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## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE - BATLEY AND SPEN**

**Tuesday 23rd August 2016**

Present: Councillor Gwen Lowe (Chair)  
Councillors M Akhtar, F Fadia, M Grainger-Mead, S Hall,  
S Pandor, A Pinnock, K Pinnock and D Sheard

Apologies: D Hall, L Holmes, V Kendrick, J Lawson, R Light,  
M O'Neill, A Palfreeman and E Smaje

In attendance: 28 members of the public were in attendance

**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 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016 be approved as a correct record.

**3 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**4 Admission of the public**

All items were considered in public.

**5 Deputations / Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were received.

**6 Public Question Time**

Councillors responded to questions relating to the seating arrangements for Councillors at the meeting, the move of Cleckheaton Customer Services to Dewsbury and the return of funding relating to an approved scheme, back into the District Committee budget.

**Resolved:**

That the relevant service be asked to provide the rationale for moving Cleckheaton Customer Services to Dewsbury.

**7 Committee Budget Report**

An overview of the budget balances was given.

## District Committee - Batley and Spen - 23 August 2016

Dave Minich described the Cleckheaton Folk Festival and highlighted that the next year, for which funding was requested, was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the festival. Councillors highlighted the economic benefits to the Spen Valley and commended the volunteers involved.

Edward Phittness described how community volunteers had taken on the running of East Bierley playing fields and changing facilities following the asset transfer from the Council. The organisation had fundraised and secured £75,000 from Sport England and secured a loan from Kirklees Council towards the building costs of phase 1 of the project. Funding from the District Committee would cover the remaining costs as detailed in the report. The volunteers were commended for taking the facility into their control and thanked for their ongoing efforts.

Dave Minich described how a new management committee had taken on the organisation of the Cleckheaton Christmas lights event this year. The committee was fundraising but a small grant was required from the District Committee to cover the costs of erecting and dismantling lights and repairing and replacing lights where needed. Councillors commended the volunteers in delivering this significant local event.

Stuart Wider of Friends of Scholes recreation area described how the friends group had transformed the area into a well-used park, benefitting from perimeter pathways, seating and regular activities for all to enjoy. Volunteers had brought in external funding. The park suffered from poor drainage and was prone to flooding and the proposed scheme would improve the pathways and increase access to the park. Councillors acknowledged the transformation of the park through the work of the volunteers involved.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) £14,000 revenue approved (Spen Valley) – Cleckheaton Folk Festival 2017
- (b) £40,300 New Homes Bonus approved – terms of the grant delegated to the Assistant Director, Communities and Leisure.
- (c) £3,746 revenue approved (Spen Valley) – Cleckheaton Christmas Lights
- (d) £10,000 New Homes Bonus approved – Scholes Recreation Footpath Improvements

### **8 Housing Revenue Account - Estate and Environmental Works Budget**

Noreen Beck, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing, Neighbourhood Operations Manager gave an update on the budget and the schemes completed. Photographs showed the completed sites before and after improvement work. Key issues and learning points from the first round of budget approvals were summarised. Learning points included: simplifying the voting process, offering increased flexibility via a drop in session and distribution of scheme details in advance of voting so more residents could be consulted. If need be schemes may be brought more frequently to the District Committee for approval. The overall approach, process and timeline for the next phase, was agreed.

**9 Tackling Poverty**

The District Committee received a presentation from Nicky Hoyle, Consultant in Public Health. The Kirklees Joint Health and Well-being Strategy and the Kirklees Economic Strategy work as one to tackle poverty in Kirklees. The overall picture of poverty in Kirklees was illustrated. Statistical information relating to poverty in the Batley and Spen area – household income, residents with money worries, fuel poverty and education and skills deprived areas was outlined. The assets in Batley and Spen were also highlighted – there were high levels of people motivated to look after their own health, residents engaged in community led activity and schools as community hubs were emerging as important community assets. There was a comprehensive approach to tackling poverty including: policies to boost household resources, improve long term life chances of individuals and their families, prevent people sliding into poverty, and provide a backdrop of services that allow people to enhance their job prospects. The achievements in tackling poverty so far included improved uptake of free childcare and free school meals, a reduction in entitled non claimants, a BRASS course and better access to council facilities for anti-poverty charities. Low pay was also tackled. The presentation was followed by group discussion relating to: what can the District Committee do/ commission to address poverty? What else can the community do? How can the District Committee support them? Feedback of key discussion points/ suggestions included:

