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## **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 10 September 2015 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.**

**PRESENT** Councillor Joanne Wild - In the Chair

Councillors Jennifer Bower, Richard Bright, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Albert Catt, Ann Elliott, Vicky Massey, Tony Morley, Joyce Pawley, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose, OBE, Andrew Statham, Colin Swindell and Philippa Tilbrook.

Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Tim Braund (Head of Regulatory Services), Eileen Tierney (Licensing Manager), Heidi McDougall (Head of Environmental Services), Amanda Goodwill (Principal Officer, Environmental Health), Rob Cogings (Head of Housing), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Susan Hobson. There were no substitute Members.

### **124/15 - MINUTES**

It was moved by Colin Swindell, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 9 July 2015 be approved as a correct record.  
(unanimously)

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

### **125/15 – PROPOSALS FOR CHRISTMAS REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS**

In July 2015 the Governance and Resources Committee agreed that the Town Hall would close between the Christmas and New Year period. The impact of the closure limited access to the availability of the waste and recycling service; in order to reduce the level of disruption and number of complaints received over the Christmas period the collections had been

reviewed and a number of options considered by the Corporate Leadership Team. The four options were detailed in the report, and tabled in Appendix 1 to the report.

Option 4 was the recommended option, delivering minimal disruption to residents and providing an additional collection of refuse to cater for residents who may be missed and during a period when residents usually have more waste.

Changes to the Waste and Recycling collections throughout the Christmas and New Year period would be publicised using a variety of different methods, as detailed in the report.

In addition to communicating the changes, residents would be encouraged to report any missed bins or container requests via the Website. Residents who did not have internet access would be able to leave a message on the Council's answer phone. The postcode search facility on the website would also be updated to enable residents to check all collections scheduled over Christmas and New Year. Bad weather procedures were outlined in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Colin Swindell, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the Committee agree that option 4 be implemented in December 2015. This option includes suspending garden waste collections for two weeks and collecting refuse instead.
2. That Committee approve that in future years all Christmas collections, where necessary, move forward to enable collections to be undertaken after the bank holiday similar to other Bank Holiday weeks throughout the year. Where necessary suspend garden waste for a limited time to enable an additional collection of refuse.
3. That Committee approve that the Head of Environmental Services be delegated to agree with the contractor the working days over the Christmas and New Year period in order to ensure that collections take place.
4. That the changes agreed be publicised as outlined in section 3.

## **126/15 – BAKWELL VISITOR CENTRE**

The Committee considered a report that proposed further steps to be taken in respect of staff and services at Bakewell Visitor Centre, in accordance with the Tourism Services Review approved by Members in July 2014.

The Council meeting in July 2014 confirmed the savings due from ceasing contributions to Bakewell TIC from April 2016 of £23,000 per annum would be incorporated in the Medium Term Financial Plan. An update on negotiations with the PDNPA was considered by Council in April 2015. PDNPA Council officers on 28 July 2015, and it became clear that they still had no mandate to discuss options but were open to doing so in future (further meeting dates had been arranged to that end).

PDNPA stated its position, as follows:

The PDNPA

- wished the property lease to continue as it is, and not to be ceased or varied
- wanted to stop the joint Management Agreement
- did not want the existing TIC Assistants to be transferred to PDNPA
- did not intend to have any agreement with the District Council for the provision of tourist information at the present time.

Under the terms of the Management Agreement, six months' notice was required to terminate the agreement. In accordance with Members' resolutions on 17 July 2014, it was recommended that such notice now be given to the PDNPA. At the same time, the TIC Assistants would formally be informed that their posts were at risk. An informal meeting was held with the staff on 7 August 2015, and a meeting with the Trade Unions was held on 8 September. Further meetings would be held in due course.

However, it would also be necessary to take steps to secure alternative VIP provision in Bakewell. Tourist information services elsewhere in the Derbyshire Dales were now delivered entirely by the private/voluntary sector. There was no cogent reason why a similar model could not be adopted in respect of Bakewell.

The Committee asked that the professionalism and patience of the Head of Regeneration and Policy with regard to these negotiations be noted.

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

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. The Peak District National Park Authority be formally notified that the District Council will terminate the joint management agreement for Bakewell Visitor Centre on 1 April 2016.
2. The District Council continues to work with the Peak District National Park Authority regarding visitor information provision in Bakewell.
3. Steps be taken to secure alternative VIP provision in Bakewell should negotiations with the National Park Authority be unsuccessful.
4. The TIC Assistants employed by the District Council be formally notified their posts are at risk.

## **127/15 – HOUSING REVIEW**

The Committee considered a report regarding The Community Housing Team service review, which considered a number of key issues concerning the provision of the service, performance and future challenges.

Appendix 1 to the report set out the statutory and non-statutory housing services, and Appendix 2 set out the recommendations arising from the review.

As with all service reviews, the Housing review would need to consider three questions: does the service need to be provided at all; does the service need to be provided by the District Council, and what level of service is needed? The findings were detailed in the report, and in summary it was felt that the Council's desire to enable affordable homes added considerable weight to the need to provide the service; 3 options were explored regarding provision by the Council, with the result that taken as a whole, the housing team preferred to remain as an in-

house service; and with regard to level of service, the implications of not providing a high level of service would be dramatic, based on the Council's highly regarded housing service, as evidenced in the report.

