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## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE - DEWSBURY AND MIRFIELD**

**Thursday 6th October 2016**

Present: Councillor Nosheen Dad (Chair)  
Councillors M Ahmed, G Asif, M Bolt, M Hussain, P Kane,  
V Lees-Hamilton, D O'Donovan, M Pervaiz and K Taylor

Apologies: E Firth and C Scott

In attendance: Approximately 40 members of the public in attendance.

**1 Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Councillors introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from Councillors Eric Firth and Cathy Scott. Councillor Kane advised he would need to leave the meeting at 7.30pm.

**2 Minutes of previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30 June 2016 were approved as an accurate record.

**3 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**4 Admission of the public**

Agreed – That all items be considered in public session.

**5 Sustainability and Transformation Plans**

Richard Parry advised he works for Kirklees Council as Director for Commissioning, Public Health and Adult Social Care, and with North Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group. He advised that earlier in 2016, the NHS had announced it wanted to develop Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP's) to address three core gaps in health care. One was about health inequalities, and a recognition that life expectancy can vary greatly dependent upon where you live, in some cases by as much as fifteen years between the poorest and the richest areas. There is a recognition of a need to reduce that inequality, not just in life expectancy, but in the quality of life enjoyed. There is a recognition the level of support and care people get varies significantly across the country, and thirdly although the NHS is getting more funding there are increasing levels of demand, and unless something is done to address this, the NHS will run out of money.

There is a West Yorkshire STP, one of forty four nationally, and within that they are starting to develop a Kirklees plan working across the two Clinical Commissioning Group areas in Kirklees. There is much more flexibility about how this local plan is

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developed. It is about bringing together existing plans from across the NHS and local authorities.

He explained a range of engagement activities that had already taken place to shape the development of the STP, including 'Meeting the Challenge', 'Right Care, Right Time, Right Place', and 'Care Closer to Home' around creating new community health care services. Any new changes that come forward will be subject to the usual consultation processes, and will need to tackle the three gaps. The ongoing engagement in the Kirklees STP would include engaging at the Health and Wellbeing Board and Scrutiny, and with Governing Bodies and other groups such as the District Committees.

He went on to describe ongoing work within a set of programmes the NHS and Kirklees Council are working on together on each of the gaps; Health and Wellbeing Gap, Care and Quality Gap, and Finance and Efficiency gap. These include 'early intervention and prevention and the Healthy Child programme bringing together a whole set of programmes of services for children and young people. We need to support likes of NHS hospitals to think differently, and how will Council services work differently, so there are the right specialists in the right places.

There is a need to build on the strengths all of us have, and think about self-care. He advised someone had turned up to Accident and Emergency in Dewsbury with chapped lips. There is a need for a conversation between the NHS and the public about what sort of things the NHS should do and what should people manage themselves.

Locala is starting to think about this, with District Nurses helping people who could, to practice changing their own dressings, and getting help and support through Skype. There is a need to maximise digital opportunities, and to build a sustainable health and social care workforce to implement high level interventions. There is work aimed at maximising health and wellbeing benefits from successes in supporting skills and jobs growth in the local economy.

There followed a number of questions from members and the public:

Councillor Kane asked about whether responses are made as a result of taking account of consultation. Richard advised there would be a push to ensure Councillors were key to the engagement process for the West Yorkshire STP.

There was a comment about the brilliant job being done by the ambulance service, but concerns about planned cuts in funding to that service. There was a request that Richard find out about whether there were planned funding reductions to the service and by how much.

There was a mention about the detrimental effects of social isolation, and lack of health and wellbeing activities such as Tai Chi being delivered in the community, rather than in the hospital.

There were concerns raised about the seeming lack of transparency in the NHS development of the wider STP's development. Karen Coleman from the Council has

been seconded to the West Yorkshire process to support the communications and engagement on the STP.

**RESOLVED** – To thank Richard Parry for making his presentation.

**6 Comoodle and the Wider Sharing Economy**

Duggs Carre from Kirklees gave an update on the Comoodle Programme. In 2014 the programme was awarded one million dollars by the Bloomberg Foundation. Our idea was based on the shared economy. Increasingly people don't own things, but share them. Young people share music, people car share, and some finance share through peer to peer lending.

The Council wanted to create a vision of how to sustain what we have without spending so much money. Some examples, include the work of friends of groups working to keep library services going in collaboration with the Council. The Council has massive amounts of space and skills and some not shared with the community. Comoodle is about lending where possible, vans, tools, equipment that will help groups make things better in their communities. The team are still developing the platform for the most effective delivery of this, but it is not quite ready. It is about a trading relationship.