- (a) Provide more consumer advice perhaps in Kirklees Together Magazine.
- (b) Design an APP specific to Kirklees and ways of dealing with debt for example, finding discounted products.
- (c) Teach cookery on a budget.
- (d) Facilitate financial institutions working in shelters or offering advice clinics.
- (e) Get quality information from communities on hidden poverty in their areas.
- (f) Through TRA's provide a booklet for new tenants including where to go for furniture and debt advice. Turnsteads TRA provided such a booklet.
- (g) Promote free computer use in Libraries.
- (h) Eating better courses for school leavers/food for life in schools.
- (i) Recipe cards for simple meals at foodbanks.
- (j) Money for life skills – teaching children at an early age.

Individual pledges were encouraged to assist in reducing poverty.

Residents were thanked for their contributions.

**RESOLVED:**

Notes from the discussions and suggestions were to be collated and explored further.

**10 Avoiding Scams and Frauds**

A presentation from Farah Hussain of West Yorkshire Joint Services highlighted the huge amount of money lost to scams and frauds each year. It included a range of examples of scams, the impact on victims which included embarrassment and fear of repercussions, and negative health impacts. A range of contact methods were used by scammers including:

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- (a) doorstep – with rogue traders pressure selling and distraction burglaries.
- (b) telephone – computer virus scams, copycat Government scams, copycat telephone preference service scams.
- (c) Mail – including prize draw scams and missed parcel scams.
- (d) Online – free trial scams, holiday or ticket scams.

Victims may be included in lists circulated among scammers.

The West Yorkshire Joint Services SAFER project offers help to residents through:

- (a) Educational workshops for community groups.
- (b) Partner training.
- (c) Individual help for scam/ doorstep crime.
- (d) Provide benefit and debt advice.
- (e) Support at community events.
- (f) Cold Calling Control Zones.
- (g) SAFER Toolkits.

For an informal chat or to book a SAFER workshop email: [safer@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:safer@wyjs.org.uk) or telephone 0113 939910.

### **11 Dates of Future Meetings**

Date of the next meeting – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

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## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE - BATLEY AND SPEN**

**Thursday 17 November 2016**

Present: Councillor Gwen Lowe (Chair)

Councillors M Grainger-Mead, L Holmes, V Kendrick, R Light, S Pandor, K Pinnock, D Sheard, E Smaje and A Stubley

Apologies: M Akhtar, F Fadia, D Hall, S Hall, J Lawson, M O'Neill, A Palfreeman and A Pinnock

In attendance: Approximately 28 members of the public.

**1 Welcomes and Introductions**

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

**2 Minutes of previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23 August 2016 be approved as a correct record.

**3 Interests**

Councillor Lowe declared a pecuniary interest in item 7 as an employee of Mid Yorkshire NHS Hospitals Trust.

Councillor Lowe declared an `other' interest in item 8 as a family member was employed by Kirklees Active Leisure.

Councillor Smaje declared a pecuniary interest in item 11 as a board member of Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing.

**4 Admission of the public**

All items were considered in public.

It was agreed that Dementia Friends training to be brought forward on the agenda.

**5 Deputations / Petitions**

There were no deputations or petitions.

**6 Public Question Time**

Members responded to questions relating to the closure of three museums and the justification for building a new one; timescale on repairs to Spenningsdale pool and replacement of sports facilities; the rationale for withdrawing acceptance of plasterboard at Kirkstall tips and arrangements for disposal; and the rationale for withdrawing Freephones at Cleckheaton and Birstall Libraries.

**RESOLVED:** That the latter two questions be referred to services for a further response – what the rationale was for withdrawing acceptance of plasterboard at Kirkstall tips and what were the arrangements for people to dispose of plasterboard, and what the rationale was for withdrawing Freephones at Cleckheaton and Birstall Libraries.

**7 Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust Changes to Maternity and Children's Services**

Councillor Lowe declared a pecuniary interest in item 7 as an employee of Mid Yorkshire NHS Hospitals Trust, vacated the chair and left the meeting.

The District Committee received an information update on the changes to Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust Maternity and Children's Services, since implementation in September 2016.

Centralisation took place on 19 September affecting three hospital sites - Dewsbury, Pinderfields and Pontefract. There were now two new birth centres, plus the existing birth centre at Pinderfields. Choices of birth place were offered to women with dedicated midwifery support. It was made clear where women were to report to and so far the arrangements had worked well with women attending appropriately.

High risk births were at Pinderfields Hospital. Local care pre-birth was still offered at Dewsbury District Hospital and low risk births were at Dewsbury District Hospital. All women still had access to local community midwife services.

Representatives responded to questions confirming that the processes were good in relation to transfers and midwives were very good at identifying where transfers were needed. There was constant triage and midwives were fully trained to handle emergency situations.

There was a nineteen bed base for labouring mothers. There was also a dedicated area for recovering mothers following elective caesarean section, with specialist care, enhancing recovery to enable mothers to return home quickly and within 24 hours. This was new following the centralisation of services and beneficial to mothers who would have previously been dealt with alongside emergency work.

Since opening, communication had been effective. Mothers were advised where to attend on booking. There had been no incidents or inappropriate admissions whereby mothers turned up elsewhere to the planned site.

There had been around 445 admissions since the centralisation of services. Further updates would be through the usual channels but representatives were happy to return at a later date upon invitation.

**RESOLVED:** Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust Representatives were thanked for their attendance and update.

**8 Updates from Kirklees Sports and Physical Activity Team and Kirklees Active Leisure**

Councillor Lowe declared an 'other' interest in item 8 as a family member was employed by Kirklees Active Leisure, and vacated the Chair.

The Committee received an overview from Alasdair Brown, Chief Executive of Kirklees Active Leisure. Kirklees Active Leisure formed in 2002 and had a twenty year agreement to provide services. There were between 1.5 and 3 million customer visits and customer satisfaction levels were high. There were 13 leisure sites across the district.

The range of opportunities relating to sports and physical activity, delivered through Kirklees Sports and Physical Development Activity Team, were outlined including training opportunities, funding guidance to organisations, and targeted interventions.

The Sports and Physical Development Team had a strategy and partnership role and offered support to voluntary and community clubs. The training offer included leader training in: walks, jogging, coaching, Shall We Dance, Circle Dance, and Moving More Often. There were targeted interventions to help reduce health inequalities for example, programmes such as PALS (proactive activity leisure scheme) to assist people with long term conditions such as pain, stroke, heart disease or depression and anxiety. Other adult referral schemes included Active for Life, and Steps for Life. In Batley and Spen there were 321 health walk routes, and junior and adult park runs at Oakwell Hall. Juliet gave statistical information relating to engagement and outcomes such as some participants having been enabled to reduce medication, feel more positive, and having reported reduced medical symptoms and better social skills.

**RESOLVED:** Alasdair Brown and Juliet Jackson were thanked for their attendance and update.

**9 Committee Budget Report**

An overview of the District Committee budgets was given and the Committee considered grant applications and proposals for expenditure.

**RESOLVED:**

**Underspends to be returned to the Revenue Budget 2016–2017:**

- (i) £16.94 Spen Valley – Spen Bottoms  
(£2,317.00 revenue approved 29.01.2013)
- (ii) £30.75 Spen Valley – Cleckheaton Mapboard  
(£818 revenue approved 19.03.2015)
- (iii) £50.00 Birstall and Birkenshaw – Remembrance Day Parade 2015  
(£575 revenue approved 11.11.2014)

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- (iv) £590.17 Spen Valley – Cleckheaton Folk Festival (£12,000 revenue approved 08.09.2016)
- (v) £1,426.83 Spen Valley – Crown of Lights Free Music Festival (£14,390.00 revenue approved 15.03.2016)
- (vi) £150.00 Spen Valley – Return to Budget – Royal British Legion, Cleckheaton Remembrance Day Parade (£150 revenue approved 29.01.2013)
- (vii) £76.80 Spen Valley – Blanket Hall Street Stalls (£461 revenue approved 15.03.2016)

### **Revenue Approved:**

- (i) £375.00 - Birkenshaw and East Bierley Remembrance Day Parades 2017
- (ii) £2,820.00 - Birstall, Birkenshaw, East Bierley Town and Village Hanging Baskets 2017
- (iii) £370.00 - Birstall and Birkenshaw Garden Competition 2017
- (iv) £9,078.00 – Batley Vintage Day 2017 (Batley East and Batley West)

### **New Homes Bonus Funding Approved:**

- (i) £20,000.00 – Wilton Park Footpath Improvements

## **10 Dementia Friends Training**

To support the development of dementia friendly communities, Dementia Friends training was delivered by Adrian Ellwood on behalf of Kirklees Dementia Action Alliance.

