

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

9th October 2014

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillors Hewlett (Chairman), Smith (Vice Chairman) and Councillors Ford, Harrison, Murray and Stanton

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn, Frost, Mulgrew, Rhind, Richards, Shepherd

In attendance

Councillor Atkin; Mr Steve Smith, Mr David Johns, Mr Bob Ledger, Mr Stuart Batchelor, Ms Zoe Sewter, Ms Vicky Smyth, Mrs Beverley Wagstaff, Mr Gary Clarkson and Laura Hammond (Burton Mail).

HCS/24 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lemmon substituted by Councillor Stanton.

HCS/25 **Minutes**

The Committee considered the open minutes of the meeting held on 28th August 2014.

RESOLVED:-

To approve as a true record the open minutes of the meeting held on 28th August.

HCS/26 **Declarations of Interest**

None have been received.

HCS/27 **Questions raised by members of the public pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 10**

None have been raised.

HCS/28 **Questions raised by members of the public pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 11**

None have been raised.

HCS/29 **Reports of Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

None to Report.

HCS/30 **Extreme Zone Project**

The Committee considered a report presented by Director of Community and Planning Stuart Batchelor. Since informing the Council in June of the refurbishments and enhancements to the Grove Hall and Green Bank Leisure Centre, it has gone through several redesigns in order for it to be sustainable financially and deliverable in terms of the right facility mix for the centre.

A number of questions were raised in relation to the report.

Stuart Batchelor explained that a Planning Application has been submitted which includes the raising of the roof height and conversion of the Squash Courts into a 20 station climbing area.

RESOLVED:-

To approve the submission of the Sport England Improvement Fund Application for the refurbishment and enhancement of the Grove Hall and Green Bank Leisure Centre, subject to Finance and Management Committee approving the financial package.

To recommend to the Finance and Management Committee that they approve the funding proposal for the project.

HCS/31 **Presentation by Active Nation on the Leisure Management Contract**

The Committee received a presentation from Active Nation in relation to the Leisure Management Contract at Greenbank and Etwall Leisure Centres. The presentation was given by David Johns the Contract Manager and Steve Smith the Deputy Contract Manager.

The presentation informed the Councillors the progress achieved to date and plans for both sites in the future. There are a number of improvements been made and with this the memberships and local groups using both leisure centres have improved. A copy of the presentation is available if required.

The Councillors wanted to thank the staff and contractors at Greenbank Leisure Centre for their professionalism during the refurbishment and keeping the public up to date with the progress at all times.

HCS/32 **Derbyshire Integrated Wellbeing Approach**

The Committee then considered a report from the Director of Community and Planning regarding the Derbyshire Integrated Wellbeing Approach.

Ms Vicky Smyth gave a brief summary of the report which informed members of the current service provision in the district and to outline the new Derbyshire County Council Integrated Wellbeing Approach.

During the discussion a few points were raised that a Gym at Oakland's Village would be a positive move as some people in the community would not feel comfortable going to Green Bank to exercise. While the proposal is being considered there are other activities available at Oakland's for both residents and the general public. It was suggested that within the Health Checks that are available that activities like walking and lower levels of activity should be included this in turn would decrease the number of inactive people in the district.

It was brought to the attention of the committee that some residents of Oakland's Village had been charged £2 a week for the gym, which at present is not there.

The Director of Housing & Environmental Services Bob Ledger asked for the details and said he would look into a breakdown of the service charges.

Resolved:-

Members approve the signing of new Derbyshire County Council Public Health funded service contracts.

These include:-

Transfer of the 'Healthy Lifestyle Hub' referral scheme into the new County wide 'Derbyshire Health Referral Scheme' as part of the Derbyshire Integrated Wellbeing Approach.

Refreshed service specification for 'Walking for Health'

Refreshed service specification for 'Five 60' programme.

HCS/33 **Park-life Project**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Community and Planning regarding the Park-life Project within our Urban Parks.

Ms Zoe Sewter presented a brief overview of the report and highlighted some of the successes and improvements made within the last five years.

During discussions a few queries were raised like how are we going to bring the parks to the Willington, Hilton and rural area residents of the district.

Ms Zoe Sewter replied that better marketing was needed to encourage people from all over the district to come to our parks and to hold more events like the Festival of Leisure which attracts people from all over and that the Village Games team help within the rural areas of the district.

Anti-Social Behaviour was brought up at the meeting and whether CCTV in the parks would make people feel safer to use the parks at all times of the day.

Ms Zoe Sewter replied that better relations with PSCO's and Neighbourhood Wardens who patrol the local parks, better lightening and more organised activities would help. Covert Wildlife cameras could be installed and these can be moved around the parks but the public do have to be informed that these have been installed and are monitoring the area.

RESOLVED:-

To note the progress on the development of the Urban Parks

To approve the delivery of the 'Park life' project.

HCS/34 **Affordable Warmth Strategy**

The Committee then considered a report from the Director of Housing and Environmental Services on the draft Affordable Warmth Strategy 2014-2019, which was presented by Ms Beverley Wagstaffe.

During the discussion a query was raised as to the definition of fuel poverty which has changed but nothing has changed. It was stated that often the problem is that people are asset rich but have no expendable income. The point was also raised that people are not always claiming benefits that they are entitled too.

The Director of Housing & Environmental Services Bob Ledger explained that there are Benefits advisors in Northgate and Housing Staff and the Citizen's Advice Bureau can also advise on these matters.

In Table two of the report it was pointed out that we as a district have the 2nd highest number of households not connected to the Gas Network, what as an Authority are we doing to help with this?

Ms Beverley Wagstaff explained that as an Authority we would be looking into helping the Villages get better deals on the price of Oil.

RESOLVED:-

Members approve the draft Affordable Warmth Strategy 2014-2019 at appendix 1 as a basis for wider consultation.

That authority is given for the Director of Housing and Environmental Services in Consultation with the Chair of this Committee, to agree any minor amendments to the proposed draft strategy arising from wider consultation before it is finally adopted. Any major proposed changes would be brought back to the Committee.

HCS/35 **Progress Report: Housing Capital Investment Programme 2012-2017**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Housing & Environmental Services on the progress of the New Build and Acquisition Programme. The report was presented by Mr Gary Clarkson.

It was highlighted in the discussion that the Authority is on target to complete its five year improvement programme as scheduled. In relation to the new build and acquisition section of the report it was reiterated that the Council should buy properties on the open market where that made economic sense.

RESOLVED:-

Members approve this half-yearly progress report for the Housing Capital Investment Programme which includes both the Improvement Programme to current stock and the New Build and Acquisition Programme.

Members approve an amendment to the New Build and Acquisition programme replacing two acquisition properties for two previously approved new build properties.

HCS/36 **Work Programme**

Members of the Committee received a report from the Director of Community & Planning Services and Director of Housing & Environmental Services setting out the updated work programme.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee considers and approves the updated work programme.

Exempt Items

HCS/37 **Any Exempt questions received by Members of the Council pursuant to Council procedure Rule No 11.**

No questions were received.

HCS/38 **Exempt Minutes**

The Committee considered the exempt minutes of the meeting held on the 28th August.

RESOLVED:-

To approve as a true record the exempt minutes of the meeting held on the 28th August 2014.

Cllr Hewlett

CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 7.40 p.m.