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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - HUDDERSFIELD

Tuesday 27th September 2016

Present: Councillor Sheikh Ullah (Chair)
Councillors N Mather, K Allison, C Burke, J Calvert,
R Eastwood, J Homewood, J Hughes, M Kaushik,
B McGuin, M Sokhal, L Wilkinson and G Wilson

Apologies: A Cooper, E Hill, M Khan, P McBride, C Pattison and
J Stewart-Turner

In attendance: Approximately 20 members of the public

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Councillors introduced themselves.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 July 2016 were approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

Councillor Jean Calvert from the Ashbrow Ward declared 'an other' interest in Agenda item 8 – report 2 for the reason that she is the Chair on the Boards of Local Services 2 You Ltd and DBI Ltd.

4 Admission of the public

RESOLVED – That all items were considered in public session.

5 Deputations / Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions.

6 Huddersfield Town Centre

The District Committee received an informative presentation from Andrew Jackson, Investment and Regeneration Service on some of the key developments taking place in the town centre. Andy outlined that a town centre is never made up of more than 35% of retail because lots more is now on offer from; food, coffee shops, leisure, offices, housing to education opportunities. He stated that over 40,000 students are now attending the University of Huddersfield (with over 120 nations attending), Kirklees and Greenhead Colleges and the town has seen a significant growth over the past few years in student accommodation for example, Standard House, Palace Theatre, Oldgate House.

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Andy emphasised that the town needs to be seen as a 'one of' rather than a 'one off' and needs to be differentiated from anywhere else. A town centre experience needs to be personal to counteract the 'couch surfing' culture (on line shopping) to ensure its future success. On that note he asked the audience to write a postcard from the future; '*As a resident I love Huddersfield because*' A summary of feedback received included:

- Excellent transport links
- Friendliness (need to bottle what Huddersfield has)
- Exciting and energetic place
- Manageable size – easy to get around
- Has a sense of arrival
- Steeped in history
- Multi-cultural place – people integrate well
- Has a number of micro-breweries we should promote more

Andy fed back that he had a visioning workshop recently with Huddersfield Councillors and issues they would like to see prioritised in the short/medium term related to:

- More marketing/PR – create a strong brand
- Talk up the town – its unique selling point
- Advertise its cultural offer
- Maximise its open spaces
- Promote its markets

Discussions then followed with residents on creating a shared vision for the town and exploring any potential short-term priorities the District Committee could support and champion. Feedback received included:

- Work with the youth council and the Student Union at the University to explore how they can help develop and deliver a pledge with young people – who are significant spenders and visitors to the town.
- Develop an exhibition which can be rotated around the town which promotes the things that are manufactured in the town for example; suits, sports equipment – sell what we do and develop a town label – 'made in Huddersfield'....truly champion the brand of Huddersfield through a proactive marketing campaign. Potentially use the "Town" programme to celebrate Huddersfield.
- Identify opportunities to show what independent enterprises offer in the town – demonstrating we are a one off not one of! Hold 'independence days' so independents can showcase what our pound means to them – promotes the person and their products - potentially linked to Small Business Saturday.
- Invite local poets to write about the town – hold an event and showcase the positives.

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- Have a rotating 'what's on board' in key town centre venues for example; the railway station – that promotes what's good about the town, what's on where and when.
- Investigate the 2 hour parking disc scheme administered by town centre retailers (for example; which has been successfully operating in places like Halifax and Harrogate) to encourage visitors to stay in the town and enter shops.
- Campaigns to promote our markets
- Work with partners such as Healthy High Street and Making Spaces to provide animation in Huddersfield Town Centre

RESOLVED - The Chair agreed to feedback the Committees comments to relevant Senior Officers and Partners and identify which priorities could potentially be taken forward and supported by the District Committee.

7 **Roebuck Memorial Homes**

The Committee considered two nominations to the Roebuck Memorial Homes Charity, two Managing Trustees were considered for a further four year term of office (no other nominations were received).

RESOLVED: The Committee agreed to appoint two Managing Trustees for a four year term of office (Cliff Preest and Ray Ram) to Roebuck Memorial Homes.

8 **Committee Budget Report**

The District Committee budget balances were noted and applications for funding were considered.

The Committee noted the following:

Fast Tracks:

- £335 Heaton Road, Paddock – Pedestrian Guard Rails – Greenhead Ward - Revenue
- £163 Abingdon Street, Fartown – Keep Clear Marketing – Greenhead Ward – Revenue

Underspends to be returned to the District Committee budget:

Following a financial monitoring exercise underspends to be returned to the District Committee budget include:

- £3,295 revenue
- £813 capital

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RESOLVED: -

That the following projects be funded:

- (i) £4,400 revenue grant – Ashbrow CCTV – Ashbrow Ward – Local Services 2 You
- (ii) £1,975 capital grant – Branch Out Project – Greenhead Ward – Paddock Community Trust
- (iii) £10,648 revenue – Christmas Trees/Lights 2016 – six wards (excludes Dalton)
- (iv) £10,000 capital – Taylor Hill Footpath – Newsome Ward

9 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

10 Dates of future meetings

The next public meeting will be held on the 6th December 2016 – 7pm at Huddersfield Town Hall.

Tuesday, 14th February 2017 – 7pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

Tuesday, 21st March 2017 – 7pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

Dates may be subject to change. Please check, the Kirklees Council website, Huddersfield District Committee on Facebook, or local press for updates.