

COUNCIL MEETING – 2 APRIL 2019

REPORT OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

14 January 2019

Present: Councillors Graves (Chairman), V Waters (Vice-Chairman), Allebone, Aslam, Lloyd, and Patel.

Also present: Miss K Denton (Assistant Director), Mrs G Chapman (Principal Community Support Manager) and Mr S Whiteley (Electoral Services Team Leader).

(Councillors Griffiths and Emerson attended as observers. Ms R Hadaway (Nene Valley Community Action) attended for item 4; Mr S Churchman and Ms L Hitchman-Banks (Places Leisure) for item 5.)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that no apologies for absence were received.

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 24 September 2018 be confirmed and signed.

4. PRESENTATION FROM NENE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to introduce the presentation from Nene Valley Community Action (NVCA). The chairman invited Ms R Hadaway to deliver the presentation.

Ms Hadaway thanked the committee for inviting NVCA to present and outlined the work undertaken by NVCA across the borough and the wider county. This included running DBS checks for various organisations, offering training and policy assistance to charities, and running a weekly bulletin for over two hundred organisations in Wellingborough.

Ms Hadaway went on to outline some of the challenges faced by NVCA, including the difficulty in recruiting volunteers and running projects with little or no external funding.

Members discussed the presentation and the potential impact of local government reorganisation in Northamptonshire on the voluntary sector. Ms Hadaway advised that NVCA had begun conversations with colleagues in the sector and that a workshop had been organised for February 2019 to discuss the implications of changes to local governance in Northamptonshire.

Members then discussed potential opportunities for the voluntary sector in future projects in the borough and the wider county.

The chairman thanked Ms Hadaway for her presentation and commended NVCA for their work done in the borough.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

5. PLACES LEISURE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to introduce a presentation from Places Leisure. The chairman invited Mr S Churchman and Ms L Hitchman-Banks to deliver the presentation.

Mr Churchman began by outlining some of the work undertaken both at the Waendel and Redwell leisure centres over the past year, explaining that following the refurbishment of Waendel Leisure Centre membership numbers had returned to a similar position, and membership initiatives had been brought in to compete with new low-cost fitness providers nearby.

He went on to provide details of schemes involved to promote exercise classes and swimming for children, with Places Leisure continuing to provide free swimming for 7,000 children despite government funding for the scheme being cut. He also provided members with detail of a council funded Pool Pod, helping users with mobility issues gain access to the swimming pool and generating a 20% increase in this type of user.

Mr Churchman closed the presentation by looking forward to 2019, explaining to members that Places Leisure were looking to grow membership, get 2,000 children into learning to swim schemes, increase community participation and improve the energy efficiency of both buildings.

Ms Hitchman-Banks then informed members of the GP referral and self-referral schemes run by Places Leisure, including successful walking football and fall prevention programmes for the elderly.

Members discussed the upcoming projects at Redwell, including the 3G pitch, and the supporting facilities at Redwell Leisure Centre.

Mrs Chapman informed the committee that discussions between senior officers and Places Leisure had taken place with regard to future opportunities at Redwell Leisure Centre. It was intended to present some proposals to members in the coming months once these had been explored further.

The chairman thanked Mr Churchman and Ms Hitchman-Banks for the presentation.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

6. PERFORMANCE: COMPLIMENTS, COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – 1 APRIL 2018 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 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 first half of 2018-19 in handling customer feedback, including complaints which had been referred to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO).

Members discussed the report with some focus on the number of complaints generated by Wellingborough Norse. Members considered the reasons for these complaints and the difficulties in effectively combatting fly tipping and missed bin collections.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8:25pm.