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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - HUDDERSFIELD

Tuesday 14th February 2017

- Present: Councillor Sheikh Ullah (Chair)
Councillors N Mather, C Burke, J Calvert, A Cooper,
R Eastwood, J Homewood, J Hughes, P McBride,
B McGuin, C Pattison, M Sokhal, L Wilkinson and
G Wilson
- Apologies: K Allison, E Hill, M Kaushik, M Khan, A U Pinnock and
J Stewart-Turner
- In attendance: Approximately 25 members of the public were in
attendance.

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone and introduced members of the Committee to the public.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 December 2016 were approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

Councillor Calvert informed the Committee that she is no longer the Chair of Local Services 2 You Limited, which has a grant being considered under item 8, as there may be a delay in the Council being formally notified. Councillor Eastwood also wanted the Committee to be aware he is an active Scout Leader in Huddersfield given the Lepton Scouts Group were having a grant considered under item 8.

4 Admission of the public

RESOLVED – That all items be considered in public session.

5 Deputations / Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions.

6 Comoodle Project Update

The District Committee received an informative presentation from Duggs Carre, Comoodle Manager. Duggs encouraged Members and residents to register their interest with the initiative on the online platform via www.comoodle.com in order that communities can access (borrow and share) stuff, space and skills that are unused or not used to capacity.

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Duggs emphasised the need to create a strong culture of sharing in Kirklees, so that we can help each other to do good things in our communities. This means making the best use of our stuff, space and skills by lending things to each other and by sharing what we know. But it will only work if we all have a good understanding of what we can offer each other, and what we need to get good things done.

A number of questions were raised which Duggs responded to including whether Council officers' skills eg. a plumber, bricklayer, funding adviser could be loaned to community groups where there are skill/funding gaps. Duggs emphasised that as well as equipment being offered through the platform, space and skills is the next challenge for Comoodle.

RESOLVED – The Chair thanked the officer for his informative presentation and encouraged everyone to sign up and take part in the initiative.

7 **Crime, Community Safety, Cohesion and Victim Support Update**

The District Committee received 3 presentations from Sergeant Paul James, Chris Walsh, Safer Kirklees Manager, and Andrew Dolman, Engagement and Cohesion Manager. An overview was given on the ongoing partnership work in relation to crime, community safety and cohesion across the district and an update was given on the new Kirklees Victim Support Service which is based in Huddersfield.

Chris Walsh explained that the **Community Safety Partnership** has a evolving Partnership Plan which uses multi-agency data and consultations with local people to identify key community safety issues for the district. The current plan has four key themes:

- Improving confidence and satisfaction
- Reducing crime
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Protecting people from serious harm (for example, Domestic abuse, violence, extremism, child sexual exploitation)

Safer Kirklees has a four tier approach to its delivery and aims to tackle them at the earliest point, ideally preventing them in the first place. The approach is:

- Prevention (building relationships with residents)
- Early resolution (officers and local communities taking ownership)
- Partnership problem solving (to recurrent and emerging shared hotspots)
- High risk/intensive cases (more specialist support for example,. mental health and enforcement and prosecution where earlier interventions have not been successful)

Information was also shared on the recently developed Victims Support Hub based in Huddersfield. This provides free, confidential support and advice to victims of crime. <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/crime-and-safety/victim-support.aspx>

Sergeant Paul James shared the challenges in **policing** and although the total “recorded” crime has risen by 24.5% during the past12 months, this is due to a significant proportion of changes in recording practices coming into place.

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He shared the Police and Crime Plans four key community safety outcomes:

- Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
- Safeguard vulnerable people and protect those most at risk
- Make sure criminal justice works for communities
- Support victims and witnesses

He acknowledged these outcomes are all inter-connected and cannot be delivered by any organisation alone and everyone needs to work together to improve people's lives across Huddersfield. He assured the public by confirming that more staff are visible, responsive and accessible within our communities extending the use of body-worn cameras, number plate recognition equipment and the roll-out of hand-held devices for example, mobile computers to allow officers to spend more time in communities. Recruitment to over 500 police officers is being undertaken over the next year to bring a real preventative, problem-solving approach to difficult issues such as missing people, child and adult safeguarding and policing the digital space. Ensuring the bedrock of the police service will continue to be through strong networks of neighbourhood policing, currently Huddersfield has ten ward officers and two PCSO's.

