



COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2018

Time: 6.00pm,

Location: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Contact: Fungai Nyamukapa - Tel 01438 242707

Members: Councillors: S Mead (Chair), A Mitchell CC (Vice-Chair), S Barr, J Brown, L Harrington, R Hearn, J Mead, S-J Potter, S Speller and T Wren

AGENDA

PART 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Community Select Committee held on 4 July 2018

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Community Select Committee held on 12 July 2018

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3. RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT SCRUTINY REVIEW - PRESENTATION

To receive a presentation from the Consultant, Rachel Eden, which will provide some context and analysis for Members of the current engagement processes employed at the Council.

4. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

To consider any Part I business accepted by the Chair as urgent

5. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider the following motions:

1. That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and

public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the ground that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1 – 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

2. That Members consider the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determine whether or not maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

6. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

To consider any Part II business accepted by the Chair as urgent

Agenda Published 28 August 2018

This agenda was not published with five clear working days due to technical issues, however the Chair of the Committee has agreed to the meeting going ahead to allow the Resident Engagement Scrutiny Review to be considered by Scrutiny prior to submission to the Executive.

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, 4 July 2018

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Sarah Mead (Chair), Adam Mitchell CC (Vice-Chair), Sandra Barr, Liz Harrington, John Mead, Sarah-Jane Potter, Simon Speller and Tom Wren.

Start / End Start Time: 6.00pm
Time: End Time: 7.02pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Brown and Roni Hearn.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES - 5 JUNE 2018

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Community Select Committee (CSC) meeting be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

None.

4 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That, under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1 to 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 No. 88.

2. That having considered the reasons for the following item being in Part II, it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

5 REVIEW OF LEISURE CONTRACT WITH STEVENAGE LEISURE LIMITED

The Committee considered the Part II report on the Review of the Leisure Contract with Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL). The report summarised the commissioned review undertaken in 2016/17 by leisure industry specialists, and outlined highlighted

action areas to improve the efficiency of the contract for the Council and progress to date, with a number of opportunities being developed through the new Leisure Innovation Group.

The Assistant Director for Communities and Neighbourhood (ADCN) introduced Richard Allan (SLL Operations Director) who was attending the meeting to help answer Members' questions.

The ADCN drew attention to the appendix to the report, and summarised the progress updates (as at June 2018) in respect of the Key Findings of the consultant's report.

The ADCN, assisted by the SLL Operations Director, answered a number of Members' questions on the report.

Upon a Members' request, the ADCN undertook to offer to provide all Members of the Committee with a copy of the consultant's report.

In respect of ideas for increasing pool capacity, the ADCN advised that two options were under consideration, namely the development of a larger new combined wet/dry leisure facility or a "pop up" pool for swimming lessons for those aged 3 months and upwards.

The ADCN tabled the draft Fairland Valley Park Summer Brochure produced by the Innovation Group, and drew attention to the new initiatives being proposed for the summer, including pedaloos on the Millennium Lake, archery and an adventure play area. These were relatively small cost items, but it was hoped that they would help to raise the profile of the Park. The Committee was impressed with the Brochure and the proposed service offer.

On behalf of a Committee Member who had been unable to attend the meeting, the Chair asked two questions, the first being how SLL was helping to advance SBC's health, cultural and social strategies. The reply was that SLL was helping in a wide variety of ways, including the provision of NHS referrals, cardio-vascular facilities and the theatre being heavily involved in the Council's Cultural Strategy. In response to the second question, regarding how many Stevenage residents were taking part in various cultural activities, including theatre attendances, it was noted that this type of information would be captured as part of some new Performance Indicators to be introduced for the 2018/19 financial year.

The Committee made the following comments regarding the report:

- Whilst acknowledging the requirement for SLL to expedite cost cutting and efficiencies and new income generation, a balance needed to be struck between this and providing an effective range of services to the community;
- Consideration be given to enhancing the food and beverage offer at Fairland Valley Park so that refreshments can be available to the public outside of the hours operated by the café (possibly by pop up food/drink stalls; picnic packages for childrens' parties, etc.);

- The Fairland Valley Park Summer Brochure should make it clear which facilities needed to be booked in advance and which could be accessed by turning up and paying – SLL to consider the possible introduction of an online booking system;
- The Cycle Hub and Trim Trail in the Park should be clearly signposted, and the disabled parking area should be highlighted;
- The proposals for Performance Indicators relating to Theatre usage by Stevenage residents and plans for potentially increasing swimming pool space (either through a future combined wet/dry facility or “pop up” pool) were welcomed.

