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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:

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

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 6 October 2016

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 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:

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 6 October 2016

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 T'ai 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.

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 6 October 2016

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 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

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 6 October 2016

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:

- To note the discretionary grant of £385 revenue awarded on 8th 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 23rd 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 2nd 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 3rd 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.

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 6 October 2016

- (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.

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 19th 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 £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

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 6 October 2016

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 Gyrotory 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:

Tuesday 29th November 2016, Dewsbury Town Hall 7-9pm
Thursday 23rd February 2017, Mirfield Venue, 7-9pm
Tuesday 11th April, 2017, Dewsbury Town Hall 7-9pm

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Tuesday 29th November 2016

Present: Councillor Nosheen Dad (Chair)
Councillors M Ahmed, G Asif, M Bolt, P Kane,
D O'Donovan, M Pervaiz and C Scott

Apologies: Councillors E Firth, M Hussain, V Lees-Hamilton and
K Taylor

In attendance: Approximately 20 members of the public in attendance

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Councillors introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from Councillors E Firth, M Hussain, V Lees-Hamilton and K Taylor.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th October 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 The Future of the Mansion House, Crow Nest Park and Heritage Services in Dewsbury and Mirfield

Adele Poppleton, Head of Active and Creative Communities, Joe Tingle, Head of Physical Resources and Procurement, and Rebecca Breen, Community Engagement and Development Officer, gave a presentation about why Dewsbury Museum has had to close and how local people can learn about their heritage in the future.

Adele advised she wanted to focus on the future of the Mansion House and that she knows the community feels passionate about the building and how the Council wants to work with local people on supporting the future for that building. She also wanted to let people know, with the closure of the museum, about how they would learn about their heritage in the future. Adele advised that heritage is very important to people; it gives a sense of belonging, helps us learn where we've come from, and lets us learn from the mistakes of the past. The Council needs to make sure that even with the museum closed, local people still have the opportunity to learn about their local history.

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 29 November 2016

The Council has significant financial challenges due to the level of cuts. The money for museums sits within the £10 million spent on Communities and Leisure. That money is reducing all the time. From 2011 up until 2020 the Council will have lost about £173 million in government funding. The Council will still have to try and find next year another £50 million in savings. The whole funding model is changing. Now 17% of the Council's budget is Council Tax, and 19% from Business rates, 64% is coming from central government. Central government wants to take away the grants it gives to local government, but give local government much more control over the money it can raise from housing and business.

The Council has to look at working in different ways, and spending our money in different ways. Councillors have referred to 'New Council', and what that means is the type of Council in the future. There are three key areas for this, and one of them is about supporting communities to do more for themselves. Another is prioritising the most vulnerable people in communities, ensuring they are safe and helping them to stay in control of their lives. The third is only doing what the Council does. There are certain things only the Council does, and the Council needs to concentrate on that.

The Council has already made £106 million in savings through efficiencies. It has also been redesigning services and a number of things have decreased or stopped, for example the number of events across the District have reduced. The Council is moving more online. It is looking at how it can engage more volunteers in what it is doing.

Museums and Galleries is one of the services which have to redesign. The Council needs to survive and adapt to the environment around it. From 1st April 2017 Museums and Galleries will have half the budget it currently has.

Since 2011 Museums and Galleries already had to save £350,000.00. It has increased its income by 46%. It has introduced charges at places like Red House museum, and it has reduced staffing and opening hours. When it was advised it needed to make another £500,000.00 saving it realised it would have to close some of the museum sites.

Adele showed a map of the six existing Museums sites across Kirklees; Oakwell Hall, Red House, Bagshaw Museum, Dewsbury Museum, Huddersfield Art Gallery, and Tolson Museum. Having done all of the analysis, the Council knew it could only keep three sites open in the future.