A number of Ward Councillors expressed concerns over the lack of feedback to them as elected representatives and the wider community when crimes take place and often hear of local issues via the press not from the Police. The Sergeant offered to have ward discussions with colleagues to identify how communication could be improved going forward whilst balancing the sensitivities and confidentiality of police investigations.

Finally, Andrew Dolman shared some of the work currently being undertaken on improving **cohesion** across the district, whilst acknowledging parts of the district have experienced tensions and separations between communities over the years and more recently. Perceptions of unfairness, in international and national events as well as in local circumstances can stoke tensions and divide communities. Occasionally, these tensions can result in hate crimes or even the potential for violent extremism. The Connecting Communities Programme which leads cohesion work is wanting to work closely with Members and communities to:

- Help understand what is important to people at a local level
- Stimulate and encourage more opportunities for more people to know more people
- Breakdown barriers that exist between people and communities
- Enhance community pride and civic participation whilst tackling intolerance and extremism.

Over recent months evidence has been reviewed which includes looking at qualitative information such as the CLIK survey and factors which we think have an impact on cohesion such as housing, crime, schools and community facilities. Overall stats are positive, for example, Huddersfield over 78% of local people are satisfied with their local area as a place to live and 72% of older people and younger people get on with each other.

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A number of concerns were raised by residents and Members, therefore a workshop to facilitate a discussion on cohesion across Huddersfield was offered in order to examine local challenges and opportunities to connect communities in a way that improves community resilience.

RESOLVED – Andrew Dolman to arrange a cohesion workshop for residents, Youth Council representatives and Elected Members in the coming months to examine the local challenges and opportunities that connect communities across the Huddersfield district.

8 Committee Budget Report

The District Committee budget balances were noted and applications for funding were considered. The Committee noted the following Fast Tracks and Discretionary Grants:-

- (a) £100 revenue – Crosland Moor and Netherton Ward – 2017 Partnership Network – 2017 Meetings – Fast Track
- (b) There is an amendment to note to the Brecon Avenue/Blackthorn Drive Footpath Improvements scheme – Lindley Ward. The project was approved on 12 July 2016 at £4,875. The scheme has cost £8,098. £1,000 has been fast tracked by the Committee and £2,223 will be funded through the Parks Service to meet these additional costs – Fast Track
- (c) £472 revenue – Almondbury ward - Huddersfield and District Archaeology Society - Re-excavation of 3 Varley trenches in the annex to Castle Hill – Discretionary Grant
- (d) £200 revenue – Lindley Ward – Lindley Community Group for the St Philips Dramatic Society - BSL Interpreter for Pantomime – Discretionary Grant

RESOLVED – That the following projects be funded:-

- (a) £8,040 Capital – Almondbury Ward - 35th Lepton Scout Group: replacement of damaged flooring in Scout Hall
- (b) £4,060 Revenue – Lindley Ward – Paddock Community Trust - Digital IT Mobile Clinics
- (c) £1,495 Revenue - Lindley Ward – Mount Forum Community Activities
- (d) £543.99 Revenue – Lindley Ward – Lindley Community Choir – Instruments
- (e) £700 Revenue – Lindley Ward – Malham Court Action Group Community Activities
- (f) £2,067.99 Revenue – Crosland Moor and Netherton Ward – Crosland Moor Community Learning Centre - IT Server Equipment

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- (g) £1,000 Revenue – Greenhead Ward – Defibrillator outside Westbourne Surgery in Marsh Village
- (h) £1,000 Revenue - Ashbrow Ward – Local Services 2 You Ltd - Ashbrow School Traffic and Car Parking Scheme
- (i) £13,300 – New Homes Bonus – Lindley Ward - Streetscene and Housing – Huddersfield YMCA – Park and Stride Scheme
- (j) £14,000 – (£7,192.00 Capital/ £6,808.00 Revenue) – Greenhead Ward - Streetscene and Housing – Traffic Calming – Paddock Village

9 Public Question Time

Bob Mortimer raised some concerns about the foul and abusive language displayed by spectators and players at various football matches in the community that he has been witness to and asked if the Council could help tackle these types of issues with the referees in the first instance.

RESOLVED - The Chair advised the resident to provide further information on these incidents to Cheryl Reid who will then liaise with the Sports and Physical Activity Team Manager.

10 Dates of future meetings

Dates of future meetings were noted as below:

21 March 2017, 7pm-9pm at Huddersfield Town Hall