Comoodle has already had 340 requests. They have 262 active groups, and 140 trades. Gemma Shearing from the team explained some examples of lends that had taken place such as 'Made in Clayton West'; lending 2 vans, microscopes, display boards, felting skills, and outdoor games to a local event. She asked if anyone has stuff they don't use it could go towards what is available to lend.

Duggs advised people can do some user testing on the Comoodle website. Anyone can request items, and search by category. The Platform will be live in the next four weeks. It will be a virtual shop.

You probably do not need to be over eighteen to use Comoodle. There is a need to be aware of safeguarding issues. Young people could request things for a project, but a responsible adult may need to be involved.

The programme is about community projects. The aim is to increase community activity through the project. The programme is about building trust and connecting people. They want to find a way to say yes to people if possible. They want to be creative as a team to do this.

Duggs asked people to test the programme. If people ask for things, the Comoodle team has to try and find it. Please go to the website and make a wish for what you need. They also need people to make an offer of what they can share, and they want people to tell their stories on the website. Duggs asked people to get on the mailing list. He asked people to 'join the journey'.

There followed a number of questions from members and the public. Duggs advised the programme is covered by liability insurance. Faith groups could use it, as the test is work with communities, and many faith groups do this. Comoodle is a three

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year programme. They are working with NESTA and Bloomberg, but they need to have a business plan to take them beyond 2017.

**RESOLVED** – To thank Duggs and Gemma for their presentation.

### 7 **Estates and Environmental Works Budget**

Lisa White, acting Neighbourhood Operations Manager with Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing attended in place of Noreen Beck to give a progress update on the approved schemes from the Estates and Environmental Works Budget 2015/16. She summarised key issues from the round of approvals and asked the Committee to consider and confirm the approach, process and timelines for 2016/17.

Lisa provided a summary of progress ward by ward and it was

#### **RESOLVED:-**

- In relation to Dewsbury East ward, the Committee agreed local decision making about the Vulcan scheme for over £30,000. As Councillor Kane had left the meeting, due to having to attend another meeting, it was agreed that the Dewsbury East members would be provided with a breakdown of the scenario and be asked for a decision.
- For Dewsbury West there were no schemes approved in 2015/16 that could not be funded last financial year.
- For Dewsbury South it was agreed to put on hold the scheme for clearance of land to the rear of Blackers Court. This scheme would be included at the end of the new scheme list brought forward for approval to the District Committee in December 2016, and to include more detail as to the work due to be carried out as a result of the seeming high cost of the scheme. This will be reviewed with other new schemes for its value for money in comparison to new ideas.
- In relation to Mirfield it was agreed to progress the Hopton metal fencing project for £12,000. Both remaining schemes would be added to the end of the new scheme list brought forward for approval by the District Committee in December 2016, and to be compared against new schemes for value for money.

Councillor Asif asked Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing to provide additional information about the procurement process involved in the process of appointing the preferred contractor, to ensure value for money.

### 8 **Committee Budget Report**

The current balances on the District Committee devolved budgets were highlighted.

The following discretionary grants and returns to budget were noted:

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- To note the discretionary grant of £385 revenue awarded on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016 to the Friends of Ravensthorpe Library to pay for a face painter and balloon modeller, slushy maker hire, bouncy castle hire and banner for a family fun event on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016.
- To note the fast track commission of £250 revenue towards the Queen's birthday celebrations.

To note the following returns to budget as a result of underspends:

- (i) £252 revenue to be split across the three Dewsbury wards in relation to £7,500 revenue approved on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 for the Dewsbury Employment and Learning Pilot.
- (ii) £5 revenue to Mirfield ward in relation to the fast track commission approval of £150 revenue approved on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015.

The Committee considered applications for funding and **RESOLVED** that budget expenditure be approved as follows:

- (i) £4,150 revenue to meet the costs of organisation and delivery of a Dewsbury East ward 'You and Your Community' events for 2016/17; to include Ashworth, Eightlands, Northfield and the town centre.
- (ii) £3,750 revenue to pay for refurbishment and repairs to the public seating in Dewsbury town centre.
- (iii) £2,610 revenue to the Pennine Canoe Club to pay for landscaping and benches to create a seating area on an extended jetty at Battyeford, Mirfield.
- (iv) £7,293 revenue to pay for the supply, erection, illumination, maintenance and dismantling of eleven Christmas trees at various locations in Dewsbury East, Dewsbury West and Dewsbury South. Dewsbury West costs to be met from their ten percent New Homes Bonus allocation.
- (v) £850 revenue to Savile Town Cricket Club to pay for cricket kit and equipment for eleven players.
- (vi) £1,300 revenue to install three sockets on lamp columns which will allow the Dewsbury East Speed Indicator Device to be accommodated in new locations, and to expand the Dewsbury East Speed Indicator Programme to fund two years' worth of quarterly moves.