Museums have been talking to organisations that may have been able to take things on board, and they have been testing new ideas; such as pop up museums and display cases in Dewsbury Town Hall. They analysed when people like to visit, and they will open at times the public has said they would like to see the sites open such as weekends, school holidays and bank holidays.

They asked property experts to look at the buildings to see what potential uses might be, and to assess how much capital investment each site would need. They

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 29 November 2016

explored the impact of changes on communities, and they had to look closely at how what they do in the future could help the Council achieve its outcomes.

They clarified what a museum is. People feel very passionate about buildings, but a museum is not a building in most cases. A museum is a collection of objects and how people engage with those objects. The building is a site people can come to in order to engage. With the new model, Museums Service knew it had to have fewer sites, reduced opening hours, reduced staffing, and to work much better with volunteers and community groups and to find out ways of getting out to communities that do not have a museum on their doorstep. The Service is looking at something that has three sites and more outreach and community exhibitions. It also had to look at much more aggressive income generation policies, and has been developing products it can sell, and looking at weddings and room hire.

After analysis, the Cabinet decided to keep Oakwell Hall and Country Park. It is one of the signature tourism venues in Kirklees. It has most potential to generate its own income which hopefully then can be fed back into the service to protect what remains. The Cabinet also felt it was important to have one museum in North Kirklees, and one in South. It chose Bagshaw Museum for North and that unfortunately meant the Council were unable to keep Dewsbury museum open. Bagshaw will have a focus on the communities of North Kirklees. It will be a learning centre. There is a very good schools programme there already, and schools from all over the North of England visit the Egyptian collection there. It is felt that can become a very family focussed site with many activities for families and schools.

The Mansion House is recognised as an incredibly important building in Crow Nest Park. It helps Crow Nest to be this wonderful community asset and to get its green flag status. There has been investment in the building in the last ten years that has made it accessible especially those with mobility issues. It does however require capital investment to reopen the museum room on the ground floor. The museum room ceiling collapsed a couple of years ago and the Council has not had the resources to be able to put that ceiling back up. It did not have as many visitors as other sites. It did not have as many school visits as other sites, and the per capita subsidy per visit was higher than most of the other sites. It also does not have the same potential to generate as much income as some of the others. The Cabinet agreed to withdraw the museum service from the Mansion House, and to work with communities to find an alternative use for that building. It does not want to have to board up the building where it could become a focus for vandalism, and deteriorate very quickly. It is a listed building, and there is a responsibility to ensure it is a viable community asset.

With the closure of the museum, how will in future Dewsbury and Mirfield residents learn about their heritage? Bagshaw Museum will not be the museum for Batley only. It will be telling stories of communities all across North Kirklees. It is appreciated that for residents of Dewsbury and Mirfield it does mean having to travel further to reach the site. The Council wants to be able to support community groups to develop their own exhibitions in their own venues. It is hoping to attract external funding to be able to create community exhibitions in community and council premises. Adele showed some photographs of outreach exhibitions such as a recent one in Huddersfield train station. Museums will also be developing more

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 29 November 2016

resources such as museums in a box, with items going out to residential homes. More will be going online, so people in their own homes can look objects up and learn about their history online.

Joe Tingle advised that the expressions of interest process had started on 28th November 2016, and is a three month process, and there is an offer of support to any group interested, from the Council's asset management and community engagement teams. There is also help available from an organisation called 'Locality' in support for developing the business case, and obtaining peer to peer support. The Council wants to see a successful and viable transfer. They want there to be ongoing dialogue throughout the three month process. A pack of information on the process and the building has been put together and will be provided.

Rebecca Breen advised there are three strands of support on offer; on the actual procurement itself; supporting the organisation to get in touch with other organisations that have gone through the process; and the link to the support from Locality, who are an independent organisation with wide experience of helping groups up and down the country to go through asset transfer.

