
GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Thursday 8 March 2018 from 7.30pm to 8.53pm.

Present: Councillors Phil Brading (Lead Member, Public Services), Roger Seabourne (Lead Member, Community Safety), Rupert Barnes, Martin Brooks, Marilyn Butler, Valerie Coltman, Stephen Cox, Heather Kenison, Joy Mann, Andrew Scarth and Phil Williams.

Officers: Geof Muggerridge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
Malcolm Clarke, Waste and Environment Manager
Ray Figg, Head of Community Services
Nigel Pollard, Section Head – Finance
Peter Simons, Senior Transport Planner
Andy Stovold, Head of Community Partnerships
Mike Simpson, Committee and Web Officer

Councillor Roger Seabourne in the Chair

GPS 23/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Debbie Morris (Heather Kenison substituted).

GPS 24/17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the General Public Services and Community Safety Committee meeting held on Thursday 7 December 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairmen.

GPS 25/17 NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman advised the Committee that the report on the Proposed Additions to Highway Agency Agreements had not been available 5 clear working days before the meeting. The Chairman ruled that the report was of sufficient urgency to be taken as the Council had to respond to the County Council by the end of March in order for the contract to start on 1 April 2018.

GPS 26/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None was received.

GPS 27/17 BUDGET MONITORING – PERIOD 10 (JANUARY)

A comprehensive budget monitoring report for all the Council's Committees was presented to the Committee. Questions were invited from Members, of which there was none.

RESOLVED:

That the Budget Management 2017/18 (Period 10) report be noted.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

GPS 28/17 SERVICE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING 2018-2021

The Community Partnerships service plan was presented to the Committee with a view to recommending its contents to Council at its meeting on 22 May 2018. Questions and comments by Members of the Committee were invited, of which there was none.

RESOLVED:

That the Community Partnerships service plan be recommended to Council at its meeting on 22 May 2018.

GPS 29/17 YOU CAN PROJECT UPDATE

The Head of Community Partnerships made a presentation to update Members on the outcome of the 'You Can' (Adults with Complex Needs) pilot project, and current work in relation to adults with complex needs.

Following the presentation, questions were invited from Members. The following questions were asked by Members:

What was the general age range for adults within the programme?
How would the programme move forward with its satellite facilities in order to take the service to the clients?

Had the scheme provided medical intervention for individuals in need?

Mental Health was at the core of the project, and in reality one to one help was needed but financial constraints largely prevented it.

In response to the questions, the Head of Community Partnerships advised that:

The age range was varied, with an average age of 40 years. The Head of Community Partnerships said it was essential to enable clients to obtain support

locally, rather than expect them to make their way to Watford, and local facilities had initially been made available in Mill End and South Oxhey.

The key worker's remit wasn't to provide medical care but to refer the individual to a health care provider, and support engagement with medical services.

Mental Health issues were prevalent in the client group and many had been signposted to the Community Support Service provided by Mind. Whilst financial savings had been made in the use of clients in patient care – these had not necessarily resulted in cashable savings as demand had been taken up by either patients. As such there had not been continued support to invest in the pilot's structure of intervention. The issue of Mental Health was the focus of the upcoming meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership Board on Wednesday 14 March 2018 and that a range of Mental Health services and commissioners would be presenting at the Board. This would include looking at the issue of adults with complex needs.

The Lead Member for Community Safety said that the results of the pilot clearly indicated an emphasis on quality service provision rather than quantity, and that the benefits were significant. He believed it was short-sighted of those agencies that did not support the programme, although the problems faced at the end of the pilot had always been known.

RESOLVED:

The content of the presentation was noted.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Councillor Phil Brading in the Chair

GPS 30/17 SERVICE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING 2018-2021

The Community Services Environmental Protection service plan was presented to the Committee, along with the amended Performance Indicators (PIs). Members were asked to recommend the contents of the service plan to Council at its meeting on 22 May 2018. An updated set of Performance Indicators had been circulated to the Committee.

A Member referred to item 2.1.4 (CP01) and asked whether the responsibility for keeping roads free of litter sat with the County Council or the District Council. The Waste and Environment Manager said it costs the County Council £3k to close a road, after which the District Council would clear it.

