COUNCIL MEETING – 17 JULY 2018

REPORT OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

18 June 2018

Present: Councillors Graves (Chairman), Bone (Vice-Chairman), Allebone, Aslam and Lloyd.

Also present: Miss K Denton, (Assistant Director) and Mr S Whiteley (Electoral Services Team Leader).

(Ms H Saunders and Ms L Coombe (Glamis Hall for All), and Dr M Crofts and Mr N Cartwright (Northamptonshire Rights and Equalities Council) attended to deliver presentations.)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maguire and Patel.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that there were no declarations of interest.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2018 be confirmed and signed.

4. PRESENTATION FROM GLAMIS HALL FOR ALL

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to introduce the presentation from Glamis Hall for All. The chairman invited Ms H Saunders and Ms L Coombe to deliver the presentation.

Ms Saunders explained how Glamis Hall had developed between 2015 and 2018, undertaking a skills audit to identify gaps in the staffing. Ms Saunders also outlined the expansion of the use of the centre for community groups and events, and the commitment of Glamis Hall for All to be a living wage employer, which had provided staff stability in a traditionally transient employment sector.

Ms Saunders and Ms Coombe went on to cover the use of major grant money in 2016/17, including grants from Borough Council of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire County Council and National Lottery funding. These included projects involving the purchase of electric vehicles, solar panels and improving the garden facilities.

Members discussed future funding opportunities and streams that could be considered by Glamis Hall for All. The chairman thanked Ms Saunders and Ms Coombe for their presentation and their work to provide facilities and support to residents of the borough.
RESOLVED that the presentation from Glamis Hall for All be noted.

RECOMMEND that resources committee consider funding pressures in the voluntary sector and future grants awarded with this in mind.

5. PRESENTATION FROM NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RIGHTS AND EQUALITY COUNCIL

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to introduce the presentation from Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council (NREC). The chairman invited Dr M Crofts and Mr N Cartwright to deliver the presentation.

Dr Crofts introduced the organisation and provided members with an outline of the duties and projects undertaken, along with how NREC works with other organisations such as Wellingborough Afro-Caribbean Association, the Citizens Advice Bureau and Community Law Service. She went on to highlight the increase in casework around employment tribunals, particularly in instances of pregnancy and maternity cases which have been on the increase.

Mr Cartwright explained the recent Heritage Lottery funded project Race Act 40, an oral history project focused on experiences of race in Wellingborough, and the intention for new, similar projects looking at immigration to be funded in the same way in future.

Dr Crofts went on to discuss the financial situation of NREC, explaining that the funding model had changed with a loss of some funding streams locally and nationally.

Members discussed potential ways of increasing funding opportunities for NREC and the impact of funding on the support and focus of the organisation across the county.

The chairman thanked Dr Crofts and Mr Cartwright for their presentation and the work undertaken in the borough.

RESOLVED that the presentation from Northamptonshire Rights and Equalities Council be noted.

6. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION (GDPR) PROGRESS REPORT

The annexed circulated report of the assistant director was received to inform the committee of the council’s progress on preparation for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Members discussed the report and the GDPR in general, commenting with regard to the volume of communication prompted by GDPR, and the lack of clarity in certain lawful processes which appear to be in conflict with the intentions of the regulation.
It was acknowledged that the work undertaken had been resource intensive and that activities would be ongoing to ensure compliance.

RESOLVED that the progress made in relation to implementation of the GDPR be noted.

7. PERFORMANCE: COMPLIMENTS, COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – 1 OCTOBER 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2018

The annexed circulated report of the assistant director was received to inform the committee of the council’s performance, including Wellingborough Norse, during the second half of 2017-18 in handling customer feedback, including complaints which had been referred to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO).

Members discussed the level of complaints and freedom of information requests received and the comparative levels received in previous years.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2018-19

The annexed circulated report of the assistant director was received to seek guidance from the committee as to what broad areas of policy they would like to review in the coming year.

Members discussed the organisations proposed and discussed which services and organisations they would like to call to present to the committee within the current committee cycle.

It was noted that the committee would receive a report from the ICT service of the council at its meeting in September.

RESOLVED that a work programme for 2018-19 be agreed.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8:35pm.