Councillor Kane advised the Mansion House is a fantastic building and something cherished in Dewsbury. He was concerned that the funding had never been found to repair the ceiling collapse. He was concerned about the high level of estimated cost for necessary repairs to the building as this would potentially scare off potential interested groups. Joe advised the costs were an estimate, and actual costs would depend on the nature of works commissioned. Councillor Kane wondered why the schools had not been visiting and that should have been addressed. He asked again about the selection process, and Adele advised there had been advice that Bagshaw building itself works better as a museum space. There needed to be a business model chosen that would be most sustainable in the future.

Councillor Scott advised she thought digital could not replace the live experience. Adele agreed, but schools are finding it harder to take children out, and so museums in a box for schools would be further developed.

Councillor Scott had also been involved in an asset transfer of a building and the help from asset management, community engagement and Locality had been invaluable.

Councillor Bolt asked where in Kirklees would be the best place for Kirklees residents to get to a museum. How do the maintenance costs of a Huddersfield museum stack up against the Mansion House? He had been asked by a member of the public to ask if a heritage trust could be set up to run these buildings, and could it be supported by an endowment from the sale of other assets.

Adele advised that not all assets in the Council collection are owned by the Council. The one that always comes up is the Frances Bacon painting. The painting was given by the Contemporary Art Society and if the Council wanted to sell it, the money would have to go back to the Contemporary Art Society. If the Council starts to sell things off the Arts Council would take away their accreditation of museums

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 29 November 2016

and they could not then access funding from the Arts Council and Heritage Lottery fund. She advised the possibility of a heritage trust would continue to be explored.

Councillor O'Donovan wondered if the Committee could support the development of the Friends of Group proposal through District Committee funding, for example for their planned community event. The Chair advised a proposal for funding would need considered at the Committee Planning meeting, and Councillor Kane advised that as a group can only receive one grant per annum from the Committee, it would be better for the group to wait until a later stage of their proposals. Joe Tingle advised after a successful Expression of Interest, the successful group could apply to Asset Management in the Council for a development grant of £5,000.

There followed a number of questions from members of the public which the Councillors and Adele answered.

Anyone wanting to ask anything further, or who might want to make an Expression of Interest should e-mail adele.poppleton@kirklees.gov.uk or joe.tingle@kirklees.gov.uk or rebecca.breen@kirklees.gov.uk. They can be phoned on 01484 221000.

RESOLVED – To thank Adele, Joe and Rebecca for their excellent and informative presentation.

6 Estates and Environmental Works Budget 2016/17

Noreen Beck from Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing gave an update on progress with the Estates and Environmental Works Budget 2016/17, following the Dewsbury and Mirfield Special Area Forum consultation and voting exercise held on 4th October 2016.

She set out the allocation of the budget in 2015/2016 and rollover and allocation for 2016/2017. She then focussed on Appendix One of the report, which set out the specific proposals for spend on schemes in 2016/1017.

It was pointed out that project W08 Lidgate Lane, Batley Carr is in Batley East, and needs to be removed. Noreen agreed.

The Dewsbury South Councillors asked that project S12 Valley Drive, Thornhill be brought forward as it would still be within budget and Noreen agreed this. Mr Maddox suggested that further consultation with residents would be needed. Noreen advised there would be, and if that consultation indicated local people did not want the scheme, then it would come back again to District Committee. The Dewsbury South councillors agreed S12 should not come forward until the outcome of consultation was known.

Mr Maddox also advised that local people did not want SO5 to go ahead (extensive clearance and security works to Ouzelwell and Blackers Court, Thornhill Lees). Local people would rather have additional parking. Noreen advised this had been an officer recommendation. Councillor Ahmed asked that councillors be provided with additional background information as to why officers were making the

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 29 November 2016

recommendations they were. Councillor Asif asked that the background be explored before this action was implemented, and Noreen agreed.

Councillor Bolt asked if there had been any benchmarking of costs, especially against costs in a competitive market place. Noreen explained the process of the Council's Quick Quote system, used to get quotes for these works.