It was **RESOLVED:**

- That the outcome of the review and the actions undertaken to date be noted.
- That the comments and views of the Select Committee, as outlined above, in relation to the opportunities emerging from the joint SBC/SLL Innovation Group, be considered by the Group in its ongoing work.

6 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR

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STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Date: Thursday, 12 July 2018

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Sarah Mead (Chair), Adam Mitchell CC (Vice-Chair), Sandra Barr, Jim Brown, Liz Harrington, John Mead, Sarah-Jane Potter and Simon Speller

Start / End Start Time: 6.00pm
Time: End Time: 7.40pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Hearn and T Wren.

Cllr J Mead declared a personal interest in Item 4 by virtue of being a Trustee of the Stevenage Community Food Bank.

Cllr S Mead declared a personal interest in Item 4 by virtue of being a Trustee of the Stevenage Community Food Bank.

2 MINUTES - 20 JUNE 2018

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Community Select Committee held on 20 June 2018 are approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

3 RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT SCOPING DOCUMENT

The Scrutiny Officer presented the revised scoping document for the Scrutiny Review of Resident Engagement.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Judi Billing CC be added to the list of potential external witnesses for the Resident Engagement Scrutiny Review.

4 THIRD SECTOR SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT

The Assistant Director (Communities and Neighbourhoods) introduced the Third Sector Scrutiny Review Report. The Community Development Manager highlighted the context of the last review and indicated that four key priority areas had been selected for development in the 2012-2015 Voluntary Sector Strategy. It was noted that none of the priority areas of voice and representation, sustainability, harnessing corporate giving and volunteering had recorded clear evidence of progress against the objectives. Members and Officers expressed concern that the strategy did not

have a clear action plan on how objectives were measured for impact and outcomes.

There was moderate evidence of progress against objectives in the priority areas. Members noted that the Stevenage Health Hub was an example of encouraging the support of innovative models in the sector. The Timeshare event held at North Hertfordshire College had raised awareness of opportunities in the voluntary sector and improved networking among volunteers. Stevenage Borough Council did not have an online volunteer organisation database.

The Community Development Manager also briefed Members on the national, Hertfordshire and Stevenage context of the voluntary community sector (VCS). It was indicated that Hertfordshire Compact had replaced Stevenage Compact. With regard to the Stevenage context, it was noted that cuts in funding from central government had created gaps in services relating to young people. Members were informed that most of the SBC grants to the third sector were historical and the tapered funding was scheduled to end in 2020.

Members acknowledged the diversity of VCS activities, interests and levels of commitment among volunteers in the Borough. Members reported a perception that the Council at times placed barriers on activities of the voluntary sector and was not always responsive to requests for assistance or suggestions from voluntary groups. The Voluntary and Community Sector 2012-2015 strategy had been superseded by a number of changes including funding cuts and as such the strategy was now out-of-date. The Council had to align its VCS strategy to community challenges and put in place measures to check the quality of service delivery by voluntary organisations. It was important that the Council maintained a good balance between respecting the independence of the VCS while ensuring that there was good value for the grants given to voluntary organisations. Members were informed that the Council was considering staff volunteering options as part of Corporate Social Responsibility.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the review of the VCS Strategy 2012-15 is noted
2. That the Voluntary and Community Sector 2012-2015 strategy not be updated but be replaced with clear and concise guidelines
3. That a Modern Member Programme (MMP) focusing on the voluntary sector be arranged
4. That officers use Community Select Committee as a reference group for the voluntary community sector review and the re-commissioning of the contract with the Citizens Advice Bureau
5. That future grants and other forms of assistance to the voluntary sector be linked to performance targets with an annual review
6. That the Council revives Stevenage Compact
7. That the SBC website be updated to include links to volunteer organisations

5 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

6 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Not required.

7 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR

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