

COUNCIL MEETING – 17 OCTOBER 2017

REPORT OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

25 September 2017

Present: Councillors Graves (Chairman), Maguire and Simmons.

Also present: Mrs B Gamble, (Director), Miss K Denton, (Assistant Director), Mrs M Thomas (Community Support Officer), and Mr S Whiteley (Electoral Services Team Leader).

(Councillors G Lawman and L Lawman attended as observers. Ms L Sheppard (Executive Director, Nene Valley Crematorium) attend to deliver a presentation.)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allebone, Aslam and Gough.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the council's code of conduct and the council's constitution, the under-mentioned councillors declared an interest in the following items:

| Councillor | Minute | Report Title | Reason |
|------------|--------|---|---|
| Graves | 5 | Presentation from Nene Valley Crematorium | Registerable interest – board member of Wellingborough Bereavement Services Ltd |
| Maguire | 5 | Presentation from Nene Valley Crematorium | Registerable interest – board member of Wellingborough Bereavement Services Ltd |

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2017 be confirmed and signed.

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY

The chairman welcomed Mrs M Thomas, Community Support Officer, to provide members with information regarding the council's approach to community safety in the borough.

Mrs Thomas outlined the council's duties to community safety under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1988 and how the council works with the Community Safety Partnership to address these duties, with a focus on reducing anti-social behaviour and crime.

She went on to explain how the council works in partnership with multiple countywide organisations, and how the scope of community safety extends further than is often realised, including assessments of the risks to both hosts and participants of events in the borough, and addressing housing needs. Members discussed and agreed that several schemes and orders implemented by the community safety team, including

Smart Water schemes in Queensway and a Designated Public Place Order in Irchester, had been extremely successful.

Mrs Thomas agreed, on request, to circulate to members the contact details of VOICE, an organisation based in Northamptonshire providing support to victims of crime.

The chairman and Councillor Maguire noted that Mrs Thomas was due to leave the council's employment shortly and requested that their thanks for the work she had undertaken be recorded.

RESOLVED that the presentation on community safety be noted.

5. NENE VALLEY CREMATORIUM

The chairman welcomed Ms L Sheppard, Executive Director of Nene Valley Crematorium to provide members with an update on the crematorium following the first year of operation.

Ms Sheppard began by detailing her appointment and the operations team at the crematorium, and went on to explain the successes and challenges of the first year. She explained that the crematorium was, as of the end of August, 28% over target on expected cremations, and that 59% of business was from within the Wellingborough area.

Ms Sheppard went on to detail some of the projected developments on the site, including dedicative spaces working within the natural environment, a memorial wall, landscaping opportunities and increased parking facilities to accommodate the increase in footfall to the site following the development.

Members agreed that the use of the crematorium by local people demonstrated a very real need for the service within the borough and expressed their thanks at the clear progression and development of the crematorium.

RESOLVED that the presentation by Nene Valley Crematorium be noted.

6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REPORT

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to provide members with a report on the letter from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

Members discussed the report and considered the council's performance in relation to the upheld complaints. Miss Denton explained that it was at times difficult to identify certain complaints from the letter, as some of the complaints that were not upheld did not get referred to the council from the Ombudsman.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.