RESOLVED: - That members approve funding for the schemes as voted on and prioritised by members on 4th October 2016 as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the points made by Dewsbury South members in relation to schemes S05 and S12.

That members note progress made on schemes approved for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix two of the report.

7 District Committee Devolved Budgets Report

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

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

- (i) £917.20 underspend – Dewsbury East Ward – Shawcross Recreation and Sands lane – Safeguarding Open Spaces – (approved 13.10.2015 for £4,000 capital).
- (ii) £950.00 underspend – Dewsbury East Ward – Securing Car Parks, Wakefield Old Road – (approved 13.10.2015 for £3,000 capital).
- (iii) £3,750.00 underspend – £1,250.00 Dewsbury East; £1,250.00 Dewsbury West; £1,250.00 Dewsbury South- The Arcade (incorporating the Hive – (approved 13.10.2015 for £15,000 capital).
- (iv) £15,000.00 underspend – Potholing works at Princess Lane, Chickenley) (approved on 01.03.2016) for £15,000 New Homes Bonus.
- (v) £5,050.00 underspend of New Homes Bonus – Improved security at 21 Council owned sites across District (approved on 01.12.2015)

There was one funding request put forward to the Committee for £15,000 New Homes Bonus funding to the Try It, Like It initiative; to develop and deliver a series of activities in all wards in 2017 to include introductory sessions for exercise, to include walking, running, cycling and fitness classes for beginners and families, plus festivals to promote and celebrate being physically active.

Councillor Asif wanted to know how the NHS, KAL, and this initiative would work together to achieve intended outcomes. He would also like additional information on outcomes, such as likely numbers taking part. Councillor Bolt was concerned there had been a delay to the consultation on the Kirklees Walking and Cycling Strategy.

RESOLVED:- To note the returns to budget and to defer consideration of the Try It, Like It proposal until additional information requested by the councillors has been provided.

8 Winter Maintenance 2016/17

No one from Streetscene and Housing Service had been able to attend the meeting to give the presentation on the Kirklees Winter Maintenance programme. The slides had been included with the papers circulated.

The Chair asked the presentation be noted, and that any questions could be directed to the Chair, Councillor Nosheen Dad or to Jackie Ingham.

RESOLVED:- To note the content of the presentation on the Kirklees Winter Maintenance programme 2016/17.

9 Deputations / Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

10 Public Question Time

The following questions were asked and Councillors responded:

- (i) Mr Maddox asked when the zebra crossing on Hostingley Lane would be constructed, given the length of time since approval of the funding.

Councillor Ahmed advised that the advertising package in relation to the works was sent to the appropriate department in early September, but (presumably because of their own busy schedules) the formal advert didn't go out until 29th September. The final date for comments and objections to be sent was 20th October. It is a legal necessity to advertise all Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) on-site and in the local press, therefore allowing everyone the opportunity to make their feelings known about the proposals.

If no objections are received, the detailed design and construction package can be prepared and sent to the depot by the end of November for them to add to their programme of works. It is expected to be complete by the end of January 2017.

- (ii) A member of the public asked about the old police box at the top of Pinfold Hill. It is a lovely little building built in 1938, and is bombproof. It is now looking dilapidated, and he had been provided with costs of £500 to £1,000 to get it done up and put a blue plaque on it. The box was compulsorily purchased by the Council in 1974. The Council has advised it has no funding to repair it. He has offered to pay for it himself, but he needs permission to go ahead.

Councillor Bolt suggested an approach the Police and Crime Commissioner to find out if they could fund the works, and an approach Asset Management to find out about permissions. Councillor O'Donovan, as the box is in his ward advised he would take the matter forward with the Council.

- (iii) There was a request for an answer to the question asked at the last meeting about whether there are planned cuts to the Ambulance Service in West Yorkshire.

