

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 18 January 2011, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	M Robinson
J E Alcock	I Sayers
S Brunskill	G Scott
J Hill	M Sutcliffe
S Hore	J White
B Jones	

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Director of Resources and Waste Management Officer.

584 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor G Geldard.

585 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

586 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

587 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

588 REFERENCES FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no references from Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

589 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME 2011/16

The Director of Resources submitted a report to approve the revised programme for the current year and also the future five-year capital programme for this Committee. With regard to the original programme for 2010/11 she informed Committee that it included schemes at a total estimated cost of £649,900; unfinished schemes from 2009/10 had totalled £449,340 and additional approvals had totalled £162,090. The revised estimate for this Committee was £1,245,670.

With regard to the draft programme for 2011/16, the Director of Resources informed Committee that officers had been asked to submit any new schemes for consideration. The additional schemes were submitted to Committee in detail and how each particular scheme link to the Council's ambitions. There was a total of six new proposals put forward for this Committee. She reminded Committee that this was a possible programme at this stage which would require further consideration by the Budget Working Group and by Policy and Finance Committee who would want to make sure that both the capital and revenue costs were affordable to the Council.

Committee considered the additional proposed schemes and felt that they were reasonable to add at this stage in the budget process.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the revised capital programme for 2010/11 as set out in the report; and
2. approve the future five-year programme for 2011/16 as outlined in the report to go forward in the budget process.

590 REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2010/11 AND ORIGINAL ESTIMATE 2011/12

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to agree a revised revenue budget for 2010/11 together with a draft revenue budget for 2011/12 for submission to Policy and Finance Committee, subject to the consideration of savings for 2011/12 by the Budget Working Group. She reminded Committee of the grant settlement received for the next financial year and what this would mean for the Council in that there was a need to identify substantial savings in the base budget.

The report detailed the revised revenue budget for 2010/11 which was £108,660 lower than the original estimate. The report also gave details of the movements in expenditure and income with the main reasons highlighted.

With regard to the 2011/12 draft revenue budget, the Director of Resources informed Committee that following the grant settlement the amount of savings needed for 2011/12 was £660,000 and for 2012/13 over £1m. She also highlighted that other potential problems would have a significant impact on the budget, these included the effect of the economic downturn on service income levels, the level of investment income received, future public sector funding and pension fund contributions. She informed Committee that the estimates had been prepared on the current levels of service and included provision for price increases of 3% and pay increases in line with Government Pay Policy for Public Sector Workers. In view of the amount of savings needed, the budget requiring approval for 2011/12 represented the draft base budget for this Committee and did not account for any service or structure changes that had been identified to date. All savings would be put forward and considered by the Budget Working Group in order for the Council to reach an affordable and achievable budget for 2011/12.

Committee considered the base budget as outlined in the report for each service heading and asked questions relating to these. She highlighted where there was significant changes with regard to either increased costs or considerable savings/income.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the revised budget for 2010/11; and
2. approve the revenue budget for 2011/12 for submission to the next Policy and Finance Committee subject to the consideration of savings for 2011/12 by the Budget Working Group.

591 MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR LONGRIDGE GYM

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider the current viability of the gym operation at Longridge and to consider the proposal of a transfer in management to Longridge Social Enterprise Company (LSEC). He reminded Committee that a report had been considered by this Committee back in September 2010 in which a request by Longridge Social Enterprise Company to operate the gym as part of their expansion plans for service provision in Longridge was outlined. Since that time a small working group had met with LSEC to discuss this issue. He outlined the issues surrounding a transfer to LSEC which included staffing and use of the fitness room by the Council's GP Referral Scheme. He reminded Committee that any handover to LSEC or any other organisation would need to be advantageous to the Council and not of any financial detriment with the subject of staff being transferred under TUPE Regulations.

Committee discussed the possible handover of Longridge gym to LSEC with the example of how Chipping Village Hall works as a general guide.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree in principle the proposal to transfer the gym operation to LSEC;
2. ask the Budget Working Group for guidance on financial parameters for basing a handover of the facility to ensure that it is beneficial to the council taxpayer; and
3. once identified, LSEC be invited to attend the next meeting of Committee to present a five-year business plan.

592 PARANORMAL ACTIVITIES AT CLITHEROE CASTLE MUSEUM

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider a request to hold paranormal activities at the Museum. He informed Committee that he had been approached by an organisation called "A Haunting Experience" requesting use of the Museum to hold regular paranormal activity

evenings which had previously only been held on an informal basis which relied on Museum staff to work the unsocial hours required.

The Director of Community Services outlined the various issues and options surrounding the holding of such events and gave Committee various options to consider.

Committee discussed this request in detail and expressed a variety of reservations about the organisation of this sort of event at this particular venue. They discussed the various options as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That Committee were happy to keep the current status quo whereby Lancashire Museums Service continue with their current operation and allow such evenings to take place on an informal basis.

593 DELIVERY OF WASTE STREAMS TO PFI WASTE TECHNOLOGY PARKS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report to further update Members on the delivery of our waste streams to the PFI Waste Technology Parks and future arrangements for the collection of mixed paper and cardboard. The outstanding issues included bulk haulage and the collection of mixed paper and card from our waste transfer station and the subsequent financial arrangements. Members were also advised on recent developments regarding the takeover by Viridor of Swinnerton Environmental (the Council's waste paper collection contractors).

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

594 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of progress on various aspects of leisure and sports development, tourism, arts development and the Platform Gallery.

Committee were very complimentary about the 2011 Visitor Guide. They also asked to be informed by e-mail of details of the programme for Stan the Van, as published on the Council's website.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact John Heap (414461).