

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 1 September 2020 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R Newmark (Chair)

Councillors:

J E Alcock	S O'Rourke
T Austin	S Rainford
D Birtwhistle	M Robinson
L Edge	J Schumann
S Knox	G Scott
G Mirfin	

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Head of Cultural and Leisure Services, Head of Financial Services and Waste Management Officer.

Also in attendance: Councillor D O'Rourke.

700 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Atkinson, S Carefoot and A Humphreys.

701 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

702 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor R Newmark declared an interest in agenda item 12 – Council Recreational Land.

703 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

704 HEALTH AND WELLBEING INITIATIVES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report providing an overview of the Council's health and wellbeing initiatives which were primarily funded through external sources.

Members were reminded that following LCC's decision to end funding for the Up and Active programme, all the staff on fixed term contracts had been made redundant on 31 March 2020 and the projects linked to it had ended.

The Council had two posts on the establishment providing health related work, one full time and the other part time working 19 hours per week. Historically much of the work the Council had done and the services offered had been externally funded and these posts had both added to that and provided the management of the service.

This Council had been a partner in the Pennine Lancashire TaAF (Together an Active Future) project since the outset in 2017 when the scheme was announced and this was now coming to fruition following the successful application and award to the borough from Sport England. The total funding for Ribble Valley was £222,888 that would be overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and would focus on rural impact, connecting through schools, support for people with mental health challenges and connecting professionals.

In addition to and as part of TaAF a Pennine Lancashire test and learn project had also been established that would require the appointment of a health activator in Ribble Valley for a 12-month period. A full time Community Engagement Officer would be appointed to undertake project work on the ground with the focus being to explore reasons why people and communities are not acting and then to support them into sustainable physical activity. The locality lead work was currently being done by our own Health and Fitness Officer and this was proposed to continue.

LCC had made a limited amount of funding available for each district to provide a health weight management service, for Ribble Valley this amounted to around £18,500 per year over three years. This had been due to start on 1 April 2020 but had been delayed due to the pandemic. However, districts would still be awarded a full year's funding this year. This project required the appointment of a part time post to deliver the service and would be managed by existing RVBC staff.

Cardiac rehabilitation had also been delivered by the Council on behalf of the Clinical Commissioning Group for some time and we had again been awarded funding to continue this programme. Work was already taking place on how this could be delivered safely to a vulnerable group of people following the pandemic.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the actions of the officers in securing and planning to deliver these projects.

705 UPDATE ON RECYCLING AND THE DISTRICT GRANT FUND APPLICATION

The Director of Community Services submitted a report providing Members with an update on recycling rates and the district grant fund applications.

Figures recently published by LCC had shown excellent results for Ribble Valley recyclers. 2-year analysis had shown Ribble Valley had the most improved performance for collection of green waste having increased by 24% over the last 2 years. Comingled collections had also topped the table for the most improved performance, an increase by 22% over the same period. Ribble Valley was fourth in the table for quality of target material.

Monies from the district grant fund 2019/20 received from LCC to increase recycling in the borough was continuing to be used to change lilac sack customers to bins thus enabling them to recycle their household waste. This had been slow due to the pandemic, however to date nearly 100 households had requested the exchange to bins. It was suggested that for those residents who wished to recycle but cannot due to location and/or storage space, that they could be offered a clear plastic sack into which they could place their recyclable items.

LCC had now recognised the logistical challenges facing districts over infrastructure and were offering financial support for one-off capital improvements between September 2020 and February 2021. It was intended to submit a bid for separation barriers for the recyclables at the Depot.

Members were impressed with the performance of the Council and the improvements made to recycling.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the increases in recycling and reduction of landfill elements of the report;
2. approve that officers make an application for the district grant fund capital scheme; and
3. offer clear recycling sacks to current lilac sack households that do not have sufficient space for recycling bins.

706 RECYCLING REPORT

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Members to review the criteria for issuing of 240L bins for recycling.

During lockdown the Council has been inundated for requests for larger blue recycling bins, however the current criteria for this was that to qualify households had to be 5 persons or more.

Members discussed in some detail the current criteria for all bins and the best way forward to maximise recycling but keep the collection service manageable.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. retain the status quo for burgundy bins ie a household of 6 or more;
2. reduce the criteria for blue bins to a household of 4 or more; and
3. review the criteria again in 12 months' time.

707 UPDATE ON SERVICES AS A RESULT OF COVID 19

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee how services had responded and adapted during the Coronavirus pandemic with specific reference to amenity cleaning and grounds maintenance staff, the Platform Gallery, play areas and Ribblesdale Pool.

Members discussed the problems around littering and fly tipping. The Director of Community Services informed them that locations and servicing of litter bins in certain areas was currently being examined.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(Councillor Schumann left the meeting).

708 UPDATE ON WASTE PAPER COLLECTION

The Director of Community Services submitted a report providing Members with an update on waste paper and card collection in relation to recent problems experienced with Seal Recycling, our collection agent. Talks had taken place and resolutions discussed, however should the issues continue, the Council would be forced to terminate the contract and make other arrangements for the waste paper and card.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

709 SUMMARY FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Director of Resources submitted a report providing Members with a summary financial update on the revenue and capital outturn position for 2019/20 and the revenue and capital budget monitoring for 2020/21 up to the end of July. More detailed analysis reports would follow in the coming weeks.

The revenue outturn position for 2019/20 showed an overall overspend of £83,287 on the net cost of services. After transfers to and from earmarked reserves, overall there was an overspend of £120,735 that had been taken from general fund balances.

The summary revenue budget monitoring 2020/21 showed an overall overspend (or under achievement of income) of £334,983 on the net cost of services, the impact of Covid 19 being clearly evident.

The summary capital outturn position 2019/20 showed the capital programme was largely completed in line with the budget. However, there were five schemes not fully completed where the budget needed to be moved to the 2020/21 financial year to allow the scheme to be fully completed.

Progress on the capital programme in the 2020/21 financial year had inevitably been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

710 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from representatives on outside bodies.

711 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the following item of business being exempt information under Part 1, Categories 3 and 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

(Councillor Newmark declared an interest in the next item of business and left the meeting. The Vice Chairman, Councillor Edge took the Chair)

712 COUNCIL RECREATIONAL LAND

The Director of Community Services submitted a report outlining a request to purchase an area of Council recreational land relating to the bowling club in Sabden.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree that the Council decline to sell the land.

713 CLITHEROE MUSEUM AND ATRIUM CAFÉ

The Director of Community Services submitted a report providing Committee with an update on the management of Clitheroe Museum and Atrium Café.

Committee had received a report at the January 2020 meeting where Members had agreed to engage LCC to manage the service for a further year. At the same time the operator of the Atrium Café was also provided with an extension to his contract for the same period to the end of March 2021.

The Coronavirus had turned plans outlined in earlier reports on their head as the museum and café had both been closed for the past several months. The museum had reopened in late August but the café operator had informed the Council in June that he no longer wished to operate the café for economic reasons and a new tender was therefore being prepared to let the café again as soon as possible.

Options for the operation of the museum from April 2021 now needed to be considered and Members discussed them. It was felt that more information was required to make a long-term decision.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree for officers to negotiate an extension of the current contract with LCC for a further three years.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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