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 29 November 2016

Andrew Simpson, the Head of Emergency Operations, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield had replied that Yorkshire Ambulance Service has invested approximately 10 million pounds in frontline services in its current transformation program. He is currently working closely with Kirklees council (HOSC) in regards to the YAS transformation programme and the minutes are available on their website

The Service has:

- * Taken on an additional 242 frontline staff, approximately half of these staff will work in West Yorkshire
- * Increased our flexible staffing from 25% to 35%
- * Introduced a career framework to introduce new clinical skills and development
- * Introduced band 6 pay and responsibility for our paramedics so we can provide additional care to patients.

11 Dates of future meetings

The dates and times are:

Thursday 23rd February 2017, Northorpe Hall 7-9pm

Tuesday 11th April, 2017, Dewsbury Town Hall 7-9pm

Contact Officer: Jackie Ingham, Email: jackie.ingham@kirklees.gov.uk, Tel: 01484 221000

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - DEWSBURY AND MIRFIELD

Thursday 23rd February 2017

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

Apologies: P Kane and C Scott

In attendance: Approximately 25 members of the public in attendance.

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Councillors introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from Councillors Scott and Kane.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 29th November 2016 were agreed as an accurate record. Councillor Bolt advised that he thought there had been an agreement at 29th November 2016 meeting, for the allocation of discretionary grant of £500 towards the costs of renovating the old police box on Webster Hill.

Councillor O'Donovan advised there had been mention at the previous meeting of the possibility of a discretionary grant, but not approval. At the last meeting Councillor O'Donovan had agreed to research the necessary next steps to enable a renovation of the old police box. He had not been able to get confirmation of who currently owns the building.

Councillor Firth proposed that Physical Resources and Procurement be asked to confirm ownership of the building, and if owned by the Council, a request be made for costs of renovation.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th November 2016 were approved as an accurate record. That Physical Resources and Procurement be asked to confirm who is the owner of the old police box on Webster Hill, Dewsbury. If the ownership rests with the Council, then for costs to be requested for renovation of the building.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the public

Agreed – That all items be considered in public session.

5 Police Update

Sergeant David Briggs from the Dewsbury and Mirfield police team gave an update in the team's key initiatives and priorities. Across each of the four Dewsbury and Mirfield wards, incidents of anti-social behaviour had reduced in the previous six weeks, compared to the same period last year. There had also been a significant drop in the number of drugs offences over the same period (by forty one per cent), and this across the four wards.

The illegal off road motorbikes detection team had as usual been suspended over the Christmas period, but their patrols will resume again in the Spring. There had been some issues in Dewsbury Town centre in relation to rough sleepers and drink related offences.

Operation Treadpond had been carried out on the London Park Estate in Mirfield, and on Dewsbury Moorside. Both were successful. On 26th January there had been speeding checks on Sunny Bank Road, but the fastest speed detected was thirty five miles per hour.

The overall crime statistics had increased however on the same six weeks last year, but not significantly. The methods for recording of crimes have changed since last year.

There followed a number of questions from councillors. Councillor Ahmed asked about recent issues in the area with weapons and firearms in particular. What had the police done in response? Sergeant Briggs said he would have to refer the question to the firearms response team.

Councillor O'Donovan referred to three high profile incidents in Dewsbury West. Did the police think these were isolated incidents or the tip of the iceberg? Sergeant Briggs did not think there had been a significant increase in such incidents.

Councillor Hussain asked why there had been such an increase in CCTV cameras on the gyratory in Ravensthorpe. Councillor Ahmed advised these were checking the traffic flows, and had been placed there by Highways.

Councillor Asif asked what was being done to address the traffic issues outside schools at drop off and pick up times. Parents in his ward were regularly parking on the zig zag lines in front of schools and what was being done. Sergeant Briggs advised Police Community Support Officers attend to tackle issues whenever they can. If the number of reports gets serious then officers will attend the school to talk with the parents, and carry out enforcement where necessary.

