

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Monday, 30th June, 2014 at 6.00 pm in a Conference Room at the Council House

Members in Attendance: Councillor K. Hussain (Chair)
Councillor D. Barker
Councillor D. Hazell
Councillor J. Murray
Councillor A. Nawaz
Councillor G. Sohal

Portfolio Holders in Attendance: Councillor I. Shires – Community Engagement and Voluntary Sector

Officers in Attendance: Jamie Morris - Executive Director (Neighbourhoods)
Keith Stone – Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)
Vicky Buckley – Head of Finance
Chris Holliday – Head of Leisure and Community Health
Steve Pretty – Head of Engineering and Transportation
Mark Holden – Head of Clean and Green
Sue Grainger – Head of Heritage, Libraries and Arts
Craig Goodall - Committee Business and Governance Manager

170/14 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C.Creaney.

171/14 Substitutions

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

172/14 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest or party whip for the duration of the meeting.

173/14 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of meetings which took place on 3rd April 2014 and 8th April 2014, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as true and accurate records.

174/14 **Work Programme 2014/15 and Forward Plan**

The Panel considered a presentation regarding potential issues for their Work Programme 2014/15.

The Executive Director (Neighbourhoods) gave a presentation (annexed) on key issues for the year. He highlighted:-

- Key issues;
- National issues;
- Pressure on resources;

Due to a fire alarm meeting adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6.27 p.m.

The Executive Director (Neighbourhoods) continued his presentation highlighting:-

- Strategic options;
- Redesigning Services;
- Forward Planning;
- Major projects;

The Chair noted the suggested carried forward items contained in the report and picked out several suggestions for consideration by Members.

The Portfolio Holder (Community Engagement and Voluntary Sector) suggested that the Panel considered looking at devolution of area partnerships, the voluntary community sector and partnership working.

Resolved

That the following items be added to the Panels work programme for 2014/15:-

- a) Crime and Police Act 2014;**
- b) Active Living;**
- c) Recycling and contamination;**
- d) Potential changes to roadside waste collections;**
- e) Implementation of free school meals to infant school children in September 2014;**
- f) Devolution through area partnerships;**
- g) Voluntary and Community Sector review;**
- h) Organisational partnership working.**

175/14 **End of Financial Outturn – End of Year Financial Outturn 2013/14**

Members considered the pre-audit end of year financial outturn for services within their remit.

The Executive Director (Neighbourhoods) reported that there had been a net revenue underspend of £180,000. This has been achieved despite many budgetary pressures during the year. There had been a significant drop in car parking income but fortunately other areas

had seen increases in income, such as the catering service, which were able to offset losses in other areas.

He continued to report that the capital programme had seen a variance of £8.171m. The majority of this money was carried forward into the new year.

Following a question the Head of Finance explained that the Engineering and Transportation Service had contributed £1.2m to reserves. Part of this money was grant funding which would be transferred to the current year's budgets.

A Member commented that it would be helpful to understand the anticipated spend per year for capital projects so that the progress of schemes could be monitored more effectively.

Resolved

That the pre-audited revenue and capital outturn 2013/14 be noted.

176/14 Petition for a commemorative picture on a headstone

The Panel considered a response to a petition that had been handed in at Council in April 2014. The petition requested the addition of a photograph of a stillborn baby onto a headstone at Willenhall Lawn Cemetery.

The Head of Leisure and Community Health explained that following discussions with the family permission had been given to display a photograph on the headstone. He continued to provide background on the issue to Members. He accounted for the initial refusal by cemetery staff and noted that cemetery regulations allowed staff to decline permission for the use of images which cemetery uses may find distressing. However, on review of the picture requested by the family the decision had been taken to allow the photograph to be displayed. If any complaints from other cemetery uses were received then the display of the photograph would be reviewed.

Members were pleased that the family had been allowed to display the photograph and felt that the issue could have been dealt with more sensitively without the need for the family to resort to submitting a petition.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

17714 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be 6.00 p.m. on 28th August, 2014.

The meeting closed at 7.10 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: