

COUNCIL MEETING – 11 APRIL 2017

REPORT OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

20 March 2017

Present: Councillors L Lawman (Chairman), Allebone, Aslam, and Simmons.

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

(Councillors Griffiths and G Lawman attended as observers. Ms A Breeden (Shire Community Services), Mr M Britton (Goodwill Solutions) and Mr C Holmes (Northamptonshire Sport) attended to deliver presentations. Mr S Churchman and Ms L Hitchman-Banks (Places for People Leisure), Ms P McCourt (Housing) and Mr B Gallyot (Wellingborough Norse) attended to answer questions from members.)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Abram, Gough and Graves.

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 6 February 2017 be confirmed and signed.

4. PRESENTATION BY SHIRE COMMUNITY SERVICES

The annexed circulated report of the Interim Director was received to introduce members to the presentation by Shire Community Services.

The chairman welcomed Ms Breeden, who provided an overview of Shire Community Services (SCS) focusing on its work with the Wellibus and medical car services in Wellingborough and the surrounding areas. Ms Breeden outlined how the funding from various organisations was used by SCS and how their service had recently diversified beyond residents of the borough, as newly identified funding streams had allowed SCS to deliver their medical car service to residents of Kettering.

Ms Breeden also explained that there had been a shift to nearly two-thirds of usage of the Wellibus service to fulfil more social requirements, as opposed to the initial provisions of aid to residents with reduced mobility for shopping and medical appointments. She went on to say that with people living longer and more demand on their services, SCS faces a challenging year but that she was confident that SCS could keep up with demand.

Members discussed the impact of the reduction of public transport in the area as a cause of increased demand, particularly from rural areas. Members requested further information with regard to the provision of services to residents of the borough of Kettering and whether any funding had been secured from the relevant local authority.

Ms Breeden explained that the NHS had approached SCS to provide the medical car service to approximately 375 residents of the borough of Kettering and that whilst SCS did not receive funding from Kettering Borough Council, there was funding allocated from both the NHS and from Northamptonshire County Council.

Councillor L Lawman proposed that a recommendation be made for a letter to be sent to Kettering Borough Council supporting a claim for funding from Shire Community Services, due to services provided to residents of the borough of Kettering. This was seconded by Councillor Aslam and, upon being put to the vote, was approved unanimously.

The chairman asked for the most recent set of accounts for SCS to be circulated and Ms Breeden committed to providing these.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the presentation from Shire Community Services be noted;
- (ii) Shire Community Services' accounts be circulated amongst the members.

R1 RECOMMENDED that a letter be written to Kettering Borough Council to support a claim for funding from Shire Community Services for services provided to the residents of Kettering borough.

5. PRESENTATION BY GOODWILL SOLUTIONS CIC

The annexed circulated report of the Interim Director was received to introduce members to the presentation by Goodwill Solutions.

The chairman welcomed Mr Britton of Goodwill Solutions. Mr Britton provided members with some background on the organisation and the transitional period of Goodwill Solutions taking over management of the Hemmingwell Community and Skills Centre from The Hope Project in 2016.

Mr Britton briefed members on the various clubs and engagement activities undertaken at the Skills Centre and the projects run by Goodwill Solutions to improve community engagement, with a view to making the Skills Centre self-sustaining in the future.

Members considered the various schemes of Goodwill Solutions and praised the work done around using the Skills Centre for basic life skills classes and programs for getting ex-offenders back into work. A discussion ensued about the challenges faced in ensuring that those work programs were successful.

Members thanked Mr Britton for his presentation and for the work undertaken by Goodwill Solutions CIC in respect of Hemmingwell Skills and Community Centre.

RESOLVED that the presentation by Goodwill Solutions CIC be noted.

6. SPORTS AND LEISURE PERFORMANCE

The annexed circulated report of the Interim Director was received to provide members with a report on the performance of Places for People Management Ltd (Places for People) and to introduce a presentation from Northamptonshire Sport (NSport).

The chairman welcomed the Principal Community Support Manager, who introduced the report and the speakers from both respective organisations; Mr S Churchman and Ms L Hitchman-Banks from Places for People and Mr C Holmes from NSport.

