

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 6 November 2012 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

J E Alcock	L Rimmer
S Carefoot	M Robinson
J Hill	R Swarbrick
S Hore	G Scott
A M Knox	J White
G Mirfin	

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Head of Engineering Services, Head of Culture and Leisure Services and Head of Financial Services.

401 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Bennett, S Brunskill and R Newmark.

402 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

403 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

404 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

405 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking Committee's approval on proposals to increase this Committee's fees and charges with effect from 1 April 2013. This was the first stage in the review of the Committee's budget for the forthcoming 2013/2014 financial year. The Council's latest budget forecast allowed for an overall 2.5% increase in the level of income raised from fees and charges. In September 2012 a report was taken to the Budget Working Group in order to get a steer on the level of increase that should be sought in the review. At this meeting the guidance to service committees was that all charges should be reviewed and increased in line with 2.5% but with the suggestion that for Community Services Committee, all car parking charges remain unchanged. A proposed set of fees and charges for implementation from the 1 April 2013 had been produced for Committee, which gave an indication of potential income.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the proposed charges for implementation with effect from 1 April 2013 as outlined with the exception of all car parking charges; and
2. monitor any complaints received from junior footballers with regard to the cost of one off booking charges for pitches.

406 UPDATE ON PUBLIC TOILETS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of the outcome of the review of the provision and operation of the public toilets by the Public Conveniences Working Group. He reminded Committee that 8 of the 24 sets of public conveniences operated by the Council had been closed at the end of February 2012. The report gave a summary of the improvements made in the operation of the supporting services and outlined a disposal strategy for the now disused facilities with subsequent recommendations.

The development and promotion of the community toilet scheme continued to be pursued with membership of the scheme, which currently stands at 50 continuing to grow. The location of these facilities and the 16 sets of Council operated facilities were now included on an interactive map on the Council's website. However, it was felt that direction signage to the these facilities needed to be improved.

Operationally, rotas and servicing routines had been revised, the automatic lock systems that had been installed were working satisfactorily and the role of toilet guardians had been enhanced to include a watching brief on those facilities.

It was now felt that as the 8 closed sites continued to attract the residual property based charges that it was important to dispose of the sites in order to eliminate any future unnecessary expenditure. Five of the sites were suitable for disposal by sale and the remaining three sites, which were part of Council owned larger landscaped areas, would be demolished or appropriately restructured.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the recommendations of the working group for the disposal of the closed toilet sites; and
2. agree that a report on the proposed disposals be submitted to Policy and Finance Committee.

407 ADDITIONAL CAPITAL SCHEMES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider two new schemes for inclusion into the existing capital programme. Funding had become available via Section 106 Agreements for the development/enhancement of public open space and play facilities on Calderstones Park and in Clitheroe respectively. At Calderstones the commuted

sum was part of the most recently completed housing development and was earmarked for improvements to the village green at the main entrance to the estate. In Clitheroe the commuted sum related to previous developments around the town and it was felt that as concerns had recently been received from the public over conditions of the Castle Grounds play area, that this was the appropriate place to use it.

RESOLVED: That it be a recommendation to Policy and Finance Committee that the two additional capital schemes be included in the current capital programme for 2012/2013.

408 PLATFORM GALLERY AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE REVIEW

The Director of Community Services submitted a report updating Committee on the operation of the merged Platform Gallery with the Visitor Information Centre and asking for consideration on proposals that would impact upon the current staffing expenditure associated with delivery of the joint service. He reminded committee that the combined Gallery and Visitor Information facility was officially opened on Saturday, 5 May 2012 and that a business plan had been produced which steered the operation in the desired direction. Following an evaluation of the performance over the past five months since opening it had become apparent that there was a need to review certain staffing elements. Experimentation had also taken place with Sunday opening during the summer holiday period which it was felt might be worth investigating further.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree to the implementation of amended staffing requirements as identified provided that savings can be identified from within the existing budget; and
2. agree to the extension of Sunday opening for December and that costings be carried out for the summer months of 2013 and any other specific weekends that the Chamber of Trade might be promoting.

409 FLY TIPPING IN THE RIBBLE VALLEY

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information on the number of incidents and issues relating to fly tipping within the Ribble Valley. A graph set out the trend of fly tipping incidents recorded between April 2010 and September 2012 and although there had been particular incidents of increase where household waste recycling centres had closed the general trend was again downward.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

410 LEAF CLEARANCE – IMPLICATIONS FOR STREET CLEANSING

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information on the recent guidance for the treatment of leaves recovered through

the street cleansing operation and the effect these changes will have on the Council. The bulk of leaf collection was done through the use of mechanical sweepers that are hired in as part of an overall street sweeper contract. The level of the service is increased during autumn/winter to reflect the increase in demand from leaf fall. The Lancashire County Council makes a contribution through the Public Realm Agreement towards the removal of leaves from the highway for road safety reasons. Following trials instigated by the Environment Agency guidance had been received that leaf litter could no longer be used as composting and therefore recycling credits would no longer be received. This would therefore have an effect on the budget which meant that the enhanced seasonal provision of leaf clearance would need to be cut back. As part of the overall public realm agreement with Lancashire County Council, their contribution would also be renegotiated.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

411 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS CAPITAL WORKS 2013/2014 PROGRAMME (DRAFT)

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information on the development of the Lancashire County Council capital funded programme of highways works for the 2013/2014 financial year. It was highlighted that this was very much a draft programme that was likely to be reduced in due course. The report included a list of schemes for potential inclusion in the 2013/2014 Lancashire County Council highways capital programme.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

412 CAPITAL MONITORING 2012/2013

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information relating to the progress of the approved capital programme for the period April to September 2012 with regards to schemes which fall under the responsibility of this Committee. A total of 6 new schemes had been approved by Policy and Finance Committee at their meeting in February 2012. Additionally budget had been moved from 2011/2012 into 2012/2013 along with some slippage. The approved budget totalled £457,370. To date 81% of the annual capital programme for this Committee had been spent and the main variations were highlighted with reasons.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

413 REVENUE MONITORING 2012/2013

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information on the position for the first six months of this year's revenue budget as far as this Committee was concerned. At the present time, there was an overall underspend of £120,225 on the net cost of services. The main variations had been extracted for Committee's information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

414 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of progress with waste management, Ribblesdale Pool, cycling, the Triathlon Club and the Platform Gallery.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

415 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

A leaflet for the North West Sound Archive was distributed by Councillor S Hore.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

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