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## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE - KIRKLEES RURAL**

**Thursday 26th November 2015**

Present: Councillor Edgar Holroyd-Doveton (Chair)  
Councillors B Armer, D Bellamy, R Barraclough, J Dodds, C Greaves,  
C Iredale, A Marchington, G Turner, N Turner and M Watson

Co-optees: R Bamforth

Apologies:

D Firth

T Lyons

N Patrick

H Richards

D Ridgway

K Sims

Parish Councillor R Brook

In attendance: Approximately 15 members of public

**1 Welcomes and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and committee members introduced themselves.

**2 Minutes of previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 September 2015 be approved as a correct record.

**3 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**4 Admission of the public**

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

**5 Deputations / Petitions**

There were no deputations or petitions.

**6 Kirklees Rural Neighbourhood Police Team Update**

Sergeant Andrew Lockwood of West Yorkshire Police gave a presentation on call handling and crime management. He explained how Police processes and services

are kept under review to ensure an efficient and appropriate response to calls. It was important that the public felt safe and have confidence in the Police.

Calls from the public were graded, with the Police aiming to get to emergencies within 15 minutes, to respond to priority calls within 60 minutes and standard calls within 4 hours. All calls are logged with the Duty Inspector at Huddersfield Police Station, who is in charge of all the resources used to respond to calls across Kirklees. At any one time there could be 40-60 logs open so it was important that they were graded correctly.

The programme of change team was centrally located in the Police force and had the aim of making the force as lean as possible while giving the same service. The team's role was to review a crime's lines of enquiry and decide whether to close it if there were none, taking into account the vulnerability of the victim and whether the crime can be solved, if it is serious then resources will be put into solving it. The team considers whether it is necessary to send a car or an officer out or whether it could be done by telephone. Regular hub meetings were held to look at crime patterns and types and decide what could be done.

Community representatives were asked to pass on this message and to make suggestions about how resources could be best deployed in the local community. One suggestion is that a text number be made available for people to contact the Police about any incidents on the Ale Trail. The Ale Trail is one area that people find difficult because anti-social behaviour can happen several times a day. There would be some planning for the summer and Call Centre staff had been recruited recently.

A common complaint from residents was that the Police do not feedback the action they have taken and the outcome, often because of shift patterns and leave. The Victim's Code of Conduct sets out compliance times. A concern that staff in the Neighbourhood Police Team do not respond to emails has been raised with Chief Superintendent Steve Cotter.

**RESOLVED** – That Sergeant Lockwood be thanked for the presentation.

## **7 Young People's Health and Well-Being Survey**

Councillor Erin Hill, Cabinet Lead Family Support and Protection gave a presentation on the initial results of the survey for the Kirklees Rural district.

The survey by Public Health of year groups 7, 9 and 12 (transition years) were carried out in June to November 2014. New topics introduced were resilience and wellbeing (validated scale). Other topics were physical activity, food, smoking, drinking, alcohol, drugs, sexual health and bullying. Most schools in Kirklees had taken part except for Holmfirth High School, though young people from the Holme Valley South Ward had responded.

The results indicated that young people living in the Kirklees Rural area have lower emotional resilience than in other parts of Kirklees, that is the ability to cope with difficulty and finding healthy ways to cope.

Possible reasons for this were discussed such as social isolation, lack of transport to access services and activities, poverty, pressure placed on young people to do well academically and to do extra-curricular activities.

This issue had long been recognised in the Kirklees Rural area but had a low profile compared to issues in other parts of Kirklees. The Integrated Youth Support Team is to introduce contact time for young people in the New Year due to concerns. There needed to be more emphasis on Mental Health Services in this area, there is some good work in schools but it is not supported in the same way as other parts of Kirklees. Waiting times for these services are extremely poor in this area and linked to other issues in families. Councillor Hill explained that changes were planned to Mental Health Services, to make it much easier to access and use the service throughout life.

It was also noted that very few schools in the Kirklees Rural area have pastoral teams, which ought to be looked into. The School Nurse service investment in rural schools had done some good work with young people but was no longer in place.

Councillor Hill was keen to explore more partnership working to address this issue and it was agreed that this be looked into by the Committee's Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Group.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Hill be thanked for her presentation.

## **8 Streetscene Winter Maintenance Programme**

Martin Bowler, Head of Highways gave a presentation on the Winter Maintenance Programme for 2015-2016.

The Council looked after over 1,200 miles of road network and gritted 55% of this network in response to forecasts, within 2 hours. Kirklees exceeded the national average of 30% for its priority network. The Council had a modern fleet of gritting vehicles plus reserves. The winter website would be available soon. There were 1,450 grit bins for community use currently being maintained with no plans for any more. The Council would respond to emergency situations via the local Police.

The number of Community Groups helping out was low at present, groups are asked to get involved in helping to clear snow.

The Council did use route forecasting but the difficulty is that the snow line changes every time it snows so this is not an efficient, cost effective use of resources. This year there would be gritting on some routes on the tops as well as the normal routes. Information on which routes the Council had gritted is available on the Kirklees Website via a tracker. The code in place required the Council to liaise with and have good relationships with neighbouring Councils.

**RESOLVED** – That Martin Bowler be thanked for the presentation.

**9 Greenspaces Service Standards Engagement**

Rob Dalby, Parks and Greenspaces Manager provided a report which set out how wards and community organisations would be consulted on the maintenance regime for 2016-2017.

Feedback on the outcome of the consultation would be made to the District Committee in the New Year. This process would be repeated annually to make sure that any changes in use are captured and that grounds maintenance reflects service need.

**RESOLVED** – That the engagement strategy be noted.

**10 Committee Budget Report**

The Committee considered applications for funding and made the following decisions.

**RESOLVED** –

- (1) That an adjustment be noted to the return to budget of £800 for the Ale Trail by £62.50.
- (2) That projects be funded as follows –
  - (a) £500 revenue grant to Milnsbridge Community Trust to provide a Christmas Day lunch for vulnerable and isolated people.
  - (b) £2,100 revenue grant to Aspire Co-operative Learning Trust to set up a toy library in each of the 4 schools in the Trust (Royds Hall, Beech, St John's and Golcar).
  - (c) £1,000 revenue grant to Honley Business Association towards the Christmas Lights 2015.
  - (d) £1,000 revenue for installation of kerb stones on Litherup Lane, Clayton West to prevent anti-social behaviour and littering at the site.
  - (e) £450 revenue grant to Friends of Scape School towards a community environmental learning project.

**11 Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

**12 Dates of Future Meetings**

The dates of future meetings were noted -

25<sup>th</sup> February 2016

24<sup>th</sup> March 2016