## 9 Appointments to Outside Bodies

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) To receive nominations of Councillor Darren O'Donovan, Iris Bettney, Terry Goodall and Trevor Senior and to appoint them as the Council nominated Trustees of the Fletcher Charity for a period of four more years. There were no nominations received for the two further vacancies.

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Iris Bettney advised she thinks the Fletcher Charity should have been independent from the Council by now, and she would like the Council asked when this would take place.

- (ii) To receive nominations and appoint Councillors Paul Kane and Eric Firth as the two Council nominated Trustees to the William Greenwood Homes Charity for a further four year term.
- (iii) To receive the nomination of Councillor Darren O'Donovan and to appoint him for a further four year period as a Council nominated Trustee to the Dewsbury Guild of Help – Whittuck Charity.
- (iv) To receive the nomination of Councillor Gulfam Asif and to appoint him as a Council nominated Trustee for four years to the vacancy on the Walker Greenwood Educational Charity. There was no nomination for the remaining vacancy.
- (v) to receive the nomination of Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton and to appoint her for a further four years as a Council representative on the Mirfield Educational Charity, and to backdate her appointment to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Councillor Martyn Bolt raised an objection to the Council's recommendation to align all the Council Trustee nominations. He amended the recommendation in the Mirfield Educational Charity report due to the fact that such an alignment would be contrary to the Articles of the Charity.

### 10 Deputations / Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

### 11 Public Question Time

The following questions were asked and Councillors responded:

- (i) "Whilst having sympathy with councils across the country suffering unprecedented budget cuts, we seem to be suffering in Dewsbury more than our fair share. On the last count I heard that thirty per cent of local shops are empty yet Huddersfield has a large new shopping centre, our leisure centre badly needs upgrading, and yet Huddersfield has a brand new facility, the Dewsbury Museum is to close but the Tolson and Huddersfield gallery are to have a brand new facility to replace them. There is a pattern emerging of gross unfairness. What steps are being taken to encourage trading entrepreneurs to come to Dewsbury, and are your voices really being heard in representing our downtrodden town"?

Councillor Ahmed as Cabinet member answered in relation to the museum closure decision:

The Cabinet took a very difficult decision on Monday, one which was not lightly taken. In light of the financial challenges which the council faces, it has had to ask the Museums and Galleries service to make savings of over

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£500,000. Having already made £350,000 of savings since 2011 without closing any sites, the service has had to look at the transformation of its service and consider withdrawing from half of the sites.

The Cabinet felt it was very important to ensure that there was one museum in North Kirklees and one in South Kirklees plus a historic house. A full analysis of financial and visitor data was undertaken and projections made which looked at which sites had the potential to generate the most income in the future so that the new service can be sustained if there are further savings which have to be made. This led to the decision to continue to operate a museum from Bagshaw Museum, Batley and to create a new museum and art gallery in Huddersfield town centre plus to keep operating Oakwell Hall in Birstall.

Unfortunately it means that once a new site in Huddersfield has been developed, Tolson Museum and Huddersfield Art Gallery will close. Red House Museum in Gomersal will close this financial year along with Dewsbury Museum.

At the Cabinet meeting, the Leader made a commitment that council officers will have discussions with the Friends of Crow Nest Park and Dewsbury ward members to look at if together a plan can be created to develop a viable community use for the building which presently houses Dewsbury Museum. It is hoped that an alternative use which is not detrimental to the park can be found for this important building, one which enhances the park and attracts people to visit the park. These discussions will start shortly. It all boils down to budgets”

- (i) “There is appalling traffic congestion between Mirfield and Dewsbury. On some occasions it takes over forty minutes to travel that short distance. Getting in and out of the town can be a nightmare, and must be detrimental to business. What is the plan”?

Councillor Bolt advised the Councillors had been told the Ravensthorpe Gyratory had a five year life span when constructed. Where are we with the Ravensthorpe bypass?

Councillor Ahmed advised he would go back and get an answer from the Service.

- (ii) “Where in the Planning process is there provision for a recompense of the leisure amenity we would lose as a result of the potential road construction across any greenspace” ?

Councillor Dad advised that this question would be put forward to the relevant service.

## 12 Dates of future meetings

The dates and times are:

**District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 6 October 2016**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Dewsbury Town Hall 7-9pm

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017, Mirfield Venue, 7-9pm

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, Dewsbury Town Hall 7-9pm