The role and function of the Community Housing Team was set out in the report, together with an overview of the Council's housing and homelessness strategies. A table showing homelessness figures from 2011/12 to 2014/15 was presented in the report, together with a comparison across the District Council's rural benchmark group.

Work undertaken in partnership with other Derbyshire authorities, specifically the delivery of Home-Options and Move on, was detailed in the report.

Enabling the development of new homes was primarily the focus of the Rural Housing Enabler, as set out in the report. The service performed well in comparison to other Derbyshire districts, as tabled in para.3.50 of the report, and a similar comparison with the Council's benchmark group was tabled in para.3.51 of the report.

The need for the continuing financial support provided by the District Council and the availability of appropriate sites on which to build was evident. There were other sources of funding which could potentially be explored and whilst there was some risk involved, the potential gains could fund a substantial part of a future housing programme.

The Committee asked that thanks to the Head of Housing be noted, for his work on this comprehensive report.

It was moved by Councillor Jennifer Bower, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

**RESOLVED**

(unanimously)

1. In order to generate capital finance, the feasibility of ending the discounted property scheme be assessed to generate new investment in affordable housing.
2. That on completion of the feasibility study the report be brought back to this Committee for consideration at a future meeting.
3. That the service recommendations contained in Appendix 2 to the report be noted

**128/15 – HEALTH AND WELL-BEING STRATEGY**

The Committee considered a report that introduced a draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Derbyshire Dales District Council and sought Members' approval to consult on its contents.

In April 2012 the Public Health function transferred from the previous Primary Care Trusts back to local government; and at that time Derbyshire County Council formed their statutory Health and Wellbeing Board. One of the Board's first tasks was to produce and adopt a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Derbyshire county area, and the final document was formally published in October 2012.

A Health and Wellbeing Hub was subsequently formed, and had produced a draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Consultation with key partners, broader stakeholders and the general public on the draft Strategy would be sought, following which a summary of comments received and a final Strategy would be submitted to Council for

approval and adoption.

It was moved by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe, seconded by Councillor Vicky Massey and

- RESOLVED** (unanimously)
1. That the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy be approved for the purpose of consultation;
  2. That a further report be submitted to Council once the consultation has been completed for adoption of the final Strategy.

## **129/15 – REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

The Committee considered a report that identified both the scope of the Environmental Health service review and the suggested methodology.

The Environmental Health Service delivered a significant proportion of the regulatory duties placed upon the local authority via statute, whilst also providing some discretionary/enabler functions. The service was also a key consultee in terms of Planning and Licensing activities, a key player in the national Better Business approach to regulation and a key contributor to Health & Wellbeing based initiatives and the wider Public Health agenda.

The officer team for the review of Environmental Health was outlined in the report, and the Principal Officer advised Members that the Head of Corporate Services had subsequently joined the review team, as recommended by the Corporate Leadership Team. Political input would be provided by the nominated Member Champion for Regulatory Services, Councillor Andrew Statham.

The review would consider 3 key questions: Does the service need to be provided at all? Does the service need to be provided by the District Council? And what level of service should be provided? The approach was detailed in the report, and would take place alongside other significant projects and reviews, as listed in the report, thus any associated learning/outputs would be considered accordingly.

It was moved by Councillor Tony Morley, seconded by Councillor Sue Bull and

- RESOLVED** (unanimously) That the scope and methodology of the Environmental Health Review are approved.

## **130/15 – REVIEW OF LICENSING**

The Committee considered a report that informed the Committee of the scope of the District Council's Licensing Service Review and outlined the suggested methodology. It also sought approval to establish a Member Panel to take part in the service review, as recommended by the Licensing and Appeals Committee at the July 2015 meeting.

The main areas of licensing administered included alcohol, entertainment & late night refreshment, taxis, gambling, animal welfare, and cosmetic piercing etc. More recently, scrap metal licences and street trading consents had been added to functions undertaken. The Licensing Team's remit was set out in the report.

The effectiveness of the way in which the Licensing Service was currently provided and the existing policies and procedures used to provide it, would be considered and the objectives were listed in the report.

In addition to the Licensing team, it was proposed that an Officer from another licensing authority in Derbyshire or Nottinghamshire and/or from one of the licensing service's regular partners, (for example police, fire, trading standards) should be asked to be part of the review team, on an ad-hoc basis. It was also intended to ask licensing customers, (business and public), for their input into shaping the future of the service.

The review will consider 3 key questions: Does the service need to be provided? Does the service need to be provided by the District Council? What level of service should be provided? The approach was detailed in the report, to include:

- Service Standards and Customer Care
- Casework Management and Utilisation of Resources
- Effective Consultation and Engagement

An investigation would be made into a shared or joint licensing service, or partnership working; examples of existing single licensing services in England were listed in the report.

Progress reports would be considered at the Licensing & Appeals committee meetings, and Officers expected to be able to produce final recommendations by the end of March 2016.

It was moved by Councillor Jennifer Bower, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

- RESOLVED** (unanimously)
- 1) That the scope and suggested methodology of the Licensing Service Review are approved.
  - 2) That progress reports be discussed at the Licensing and Appeals Committee meetings prior to the final report being brought back to the Community and Environment Committee.

**MEETING CLOSED 7.14PM**

**CHAIRMAN**