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COMMUNITY

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 10 July 2014 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00pm

PRESENT Councillor Jennifer Bower - In the Chair

Councillors Jacque Bevan, Richard Bright, Sue Burfoot, Tom Donnelly, Tony Millward, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Geoff Stevens, MBE, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell, Philippa Tilbrook, Judith Twigg, Jo Wild.

Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Giles Dann (Policy Manager), Rob Cogings (Head of Housing), Ashley Watts (Head of Community Development) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Burton and Andrew Statham. There were no substitute members.

64/14 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe, seconded by Councillor Judith Twigg and

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Committee held (unanimously) on 10 April 2014 be approved as a correct record.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

65/14 – ITEM 6 – PERFORMANCE REPORT 2013/14

The Committee considered a report regarding the four priority indicators falling within the remit of the Committee. Overall, 3 out of 4 targets were achieved and performance also improved in these indicators from 2012/13. One target was not achieved and performance worsened for this indicator; details were given in the report together with an action plan for 2014/15 in respect of this indicator. Progress on all of the Priority Indicators would be reported at the next Committee meeting in January 2015.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

RESOLVED 1. That improvement during 2013/14, in 3 of the 4 Performance

- (Unanimously) Indicators falling under the remit of the Community Committee, be noted.
2. That the 2014/15 classification of Performance Indicators be approved
 3. That the proposed action plan for the Red indicator be approved

66/14 – ITEM 7 – LEISURE REVIEW

The Committee considered a report which set out the progress with the review of Leisure Services and in particular the potential efficiency savings which had been identified during the first stage of the review. A review team was established in October 2013 and comprised officers from across the Council. Engagement with Members and staff from Leisure Services, at all levels and locations, had taken place. The process had helped identify several opportunities to work more efficiently and produce revenue savings.

An initial report from the Leisure Review team was considered by the Environment Committee on 27 February 2014 when various changes to fees and charges for Leisure activities were agreed. Those proposals were implemented with effect from 1 April 2014.

Work on the second stage of the review had also started; however it was reiterated that the review was still at an early stage, and that a further report on the outcome of the second stage would be brought to a future Committee.

The main opportunities for delivering efficiencies or for increasing income identified in the first stage of the review were listed in the report.

All low risk operational matters detailed in Section 3 of the report (Appendix 2) were recommended for implementation, but those proposals of high or medium risk were to be reported to a future meeting of an appropriate Committee before any decision to implement them was made.

It was noted that issues raised in the petition, appended to the report, would be considered during the course of the Review

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Judith Twigg and

RESOLVED
(Unanimously)

RECOMMENDATION

1. The following outcomes from the first stage of the Leisure Services Review as outlined in Section 2 of the report be approved and implemented as follows:

Staffing

Having regard to the District Council's Change Management Policy, the Corporate Director be given delegated authority to negotiate a collective agreement with the Trade Unions to cover all proposed staffing matters identified within the review, including:

- a. The rationalisation of shift patterns of staff and the provision of lifeguarding for swimming lessons across the Leisure Centres in order to provide efficiencies.
- b. Allowing staff to work beyond their normal 37 hours per week at normal rates of pay at plain time.
- c. A review of pay for fitness instructors who deliver classes is carried out to provide a better comparison with market rates of pay for higher levels of performance, and that arrangements for implementation of the outcomes of the review are put into place by the Head of Community Development in consultation with the Human Resources Manager.
- d. A review of casual contracts in the Leisure service takes place so that any casual workers that are relied upon are changed to become contracted staff and those which are truly casual in nature are confirmed as such.

Increasing Participation

- e. That further work to assess the feasibility increasing the capacity of the gym at Ashbourne Leisure Centre by extending into the room between the gym and the community room is carried out.
- f. The introduction of gymnastic sessions at Arc and Ashbourne and Trampolining at Arc.
- g. The toddler swimming programmes at the District Council Swimming Pools, and climbing courses at Wirksworth Leisure Centre, be moved to run all year round programmes.

Sports Development

- h. Greater attention is given to commissioning community based schemes using existing staff from our Leisure Centres to deliver outreach programmes in order to reduce costs and maximise income.
- i. That existing Leisure Centre staff are used to help in delivering Sports Development programmes in the future.

Operational Efficiencies

- j. That ongoing work (through the IT Review) to develop on line bookings for Leisure facilities activities to provide a more user friendly booking system, is noted.
- k. That further discussion takes place in respect of reducing the future costs of administering and collecting direct debits for Leisure Memberships, bearing in mind present contractual obligations.
- l. That greater use of electronic means e.g. via websites and social media, are used for the publicity and promotion of school holiday programmes and that simple leaflets be used

to get the message across in schools.

- m. The chemical dosing equipment at Bakewell Pool is changed to provide efficiency savings
- n. That efficiencies already made in relation to plant room chemicals and several renegotiated contracts is noted.

Crèche

- o. That further detailed work is carried out to identify the implications of closing the crèche at Ashbourne Leisure Centre.

Hathersage Pool

- p. That, in the short to medium term, the arrangements for the annual grant to Hathersage Swimming Pool is amended to allow the Parish Council to claim their full allocation each year regardless of whether they have an operating loss or not. This arrangement will be subject to further review and be reliant on the availability of the District Council's own resources.
2. The petition in Appendix 1 be noted
 3. That all low risk operational matters detailed in Section 3 of the report (Appendix 2) are implemented but those proposals of high or medium risk be reported to a future meeting of an appropriate Committee before any decision to implement them is made.

67/14 – ITEM 8 – ASHBOURNE LEISURE CENTRE – FITNESS SUITE IMPROVEMENT

The Committee considered a report seeking approval, should external funding be awarded, to extend and improve the Fitness Suite at Ashbourne Leisure Centre. The report included proposed layout, timescales and costs.

In March 2014, the Sports Development Officer and members of the Leisure Centre Management Team submitted an application to Derbyshire Sport for funding via the Aiming High Fund for £60,000 to develop the Fitness Suite at Ashbourne Leisure Centre. The improvements would include greater provision for disabled users, with the addition of Inclusive Fitness equipment, modernising the current look and feel and expanding the gym to accommodate a multifunctional training area.

After assessment, the original proposal was rejected was due the floor loading the fitness equipment would place in this area, and a second plan was drafted in line with funding requirements to extend the current Fitness Suite by utilising the consultation area between the Community Room and the main entrance to the Fitness Suite (Appendix 1 to the report). The total projected cost, including contingencies equated to £60,000, and a draft programme of works had been established, as outlined in the report.

The Head of Community Development stressed that, should this funding not be granted, the work project would not go ahead. Members were nevertheless asked to vote on the recommendation to enable the work to start if and when the funding became available.

It was moved by Councillor Tony Millward, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly and

RESOLVED That the project be approved, subject to the award of external funding.
(Unanimously)

MEETING CLOSED 6.50PM

CHAIRMAN