In terms of maintenance of grass verges, roundabouts etc., the Lead Member for Public Services said once the first cutting was made in the spring, accumulation of litter was less of a problem.

A Member thanked the Waste and Environment Manager for his and his team's efforts during the recent severe and cold weather conditions, and asked that thanks be passed to everyone at the depot. The Lead Member for Public

Services endorsed the Member's expression of thanks to those at the depot who had performed commendably during the recent extreme conditions.

The Member also asked which body was responsible for collecting litter in hedgerows, and was informed that if it could be reached, the depot crews would collect it.

A Member asked whether there was any noticeable decrease in litter in hedges following the introduction of the 5p carrier bag levy by retailers, to which the Waste and Environment Manager said there was not.

In reply to a Member's question regarding EP01, the Waste and Environment Manager clarified it related purely to household recycled waste, and did not include food waste, and the increased target from 28% to 30% was considered a realistic one.

With reference to PI EP06, a Member asked why the target figure for household waste sent for landfill had been increased for subsequent years. The Waste and Environment Manager said a safety margin had been factored in to the figure, and the Head of Community Services said it also accounted for the increased number of homes being built.

The Lead Member for Community Safety referred to the very complimentary comments paid to TRDC by personnel at the Pearce Recycling plant in St Albans, in which it was said that Three Rivers was more advanced than other Local Authorities in terms of its recycling arrangements and processes.

The Lead Member for Public Services informed Members that the figures were rounded and were projections based on collected data, and the Council frequently surpassed these targets.

RESOLVED:

That the Community Services Environmental Protection service plan and updated Performance Indicators be recommended to Council at its meeting on 22 May 2018.

GPS 31/17 WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was presented to the Committee, which agreed to note its contents and observed that it will be the responsibility of the new Leisure, Environment and Community Committee to address the items therein.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the work programme be noted, to be actioned by the succeeding committee.

GPS 32/17 PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO HIGHWAY AGENCY AGREEMENTS

The Senior Transport Planner explained that there was a need for Committee approval to take on additional work delegated to Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC).

The requirement was for TRDC to take responsibility for weed spraying throughout the District as it was believed the task could be done better and more cost-efficiently. The agreement centred on the provision of two sprayings per year with agreement for a third if necessary.

The Council was willing to take on the task, if only for a one-year trial, and if it was deemed unworkable the responsibility could and would be handed back to HCC. A Member asked whether TRDC possessed the manpower and resources to undertake such a task, to which the Waste and Environment Manager replied that the work would be subcontracted out, and would not require procurement of extra personnel nor equipment by the Council. The Head of Community Services said the service had been fully costed, and included a 5% admin fee.

A Member asked if by writing a letter to HCC addressing the weed-spraying aspect of the report the Council had dismissed the roundabouts (and the potential to place income-generating advertisements thereon) and the grass verge maintenance element. The Director of Community and Environmental Services said weed control was the key issue under discussion at present, and the other aspects of the report would be addressed subsequently. It was confirmed that a letter would specify the agreement related to weed control, and would clarify details regarding the third spraying. The letter would stipulate funding for the third spraying was in place, as at present the third spraying by the current contractor was cursory. The Waste and Environment Manager confirmed that supervision by TRDC of such work had been costed.

The Lead Member for Community Safety said if the arrangement with HCC did not materialise, Three Rivers would be no worse off than at present.

With regard to pathways within the Councillor wards which had weed problems, the Waste and Environment Manager confirmed the agreement would cover urban pathways.

A Member asked if it was possible that only two sprayings of weeds would be made during the year. The Waste and Environment Manager said that for the first year of the agreement he'd want three sprays, although in subsequent years two may suffice, depending on weather conditions.

The Lead Member for Public Services said the letter to HCC must emphasise the wording 'weed-control function' for purposes of clarity.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Committee agree that a letter with the amendments as agreed be sent to Hertfordshire County Council with regard to additions to the highway agency agreements.
- 2) The Lead Member for Public Services concluded by saying this was the final meeting of the General Public Services and Community Safety Committee as from May its remits would fall under the new Leisure, Environment and Community Committee, and thanked everyone for their past support.

CHAIRMAN