Dementia is now understood to be one of the biggest underlying causes of death. The training session, to support the creation of dementia friendly communities across the district, covered key messages in relation to dementia:

- (i) Dementia is not a natural part of ageing
- (ii) Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain
- (iii) Dementia is not just about losing your memory – it can affect thinking, communicating and doing everyday tasks
- (iv) It's possible to live well with dementia
- (v) There is more to the person than the disease

Adrian explained memory loss and loss of recognition retention of emotional memory where people cannot remember the details but remember how a person or activity made them feel.

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An exercise demonstrated how every person with dementia was affected in different ways and would have different abilities.

Attendees became Dementia Friends.

**RESOLVED:** Adrian Ellwood was thanked for his attendance and delivery of the training session. New Dementia Friends were asked to make a pledge, and to complete and return the cards left by Adrian.

- 11 Housing Revenue Account - Estate and Environmental Works Budget**  
Councillor Smaje declared a pecuniary interest in item 11 as a board member of Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing.

Noreen Beck, Neighbourhood Operations Manager, Neighbourhood Housing presented estate and environmental works budget proposals for District Committee consideration.

**RESOLVED:**

£241,167 - approved for a range of schemes prioritised by the Tenant Forum. Schemes are described in Appendix 1 of the Committee Report (highlighted in green) and related to the following locations:

2-11 Brooklyn Court and 12-22 Brooklyn Court, 1-21 Brooklyn Drive, Brooklyn Estate, Chinewood Avenue (area outside number 71), Carr Street Flats, 38 and 56-64 Norrithorpe Avenue, 2-96 Chinewood Avenue, Church Grange, 2-16a Cardigan Close and 2-16a Howley Walk, 1-3 Laurel Grove, Old Popplewell Lane, Cardigan Close/West Street, Heathcliffe Close, Oxford Grange, Turnsteads Drive, The Square Fairview Avenue.

**RESOLVED:** Noreen Beck was thanked for her attendance.

- 12 Nominations to Outside Bodies**  
**RESOLVED** – That Joanne Alvy be re-appointed to the Governing Body of Holly Bank Trust.

- 13 Dates of future meetings**  
Future Meetings to be held on Tuesday 7 February 2017 and Thursday 16 March 2017.

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## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE - BATLEY AND SPEN**

**Tuesday 7th February 2017**

Present: Councillor Gwen Lowe (Chair)  
Councillors M Akhtar, F Fadia, M Grainger-Mead, D Hall,  
S Hall, L Holmes, V Kendrick, J Lawson, M O'Neill,  
S Pandor, A Pinnock, D Sheard, E Smaje and A Stubley

Apologies: R Light, A Palfreeman and K Pinnock

In attendance:

#### **1 Welcomes and Introductions**

Councillor Steve Hall was nominated as Chair until Councillor Lowe, who was delayed, reached the meeting. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Councillors introduced themselves.

#### **2 Minutes of previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 November 2016 were approved.

#### **3 Interests**

Councillor Viv Kendrick declared an Other interest in Item 9, budget report, as a member of the Petanque Club.

#### **4 Admission of the public**

All items were considered in public.

It was agreed to take item 9 Budget Report, earlier in the agenda order. The committee conveyed best wishes to Dave Minich.

#### **5 Deputations / Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were received.

**6 Public Question Time**

Councillors responded to questions relating to:

- (a) The possibility of building additional sheltered housing accommodation to meet growing need.
- (b) The length of consultation time and scale of Council budget cuts.
- (c) The difficulty experienced by community groups of disposing of Christmas trees.

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

The committee received an overview of the Kirklees Community Safety Partnership Plan themes and an update on their delivery from Chris Walsh.

Safer Kirklees was the name of the Community Safety Partnership which brought together key agencies such as the Council, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Housing and Offender Management Services to work with local people and elected members to create safer communities.

There was a partnership plan which used data and consultation with local people to identify key community safety issues for the district.

The partnership plan had 4 themes:

- i) Improving confidence and satisfaction
- ii) Reducing crime
- iii) Tackling anti-social behaviour
- iv) Protecting people from serious harm (e.g. domestic abuse, violent extremism, child sexual exploitation etc.)