Councillor Bolt asked what the police can do to stop vehicles parking illegally on pavements, such as can be common near the station in Mirfield. Sergeant Briggs advised the police take a common sense approach. It is only illegal if not possible to get a buggy or wheelchair past between the car and the side of the pavement.

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 23 February 2017

Councillor Ahmed asked whether there had been any spike in thefts of gold from local Asian households. Sergeant Briggs advised there had been no significant spike.

Councillor Lees – Hamilton asked what was being done about the trend for more and more drivers to go around with number plates so dirty, the police could not check whether the vehicle is taxed. Sergeant Briggs advised most colleagues would stop the motorists in question and impress upon them this is an offence. Councillor Lees-Hamilton also referred to concerns about the misuse of headlights and fog lights being on when not needed. Sergeant Briggs advised if a motorist spots an offence by another motorist they should report this to the police.

A member of the public asked about the seemingly significant increase reported on the West Yorkshire Police website of sex and violence offences. He wondered if there was any correlation to cuts in the numbers of police. Sergeant Briggs advised this was not his specialism, and he would need to check with someone else in the force. He is aware there is current recruitment ongoing at the moment for additional police officers.

Councillor Asif suggested a letter be sent from the Chair of the Committee to the police to thank them for all the excellent work they do.

RESOLVED – To thank Sergeant Briggs for attending the meeting and providing his update on the work of the Dewsbury and Mirfield police team.

6 Safer Kirklees Partnership Update, including information on the Kirklees Victims Support Service

Sean Hurry, the Kirklees Victims and Resolution Manager gave an update on the work of the Safer Kirklees Partnership. He talked about the four tier approach of the Partnership; Prevention, including education, engagement with communities, and communication. Early Resolution; involving anti-social behaviour, and involving frontline and Partnership staff. Partnership problem solving, such as intelligence led target hardening. High risk and intensive cases, involving specialist support workers.

He advised he had developed the Kirklees Supporting Victims pilot, which includes a Victim Support Hub in the Brian Jackson Centre in Huddersfield. Victims can drop in for advice and support on Mondays and Wednesdays 10am to 4pm. Kirklees has two specialist victim support workers and fourteen specialist volunteers.

Councillor Ahmed advised the councillors are looking to support the creation of a similar hub in North Kirklees.

RESOLVED: - To thank Sean for his presentation. Anyone wanting more information can contact Sean Hurry; sean.hurry@kirklees.gov.uk or Tel 01484 221000. The Victim Support helpline is Tel. 0300 303 1971. The Tel number of the Victim Support Hub at Brian Jackson House is 01484 415462

7 The Green Space Strategy and Natural Kirklees

Rob Dalby, the Parks and Greenspaces Manager presented a report on the service standards for parks and greenspaces in 2017-18, setting out which across Dewsbury and Mirfield are gold, silver, bronze, or natural.

Simon Pedley, the Parks and Greenspaces Volunteer Coordinator for Dewsbury and Mirfield gave a presentation on his work with Natural Kirklees and a range of groups and volunteers from across Dewsbury and Mirfield. He talked about the work in Sparrow Wood in Dewsbury South, involving Headfield Lane school, and work with a project called Froglife, and also Support 2 Recovery supporting adults with mental health issues. Simon can support groups sort out insurance and there is a tool share scheme.

RESOLVED: - To note Rob Dalby's report on the parks and greenspaces service standards for 2017-18, and to thank Simon Pedley for his presentation.

