

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 23 August 2016 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

J E Alcock	S Knox
R Bennett	G Mirfin
A Brown	R Newmark
P Dobson	M Robinson
S Hind	N Walsh

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Head of Environmental Health Services, Head of Financial Services, Leisure Facilities Manager and Waste Management Officer.

Also in attendance: Councillor M Fenton and I Sayers.

163 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Carefoot, G Scott, R Swarbrick and J White.

164 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Mirfin asked for an update on the meetings of the Car Park Working Group and asked about the agenda preparation process.

165 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no pecuniary and non-pecuniary declarations of interest.

166 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

167 ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUNDING SUPPORT GRANTS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report presenting the recommendations of the Working Group in relation to the allocation of Arts Development Support grants. The purpose of these grants is for Ribble Valley Borough Council to invest in the development of organisations and their projects, enhancing the arts provision within the Ribble Valley and to then support and promote the future culture and health and wellbeing of its community. Each application had been checked that it met the funding criteria and then scored on its merits; clear measureable achievements important to Ribble Valley's

development, evidence of need, supporting diversity, sustainability, high quality experience, promotion planning, numbers of people to benefit, percentage return on our contribution and partners involved.

RESOLVED: That Committee endorse the recommendations of the Working Group as outlined in the Appendix to the report.

168 THE REDEVELOPMENT OF RIBBLESDALE POOL CHANGING ROOMS AND RECEPTION

Councillor Fenton was given permission to speak on this item and welcomed the investment in the pool and asked that contact be kept with users with alternative activities to keep them active during the period of time that the pool was closed for the redevelopment works to take place.

The Director of Community Services submitted a report outlining the work planned for Ribblesdale Pool which would require a closure to complete. The Council had applied for and been granted £150,000 from Sport England to which the Council was adding £59,000 to enable a comprehensive refurbishment of the changing rooms and foyer area. The facilities for disabled people would also be significantly improved with two new changing rooms created. In order to carry out this extensive work, a closure of approximately 3 months would be required starting on 5 December 2016.

The Director of Community Services informed Committee that when budgets were prepared, it was on the basis of 12 months' usage adjusted for the usual Christmas closure of the pool in line with the capital bid, and that this 3 month closure would have a significant impact on the budget with an estimated loss of £70,000 income. He asked that Committee consider whether there should be some effort made to maintain some access to the pool, in particular for clubs during the closure. He did however point out that this would entail providing suitable changing and toilet facilities away from the pool hall.

Members discussed various aspects surrounding keeping the pool open, albeit in a limited way and the ways help could be given to users during the closed period.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. refer to Policy and Finance Committee the potential loss of £70,000 income to Ribblesdale Pool during the redevelopment works; and
2. ask officers to examine carefully the options available for temporary changing accommodation with a view to keeping access open if financially, technically and safely possible.

169 PREPARATION FOR REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information on the implications for the current refuse and recycling collection services following the withdrawal by Lancashire County Council of Cost Sharing

payments from April 2018 when over £430,000 would be lost. He informed Committee that over the next 12 months, a number of preliminary reports would be presented to this Committee each one focusing on a range of options available to this authority that may in part mitigate this loss of income.

This particular report outlined the option to introduce a charge for the collection of garden waste. The report outlined the issues around the collection of garden waste including a survey of other authorities with a similar rural nature who had already introduced a subscription based garden waste collection service for residents. Although the report demonstrated that the introduction of charges for garden waste would be unlikely to address the financial problem arising with the withdrawal of cost sharing payments in 2018, it did indicate that this was one measure that could help to bridge the funding gap.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

170 CAPITAL MONITORING 2016/2017

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information relating to the progress of the approved Community Committee 2016-2017 Capital Programme for the period to the end of July 2016. There were 12 new schemes for Community Committee totalling £374,500 with one scheme within the programme being approved subject to receiving external funding of £150,000 from Sport England. At the end of July 2016, £132,054 had been spent or committed which equated to 35.3% of the annual capital programme for this Committee. The report outlined the main reasons for the underspend on the full year budget to date.

The Head of Financial Services also asked Committee to note that the introduction of the new £1 coin had been brought forward by the Royal Mint to March 2017, so likewise that element of the capital scheme from 2017/2018 had now been brought forward into the 2016/2017 financial year, as a revenue item in 2016/2017 so that the upgrade of payment systems for the car park payment machines could be carried out in order for them to accept the new £1 coin.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

171 REVENUE OUTTURN 2015/2016

The Director of Resources submitted a report on the outturn for the financial year 2015/2016 in respect of the revenue budget for this Committee. She reported that after transfers to and from earmarked reserves, the overall underspend on this Committee was £138,642, which had been added to general fund balances. The report outlined the main variations.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

172 REVENUE MONITORING 2016/2017

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing Committee of the position for the period April to July 2016 of this year's revenue budget as far as this Committee was concerned. The report outlined by cost centre a comparison between actual expenditure and the original estimate for the period to the end of July 2016. The variations between budget and actuals had been split into groups of red, amber and green variance. The main variations were highlighted along with the budget holders comments.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

173 2015/2016 YEAR END PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information that detailed performance against our local performance indicators for the year end 2015/2016.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

174 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report updating Committee on the latest exhibitions at the Platform Gallery.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

175 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies.

The meeting closed at 7.32pm.

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