Mr Holmes was invited to deliver his presentation to members and explained NSport's role in relation to Sport England and with the county as a whole. He went on to detail some of the specific schemes and activities in Wellingborough with the focus being on inclusion for all members of the public and not just those who are already engaged and proficient at a particular sport.

Mr Holmes went on to discuss NSport's annual review with members, and after questions explained that NSport has a full time officer dedicated to disability sports, including indoor bowls clubs for day care centres and sufferers of dementia. Mr Holmes ended his presentation by informing members that a shift in strategy for Sport England means that there will be several pilot schemes in the future around engagement, geared toward those who are least active, and that NSport would actively pursue being part of those pilots.

The chairman thanked Mr Holmes for attending and invited Mr S Churchman and Ms L Hitchman-Banks to present the report on the performance of Places for People.

Mr Churchman outlined some of the challenges faced for Places for People in the light of a much more competitive market nowadays, but that there had been considerable improvements with regard to swimming from clubs and schools and that by developing the after-school clubs in conjunction with NSport a more effective program could be defined.

Members discussed the challenges faced by the Redwell and Waendel Leisure Centres in the borough and Mr Churchman agreed that due to the shift in the marketplace Places for People were focusing on retention and recruitment of new members. Mr Churchman briefed members on the introduction of a fitness app, which would allow for communication with more casual users of the facilities, including programmes and to encourage a wider discussion and engagement with potential customers.

Members referred to the temporary closure of the swimming pool at Waendel Leisure Centre to allow for repair and improvement works. Mr Churchman explained that exact closure details were expected in the next two weeks. Mr Churchman wished to record thanks from Places for People to Mrs G Chapman and Mr P Burnett of the Borough Council of Wellingborough for their support with regard to the pool at Waendel Leisure Centre.

Members then considered how the profile of the leisure centres in the borough could be raised. Councillor Aslam proposed to recommend that information promoting Redwell and Waendel Leisure Centres be included in the next edition of The Link, the council's newsletter. This was seconded by Councillor Simmons and, upon being put to the vote, was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED that the report on Sports and Leisure Performance be noted;

R2 RECOMMENDED that information regarding the leisure centres in the borough be included in the next edition of The Link.

7. PERFORMANCE – PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS

The annexed circulated report of the Interim Director was received to provide members with a report on the Borough Council of Wellingborough's progress against performance targets from 1 August 2016 to 31 December 2016.

Miss K Denton presented the report and explained to members that the current performance indicators would be in place for 2017/18 but that there were plans in place for the indicators to be reviewed during the year, with the intention of moving to a smaller number of more meaningful indicators.

Members discussed matters relating to homelessness in the Borough. Ms P McCourt provided further explanation on the figures and gave some insight into the difference between those presenting as homeless and rough sleepers. Mrs Chapman explained that there were currently 4 or 5 rough sleepers, that in some instances it was by choice and that adequate assistance was being extended to them. The members considered the complexity of these cases and were informed that anyone who presents as homeless is risk assessed before being housed.

Ms McCourt added that some aspects of tackling homelessness in the Borough are not recorded as part of the performance indicators and involved outside organisations such as social services. Members asked if there were any annual analyses undertaken and Ms McCourt confirmed that there was a national survey each year, during which time the council coordinated its efforts and responses with the rest of the county.

Members also considered some of the issues faced by Wellingborough Norse in the borough and the relevancy of the performance indicators around missed bins. Members recognised that as an overall percentage of bins emptied in the borough, the number missed was extremely low.

Mr Gallyot and members discussed how issues of littering in the town centre could be tackled, and where the responsibility lay for cleaning areas close to social businesses.

Members requested that a member's briefing note be circulated from the Environmental Health team to clarify the details of the licences of private establishments in the borough in respect of cleanliness in the areas surrounding the premises.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the report on Performance – Progress against Targets be noted;
- (ii) the Principal Environmental Health Manager be asked to provide a Member's Briefing Note on the littering responsibilities of licenced premises.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.