

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 3 September 2013

Chair:

Councillor Hamish Stewart

Councillors Present:

John Anderson, Ed Archer, John Cairney, Andy Carmichael, Pam Clearie, Russell Clearie, Peter Craig, Isobel Dorman, Hugh Dunsmuir, Allan Falconer, George Greenshields (Depute), Jim Handibode, Bill Holman, Gerard Killen, Pat Lee, Joe Lowe, Lesley McDonald (*substitute for Councillor Maggs*), Alex McInnes, John McNamee, John Menzies, David Watson

Councillors' Apologies:

Lynn Adams, Gerry Convery, Angela Crawley, Edward McAvoy (ex officio), Anne Maggs

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

C McDowall, Executive Director; S Clelland, Head of Fleet and Environmental Services; S Kelly, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services; A McKinnon, Head of Support Services

Finance and Corporate Resources

G Booth, Accountant; N Docherty, Administration Assistant; J McDonald, Administration Adviser

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 4 June 2013 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Community Services - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2013/2014

A joint report dated 10 July 2013 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 28 June 2013 against budgeted expenditure for 2013/2014 for Community Services.

Details were provided on proposed budget virements in respect of Community Services to realign budgets.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the underspend on the Community Services' revenue budget of £0.019 million and the forecast to 31 March 2014 of a breakeven position be noted; and
- (2) that the budget virements in respect of Community Services, as detailed in Appendices B to F to the report, be approved.

4 Community Services - Capital Budget Monitoring 2013/2014

A joint report dated 28 August 2013 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising of progress on the Community Services' capital programme 2013/2014 and summarising the expenditure position at 28 June 2013.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

5 Community Services - Workforce Monitoring - April to June 2013

A joint report dated 7 August 2013 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Community Services for the period April to June 2013:-

- ◆ attendance statistics
- ◆ occupational health statistics
- ◆ accident/incident statistics
- ◆ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ◆ analysis of leavers

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 4 June 2013 (Paragraph 3)]

6 Litter and Dog Fouling Enforcement Improvements

A report dated 5 August 2013 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on proposed improvements to the enforcement of the litter and dog fouling legislation.

Clean Sweep, launched in May 2008, was currently the Council's major initiative to tackle low level crime, such as litter, dog fouling, small scale fly-tipping and graffiti.

To date, the problem of litter and dog fouling had been tackled through a combination of the following:-

- ◆ education and media awareness raising campaigns
- ◆ the display of 'no dog fouling' signage at locations where problems were known to exist
- ◆ enforcement activity via planned patrols of problem areas and the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) where offenders were caught

Keep Scotland Beautiful would lead a nationwide mass engagement campaign called "Clean Up Scotland" which aimed to clear Scotland of litter and mess in time for the Commonwealth Games 2014 and to encourage zero tolerance towards dumping of litter and mess.

Keep Scotland Beautiful were offering support to local authorities and partners to help with campaign promotion and awareness raising activity. In return, local authorities could become Campaign Supporters by integrating Clean Up Scotland into their marketing material and website.

A 'Wanted' style campaign would be introduced to augment current litter enforcement activity, targeted at areas where there had been a high incidence of dog fouling. The campaign would consist of the following 3 stages:-

- ◆ Stage 1 - signs put up in an area encouraging members of the public to report dog fouling
- ◆ Stage 2 - patrolling the campaign area regularly for a few weeks
- ◆ Stage 3 - replacing the first signs with 'Thank You' signs, thanking the public for their assistance in tackling dog fouling

Examples of the signs were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The costs associated with the proposal would be met from within existing resources.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the national campaign, "Clean Up Scotland", be supported; and
- (2) that the proposals to implement a more targeted approach to deal with dog fouling, as detailed in the report, be approved.

7 Update on Development of the Sports Pitch Strategy 2014 to 2017

A report dated 13 August 2013 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the development of the Sports Pitch Strategy 2014 to 2017.

In 2006, a dedicated Sports Pitch Strategy had been developed in line with Sportscotland guidance. It was now proposed that a Sports Pitch Strategy 2014 to 2017 be developed to help inform the future provision and development of pitches across South Lanarkshire.

Work on the new Strategy was underway with a view to it becoming operational from 1 April 2014. The Strategy would consider the various uses of the Council's sports pitches, with particular focus on the 7 main pitch sports of football, rugby, hockey, cricket, baseball, shinty and American football.

The Strategy would include an overview of the future use of the following assets:-

- ◆ 116 full size grass pitches
- ◆ 19 synthetic pitches
- ◆ 7 blaes pitches
- ◆ 95 5 and 7-side pitches
- ◆ 65 associated changing facilities

As part of the Sports Pitch Strategy development, it was proposed that a wide ranging consultation exercise be undertaken during the period 1 October 2013 to 31 January 2014 to identify the various requirements of pitch users throughout South Lanarkshire. The information gathered from the consultation exercise would be used to inform the future direction outlined within the new Pitch Strategy.

The Committee decided: that a consultation exercise be undertaken as part of the development of the Sports Pitch Strategy 2014 to 2017.

8 Scottish Government Consultation - Primary Authority Arrangements Relating to the Devolved Regulatory Responsibilities of Local Authorities in Scotland

A report dated 6 August 2013 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Council's response to a consultation by the Scottish Government on the proposal to introduce a Primary Authority Partnership in Scotland.

Primary Authority Partnerships were introduced by the UK Government through the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008. The Primary Authority Initiative allowed a business to form a partnership with 1 local authority in order to receive tailored support in relation to a range of regulations. That "primary" authority was resourced by the business to assist in the following 3 ways:-

- ◆ issuing assured advice
- ◆ co-ordinating enforcement action across all locations used by the business
- ◆ developing an inspection plan for the business as a whole

The Primary Authority Partnership was open to any business, charity or other organisation that was regulated by 2 or more local authorities in respect of a relevant function as defined in the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 ('The Act') and Orders made under it. A local authority could form a partnership only in respect of those relevant functions for which it had regulatory responsibility.

The existing UK Primary Authority Partnership Scheme allowed local authorities to recover all their costs associated with participation in an agreement with a business.

The Council's response to the consultation was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee decided: that the Council's response to the Scottish Government consultation on proposals to introduce a Primary Authority Partnership in Scotland, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

9 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.