The approach in delivering on these themes was:

- i) Prevention e.g. by education and changing the relationship with residents so that they do not commit or tolerate crime
- ii) Early resolution - communities taking ownership for reporting and challenging issues
- iii) Partnership problem solving- using tools and powers to problem solve recurrent and emerging shared hotspots.
- iv) High risk intensive cases - specialist support to address underlying issues e.g. mental health or enforcement and prosecution where earlier interventions had not been successful.
- v) Victims approach – a hub provided free confidential support and advice for victims of crime.

An outline of engagement work including the Connecting Communities programme, community tensions monitoring, the It's Up to You programme and cohesion activity, was presented by Andrew Dolman.

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The work of the Community Engagement Team was described including myth busting and the work around breaking down barriers between young and older people.

The CliK survey was used as part of an evidence base indicating levels of pride and satisfaction in the area in which people lived and how well people got on with each other. The survey indicated a 10% increase over the last 4 years of people feeling better connected.

A workshop was offered to explore community connections further.

Inspector Rauf outlined current staffing levels in the Neighbourhood Policing Team, crime trends, key community safety messages to prevent crime. Residents were encouraged to report any suspicions of criminal activity.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) covered the 6 wards in Batley and Spen.

Inspector Rauf described the work of the NPT Co-ordinator and also gave an indication of trends around home burglary, figures having dropped significantly over the last month, and other crime. Burglary of commercial property had been a recent issue.

General advice was given around securing property and keeping valuables out of sight.

Inspector Rauf stressed that community intelligence was vital and encouraged residents to report any suspicions through Crime stoppers or 101.

A question and answer session followed, in which the following points were made:

Regarding resources, the Batley and Spen NPT was almost up to strength and information was prioritised within available resources.

Firthcliffe Tenants and residents group had worked with a local school and delivered a project involving young people distributing hampers to older people.

Parking of commercial vehicles and parking on footpaths was raised. Individual complaints were to be discussed outside of the meeting.

In relation to assaults on staff, there had been instances of assaults on police officers. Drink often played a part. Officers received training in handling situations.

Officers still had a role in Neighbourhood Watch. Residents were encouraged to start or get involved in local Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

Volunteers sometimes had reservations about working with young people as they didn't fully understand aspects around safeguarding. Support and training was available.

**8 The Green Space Strategy, Service Standards for Parks and Open Spaces and Natural Kirklees**

The service standards for 2017-18 on parks and greenspaces sites in Batley and Spen were presented by Rob Dalby for noting.

The committee received an update from the Chair of Natural Kirklees. Natural Kirklees is working in partnership with the Council in the care of green spaces. The aims of Natural Kirklees were outlined.

Patrick Crowley, a Kirklees Volunteer Co-ordinator, described the role and support available to groups in setting up, organisation, site management plans, creative engagement, fundraising, training, publicity, and health and safety.

**9 Committee Budget Report**

The remaining district committee budget balances were noted.

The following Fast Track and Discretionary Grants decisions were noted:

**£400** revenue discretionary grant – Spensborough Chamber of Trade, Savoy Square Cleckheaton Christmas Tree Lights (Spens Valley)

**£10** revenue – Clear It Up Birkenshaw – Birstall and Birkenshaw (£220 approved 15.03.2016). Total project costs were £230 so an additional £10 revenue funding was allocated

Underspends to be returned to District Committee Revenue Budget:

**£1,879.73** Spens Valley – Cleckheaton Literature Festival (£7,727.00 revenue approved 15.03.2016)

**RESOLVED:**

**Revenue Approved:**

**£3,995** Grant - PCC of St Thomas the Apostle, Batley (Batley East Ward) to develop an area of land behind the church, adjacent to the community hall, to create usable car parking spaces.

**£1,800** (£300 per ward) – Wacky Wednesdays summer activities for children and young people, at Oakwell Hall Country Park, in the summer 2017.

**£8,320** – Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in Birstall and Birkenshaw ward.

**£2,000** Grant - Birstall Chamber of Trade to purchase and install lights for twelve trees situated in the Market Place, Birstall.

**Capital Approved:**

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**£32,000** - Streetscene -To create four new Petanque terrains at Firth Park, Heckmondwike (Spenn Valley)

**New Homes Bonus Approved:**

**£14,000** - Public Health - Mental Health First Aid Training for community champions.

**£15,500** - Speed Indicator Devices maintenance and moves in Birstall and Birkenshaw; Cleckheaton; Heckmondwike; Liversedge and Gomersal. The cost identified for Cleckheaton ward was to be confirmed and any relevant adjustment to be made as necessary.

### 10 Dates of future meetings

Dates of next meeting – Thursday 16 March 2017