8 Devolved Budget Report

RESOLVED – To note the District Committee devolved budget balances and to allocate the following funding:

- (i) £7,060 revenue to Dentaaid for the TEETH project. As each of the four wards is contributing an equal amount of funding, the funding agreement should require an equal amount of delivery across the four wards.
- (ii) £15,000 New Homes Bonus to Sports Development Team to develop and deliver the Try It, Like It initiative across the four wards.
- (iii) £41,325 New Homes Bonus to Ravensthorpe Community Centre to deliver the Dewsbury West and South Environmental Improvement Pilot project. Councillor Bolt objected to the proposal on the grounds that he claimed it is very similar to his school traffic warden proposal for Mirfield. He asked he be supported to develop his project further. The Chair advised hep would be given where possible. The meeting was advised there were key differences in the proposals; Councillor Bolt seeks the Council to employ a warden with enforcement powers, and RCC proposal employs a worker with no such powers. Councillors Dad, Ahmed, Asif, M Hussain, O'Donovan, Pervaiz and E Firth voted in favour of the proposal. Councillors Bolt, Taylor and Lees-Hamilton voted against.
- (iv) £5,400 revenue to the Learning Community Interest Company to pay for two homework clubs ; one in Overthorpe Academy and the other in Headfield Junior School.
- (v) £ 2,500 capital to Physical Resources and Procurement towards the costs of essential repairs to the changing facilities at Savile Town Recreation Ground.
- (vi) £ 1,430 to St Paulinus Parent's Group towards the costs of a homework club in St Paulinus School.
- (vii) £4,000 revenue to Paddock Trust to set up weekly neighbourhood employment support sessions in Mirfield.
- (viii) £1,925 revenue to Upper Hopton Cricket Club towards the costs of a new batting cage and coaching equipment.

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 23 February 2017

To note the following discretionary grants:

- (i) £100 to Overthorpe Tenants and Residents Association towards the costs of a Christmas meal for those in sheltered accommodation.
- (ii) £500 to Longcauseway Church towards the costs of a Christmas Meal provision.
- (iii) £250 to Chickenley Community Centre for an Older Peoples' Christmas Lunch.

To note the following allocations from a grant totalling £4,000 approved on 30th June 2016 to the Dewsbury South You and Your Community event on 8th December 2016:

- (a) £500 to Raza Hiking Group for Walking for Fitness
- (b) £250 to Dads for Sure for a family football tournament
- (c) £250 to Savile Stars Cricket Club for 'Getting into Cricket'.
- (d) £500 to the Prevent Women's group for swimming lessons.
- (e) £250 to the Local Women's Association for emotional wellbeing classes.
- (f) £400 to Thornhill Trojans Junior Rugby Club for junior rugby team kit and equipment.
- (g) £250 to Whitley Older People's Welfare for over 60's activities.
- (h) £150 to Deaf Children's Society for activities for hard of hearing young People.
- (i) £100 to Overthorpe TRA for tackling social isolation
- (j) £100 to Nicola Kilkenny for toddler group equipment
- (k) £100 to Yasmin Musa for family trips.

9 Deputations / Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

10 Public Question Time

The following questions were asked and Councillors responded:

- (i) As a member of the public, Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton asked if the missing half of the double mini roundabout warning sign could be replaced on the B6409, Savile Road. The sign is on the right hand side of the road (the side nearest the river Calder) just behind the bus stop, and just before the double roundabout at the junction with Thornhill Road and Forge Lane. Councillor Ahmed advised he would contact Streetscene, Highways to find out what could be done
- (ii) Mr Shaun Maddox asked if there could be road signs across Dewsbury South saying 'Welcome to Thornhill', 'Welcome to Thornhill Lees', 'Welcome to Savile Town' etc.

District Committee - Dewsbury and Mirfield - 23 February 2017

- (iii) A member of the public raised concerns about the empty Arcade in Dewsbury Town Centre, and a question about what could be done by way of the likes of Business rate Relief.
- (iv) Mr Michael Scott advised he lives on Nab Lane in Mirfield, and is concerned about road safety on that road. Lots of white vans and trucks are parking on there, and at school drop off and pick up time parents are parking on double yellow lines. Could something be done to better address the problems? Councillor Bolt advised it is the responsibility of Highways to take the appropriate and necessary action.

11 Dates of future meetings

The dates and times are:

Tuesday 11th April 2017, Dewsbury Town Hall 7 – 9pm