

Review Committee – 4 November 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **4 November 2014** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr M Hoy
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs T J Capon

Cllr J C Burton	Cllr J L Lawmon
Cllr Mrs L A Butcher	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr R R Dray	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr J D Griffin	Cllr Mrs M H Spencer
Cllr B T Hazlewood	

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr Mrs J E McPherson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C I Black, Mrs H L A Glynn and Mrs A V Hale.

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Evans	-	Head of Environmental Services
M Harwood-White	-	Leisure Services Manager
P Gowers	-	Overview and Scrutiny Officer
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

OTHERS ATTENDING

T Mills	-	Director of Business Development, Fusion Lifestyle
I Cooper	-	Regional Business Manager, Fusion Lifestyle
T Hudson	-	Divisional Business Manager, Fusion Lifestyle

229 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

230 FUSION LIFESTYLE

The Committee received a presentation from Fusion Lifestyle, with an update on the Leisure contract.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- A basic redecoration of Castle Hall is scheduled but a more in-depth knowledge of the facility will be needed before further investment can be

considered.

- There are plans to improve the lighting in the swimming pool area at Clements Hall, although the current level of lighting is safe.
- The specific groups of users targeted by Fusion are those groups that may otherwise not consider using the District's leisure facilities. The data collected by Fusion in respect of the number of visits by the different groups can be a useful tool for the Council when it applies for funding for sports activities across the District.
- To achieve increased growth in membership it is important to focus on the retention of existing customers and continued investment in the sites, including the provision of up to date equipment, good facilities and membership packages that are flexible and that appeal to potential customers.
- The cardio vascular equipment purchased by Fusion was regarded as capital investment as Fusion had to replace all the existing equipment at the start of the contract. There is an ongoing budget for general replacement of all gym equipment to ensure it is kept up to date and in good working order. It is important that the leisure centres provide the equipment that the customers want.
- A profit share arrangement is built into Fusion's contract with the Council. Any additional surpluses generated will go into a general reserve within the organisation: there is no correlation between in which particular local authority area the surplus is made and where it is spent.
- A report of problems with the lighting and acoustics in the Freight House was noted.
- The Charity's Board of Trustees is taken from a large geographical area: Board members are selected according to the needs of the Charity.
- The current customer satisfaction rate of 89% is below the level achieved elsewhere in the organisation but this is due to Rochford being a new contract. New systems have now been put in place and an overall customer satisfaction rate target of 95% will be set, with a target of 100% in respect of staff performance.
- Fusion has a contractual obligation to fund Rochford District Matters and will continue to use the publication to communicate to residents and to expand membership. Other ways of engaging with the community will also be used, including re-establishing relationships with both primary and secondary schools in respect of the use of swimming facilities at Clements Hall.

- A strong core of the Virgin Active staff who transferred to Fusion via TUPE have remained with Fusion Lifestyle. More detailed information can be supplied to the Committee at a later meeting.
- There is no business case for Fusion to invest sufficient funds for the provision of a swimming pool at Rayleigh Leisure Centre, as the contract has only 8 years left to run. However, if an extension to the contract were to be considered, a needs analysis and project review could be undertaken to assess the viability of investing in the provision of a pool. Fusion would contact Council officers to discuss the possibility of an extension to the contract.
- The existing astro pitch at Clements Hall Leisure Centre would be resurfaced with a 3G Football Association accredited surface.
- The target age for the soft play areas at the leisure centres will be from 0 to 7 years and the space will be managed according to appropriate age groupings.

231 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP)

The Committee heard from the Council's Head of Environmental Services on proposed changes to the CSP. In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- Member training is being organised to explain the detail of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. An Essex-wide process will be established around the use of the Community Trigger/Case Review, including monitoring of cases that arise under the Trigger. During trials undertaken in other areas of the country, there was a low use of the Case Review, which would indicate that heavy use of this should not be seen in the District.
- Data sharing is an important part of future policing. An Essex-based data sharing protocol has been signed by District and Unitary Councils in Essex and Essex County Council. Under this protocol Community Hubs are being developed. The proposed hub for the Rochford District will be located at Rayleigh police station. Representatives, who will be based at the hub, will be able to share information with the Police and other partners. However, all representatives, including the Rochford District Council (RDC) ASB Officer and Domestic Abuse Reduction Officer, will spend the majority of their time in the community dealing with issues as they arise. RDC staff will continue to deal with RDC issues, priorities and objectives. There is no specific funding for the community hub, although use of the Police station will be cost neutral. In response to the concern that Council officers based in the hub would be drawn into doing police work, a partnership agreement would be drawn up to ensure that this does not happen.

- The proposed restructure of the CSP (i.e. the reference group ceasing) is due to the low number of Parish Councils who attend the reference group. It is felt that it would be useful to use an existing forum such as the Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils and the recently established 'Parish Summit' arrangement to present community safety issues to the Parishes. It is proposed that the joint Castle Point and Rochford CSP steering group would continue. At steering group meetings separate crime statistics are produced by the Police for both areas and funding is allocated separately, although the two areas have similar priorities and there is opportunity for joint commissioning work. The Independent Offender Management team will continue to attend steering group meetings, as will a representative from the Essex Community Rehabilitation Company, Sodexo, which is a private organisation working in partnership with NACRO. Prolific Priority Offender statistics for the District will also be supplied at the meeting.
- Although the Domestic Abuse officer has no obligation to liaise with the Police in respect of all cases, certain cases do have to be passed on to the Police. Every case is assessed on its merits.
- It is envisaged that enforcement of civil injunctions will be undertaken by the Council's enforcement officers. In situations where a witness statement is provided, the resident must be truthful and is accountable for what he/she says.
- The Council has a discretionary power to work with the Police to reduce crime; the only statutory obligation is in respect of the ASB Case Review. Most of the powers under the Community Protection Notice remain under criminal law.
- The 2014/15 CSP funding of £13,000 is considerably lower than in previous years and work is being done with partners to get best value from the money spent. The move to a greater level of commissioned funding will increase the need for outcomes to be shown. Funding requests for individual projects are considered in respect of how they link with the Police and Crime Commissioner priority areas.

232 KEY DECISION DOCUMENT

Members reviewed the Key Decision Document and noted its contents.

233 WORK PLAN

The Committee considered and approved its work plan.

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

Chairman

Date

If you would like these minutes in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.