chairman & Vice Chairmen of the Health Scrutiny in Dacorum Committee shall be appointed by the Committee itself.

- 1.2 The Committee meets quarterly and is made of up of the following 12 members as selected by Political Group Leaders and approved by full Council;

Councillors; Bhinder, Cox, Elliot, Freedman, Hannell, C Link, Maddern, McArevey (Chair), Patterson, Pound, Pringle (Vice Chair), B Williams

Co-opted; Edith Glatter (Patients Representatives Group)
Kevin Minier (Dacorum Patients Group)

1.3 The standing agenda items for each meeting are as follows;

- Ward issues
- West Herts Hospital NHS Trust update
- Clinical Commissioning Group update
- County Council Health Scrutiny Committee update
- County Council Adult Care Services update

In addition to this, there is a work programme to steer any key issues the committee wish to come forward

2 Key considerations & alternate options;

2.1 Health and Well-being services in Dacorum provide vital community services and there is an opportunity to re-invigorate the Committee to ensure that it provides greater focus to the areas which the Council can directly influence through its own service provision, whilst also retaining an external scrutiny function regarding services provided by third party organisations.

2.2 Council officers are engaging with partners at the Integrated Care Board and the South West Herts Health and Care Partnership as they shape their approach to localities based health care provision using data led analysis. This includes a task and finish group that is looking at how Council services can support health and well-being provision and services.

2.3 It is recommended that the progress of this work is presented and considered by the Health and Well-being Committee and that the Committee focuses on the wider determinants of poor health in Dacorum using the latest data sets available and works closely with partners in the health and care system to improve health outcomes for local residents.

2.4 It is therefore proposed that the following changes are made to the Committee's name and Terms of Reference to ensure that its focus is directed to the areas that it can most directly impact and influence.

3. Proposed changes to the name and Terms of Reference for the Committee

3.1 It is proposed to change the name of the committee to the Health and Well-being Committee. The committee will still have a non-statutory function separate to the three main council overview and scrutiny committees, but the name change will emphasise a change of remit to include a greater emphasis on well-being and an enhanced focus on services that the Council directly provides.

3.2 The proposed revised Terms of Reference for Health and Well-being Committee are as follows;

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

To perform a non-statutory role of overview and scrutiny of matters relating to the provision of Health and Well-Being Services in the Borough by the Council and external local health providers.

- (i) The Health and Well-Being Committee will consist of 12 Members of the Council together with 2 Co-Opted Members (who shall have voting rights) which shall include 2 representatives from the Patients' Forums.
- (ii) The Chairman & Vice Chairman of the Health and Well-Being Committee shall be appointed by full Council.
- (iii) The Committee will set and manage its work programme to fulfil its duty in reviewing health and well-being matters which impact Dacorum residents.
- (iv) The Committee will explore any matters affecting Dacorum and/or its residents including the assessing the impact of services provided directly by the Council, its partners and external health providers/agencies and invite those bodies to provide updates to the committee in accordance with the Committee workplan.
- (v) The Committee will consider how the services directly in the control of the Council can best be deployed, organised and prioritised to support and promote health and well-being in Dacorum. To include, but not limited to: Health inequalities work; housing services including tenant liaison and support and homelessness services; provision and management of parks and open spaces; environmental health services; delivery of active travel initiatives, the development of the Sports and Leisure Strategy, economic inclusion work and the role of the Local Plan, Development Management and Place Strategies to deliver new developments which foster active and healthy lifestyles.
- (vi) To work with the Council's statutory Overview & Scrutiny committees, to ensure referral of any matters as relevant, (including those matters subject to public consultation by external health providers with local residents), for formal scrutiny.

4. Officer Support

- 4.1 In order to support the continual the development of the Committee, it is essential that a robust work programme is developed and agreed by the Committee. The Committee has lacked direct officer guidance and support to help develop the work programme in the recent past and therefore going forward will be supported by the Assistant Director, Place, Communities & Enterprise Directorate.
- 4.2 The Place, Communities & Enterprise team include health and well-being within their overall remit and are best placed to highlight existing Council service provision and the action the Council can take to impact the health and well-being of residents. The team will horizon scan national health trends, as well as engaging with local health provider and partners to keep the committee engaged on local issues and future models of care locally.

5. Alternate options considered

5.1 In considering the recommendations as set out in this report, consideration was also given to alternate options for the future of the Health in Dacorum Committee, these included;

(i) Change the committee from the current non-statutory Overview and Scrutiny Committee to a 'Health in Dacorum Steering Group'. The steering group would not be open to public attendance beyond the co-opted members. To maintain transparency on matters of public interest, where agreed appropriate, the Steering Group would refer items to the relevant scrutiny committee for their formal consideration in regards to impact on our residents. This idea was discounted the opportunity would be lost to develop ideas in a public and open forum.

(ii) Discontinue Health as a formal committee and replace with quarterly Health in Dacorum briefings, open to all Members. Allocate an officer lead with appropriate Health & Well-being knowledge and responsibility to liaise with our health partners to ensure that the programme of briefings are informative and support Ward Councillors in performing their duties. These briefings would not be open to public or co-opted representatives. As above, the new Committee has a real opportunity to develop health and well-being initiatives and policy development and it is the recommendation of officers that this is best done in an open and public forum.

6. Consultation

6.1 The proposals in this report have been agreed by the Leader of the Council, Chairman of the current Health in Dacorum Committee and Opposition Group leaders.

7 Financial and value for money implications:

7.1 Under the current arrangements, no special responsibility payment is made to the Chairman of the Committee so there will be a small increase in the Members' Allowance budget but noting the proposed expansion of the Committee's remit it is the view of officers that this is appropriate and commensurate with other Members' allowances.

7.2 The payment to the Chairman would be 0.5 of the Special Responsibility allowance (£3,060). 0.5 is appropriate as this is a non-statutory committee and meets only quarterly so is less frequent than the statutory scrutiny committees.

8 Legal Implications

8.1 The Constitution will be updated to reflect the agreed change in procedures and there are no other legal implications arising from the report.

9 Risk implications:

9.1 This report proposes changes to the terms of reference to ensure that the Committee can operate effectively and add value to the Council's internal governance, policy development and decision making. Failure to make the changes proposed could mean that the Council does not make the most of the Committee's scrutiny function.

10 Equalities, Community Impact and Human Rights:

10.1 There are no Equalities, Community Impact or Human Rights implications arising from this report.

11 Sustainability Implications

11.1 There are no Sustainability Implications arising from this report.

12 Council infrastructure (including Health and Safety, HR/OD, assets and other resources)

12.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

13 Conclusions:

13.1 The proposed change to the name and Terms of Reference for the Committee gives greater clarity as to its purpose and function.

13.2 The introduction of the special responsibility payment is appropriate noting the overall remit and meeting frequency of the Committee.