



COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

17th September 2014

PRESENT:-

Councillors D.R. Wright (Chairman) J. Illingworth (Vice Chairman), G. Bush,
P. Chandler, M. R. Graham, J.B. Rhodes, M. Twitney, P. Posnett,

Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Central Services Manager, Administrative
Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

C14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Lumley and L. Horton.

C15. MINUTES

The public and exempt minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2014 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman

C16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Rhodes & Posnett declared a personal and non pecuniary interest in relation to any issues concerning the Leicestershire County Council by virtue of them being a County Councillor.

Councillor Twitney declared an interest in Item 13 due to him paying for his daughter's membership to Waterfield Leisure Centre.

C17. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees.

C18. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to update Members on the update of decisions from the previous meeting.

RESOLVED that the update on decision be noted.

C19. BUDGET MONITORING APRIL TO JUNE 2014

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to provide information on actual expenditure and income incurred on this Committee's services compared to the latest approved budget for the period 1st April 2014 to 30th June 2014.

The Central Services Manager brought Member attention to the table at para 3.3 summarising the year end forecast of £2.4 million.

Members enquired about rent allowance overspend and were ensured by Officers that active recovery was in place to recoup this. The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods also informed members there would be a report on the performance of benefits service being presented to the Governance committee at its meeting on the 22nd September 2014.

RESOLVED that the financial position on each of this Committee's services to 30th June 2014 and yearend forecast be noted.

C20. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT- BUDGET MONITORING 1 APRIL 2014- 30 JUNE 2014

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to provide information on actual expenditure and income incurred on the Housing Revenue account (HRA), compared to the latest approved budget for the period 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2014.

The Central Services Manager brought Members attention to para 3.4 showing the potential working balance surplus at 31 March 2015. Members suggested the year end surplus currently being forecast could be used to help fund capital schemes. Officers explained to members for 2014/15 there was a budgeted surplus which is transferred into the Regeneration and Development Reserve.

RESOLVED that the financial position on the HRA to 20 June 2014 and the yearend forecast be noted.

C21. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING TO 31ST AUGUST 2014

The Head of Central Services submitted a revised report to update the committee on the progress of schemes within the Capital Programme to 31st August 2014 and seeking a virement of £90K from the Kitchen and Bathroom programme.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods ensured Members that this virement would not have an effect on continuing to provide decent homes.

The Central Services Manager outlined Appendix A.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the progress made on each capital scheme be noted as outlined in appendix A
- 2) a virement of £90,000 be recommended from the Kitchen and Bathroom Programme into the Void improvements scheme (£60,000) and the Strategic Housing site (£30,000) as outlined in paragraph 5.3 and Appendix B for submission to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee.

C22. CORPORATE REVIEW OF CHARGES 2015-16

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to provide information on the various fees and charges and to recommend changes to these charges to operate from 1st April 2015

Members attention was drawn to Appendix A of the report outlining charges that fall outside of Officers delegation.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that a report will be brought back to this committee regarding para 3.9 and 3.10, Lifeline service and homelessness.

The Central Services Manager announced that the cemetery lodge renovation had been completed and the tenancy was expected to be filled mid-October.

RESOLVED that the level of charges set out in the attached table in Appendix A be approved to operate from 1st April 2015.

C23. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)- REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES 2015/16

The Head of Central Service submitted a report providing information on the various fees and charges that are made by this committee.

The Central Services Manager brought Members attention to para 5.1 which outlined the amount of income that the recommended changes in the report will generate.

Members discussed the increases in charging for communal cleaning. Members voiced concern about the level of service currently received and requested that this service needs to be scrutinised.

RESOLVED that the level of charges for 2015/16 be approved for each service as set out in the report apart from Communal area cleaning service which will be deferred to the next committee, following a service review.

C24. ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods presented a report to update members on the progress achieved so far through the Melton Community Covenant.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods brought Members attention to Appendix C summarising the action that the Melton Armed Forces Community Covenant Networking Group has taken in the past year since the pledge was approved by this committee.

Members showed support of the report.

RESOLVED that the progress that has been achieved be noted and the future action to be taken forward by the Armed Forces Community Covenant

Networking Group be approved.

C25. MELTON DEMENTIA REPORT

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to inform Members of the actions that have been delivered as well as future progress after signing up to the Leicestershire Dementia Action Alliance in January 2014.

Discussion took place around training staff of local businesses to support customers with dementia and dementia awareness training being open to members of the public.

A Member commended the Community Policy Officer for her work in this area, and hoped that her invaluable effort would be continued via the new post holder.

RESOLVED that the past actions be noted and the work to progress actions identified in Appendix A be approved.

C26. WATERFIELD LEISURE CENTRE- UPDATE AND 2015 CHARGES

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report asking Members to note the continued impact following full refurbishment of Waterfield Leisure Centre and approve the charges proposed for 2015.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods drew Members attention to the attendance figure table at 3.3 showing the impact of the refurbishment.

This showed that there were significant sustained improvements both in participation and financial benefits from the improvement.

It was stated that in the councils view the increase in charges was reasonable.

A Member congratulated the Chairman on supporting the refurbishment of Waterfield Leisure Centre.

The Chairman stated that after a recent visit to Waterfield Leisure Centre the standards of cleanliness, facilities and equipment remains at a high level.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The impact following refurbishment of Waterfield Leisure Centre be noted.
- 2) The charges proposed for 2015 at Waterfield Leisure Facility be approved as attached in Appendix A.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30p.m, closed at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman