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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - DEWSBURY AND MIRFIELD

Tuesday 11th April 2017

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

Apologies: G Asif

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 for absence were noted on behalf of Councillor Gulfam Asif.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23rd February 2017 were approved as an accurate record.

The meeting was advised that the Council's Physical Resources and Procurement service had confirmed the old police box on Webster Hill is Council owned. Mr Richardson had been advised of this and had been asked what his group want to do with the building. The Council had offered to transfer the ownership of the building over to Mr Richardson and his group, and they had also been advised they could seek a discretionary grant from the District Committee to have some works carried out to the building.

In relation to the missing half of the Highways sign for the double mini roundabout on the B6409 on Savile Road, a replacement sign has been ordered by Highways and is expected to be in place in the next two to three weeks.

A member of the public had raised concerns about a range of Highways issues on Nab Lane, Mirfield. These had been directed to Jason Moore, a Civil Enforcement officer in Parking with the Council, and to Karen North in Safety and Community Projects, Streetscene and Housing. A meeting has been organised between the bus operator and the school.

3 Interests

Councillors Cathy Scott and Paul Kane submitted declaration of interest forms in relation to agenda item eight; Committee Budget Report, and for the Chickenley Community Centre application for New Homes Bonus grant funding.

4 Admission of the public

Agreed – That all items be considered in public session.

5 Key Health and Wellbeing Issues for Dewsbury and Mirfield

Helen Bewsher, a Senior Manager in Public Health Intelligence made a presentation summarising local health inequalities as well as needs and assets described in the latest Kirklees Joint Strategic Assessment.

Helen explained the new Joint Strategic Assessment has a very different focus now. It is web-based and most sections will be updated at approximately two year intervals. The new format makes better use of infographics to get messages across simply and clearly.

Helen showed the key website pages, and the headings under which the information can be accessed, which mirror the life course of a person.

There are some key messages in the 'starting well' section; Dewsbury and Mirfield has lower rates of breastfeeding than across Kirklees as a whole. Infant Mortality rates have been generally declining over the longer term, although there has been a slight increase in the last three years. This will be monitored closely.

Children from poorer families are less likely to be 'school ready' and less likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs than children from better off families. 1 in 10 fourteen year olds say they are carers.

The Living Well section covers those aged eighteen to sixty four. Less than half of this adult population are a healthy weight, with 1 in 4 people being obese. 1 in 3 adults report mental health problems such as anxiety and depression. 1 in 3 has long term health conditions.

Smoking rates are much higher in deprived areas, with twenty four per cent smoking in Dewsbury West as opposed to twelve per cent in Mirfield.

For those aged sixty five and over, almost one in 2 have long term health conditions. One in twenty reports being lonely all or most of the time. 1 in 3 has a mobility issue, and 1 in 3 has had a fall in the last twelve months.

Overall, 1 in 4 advise they frequently worry about money.

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Helen discussed the importance of understanding about the assets in the community. These include anything that helps the ability of individuals, families and communities to maintain and improve their health and wellbeing. It would include such things as skills, networks, connections, places, services, and ways of working.

Some mapping has been done of Dewsbury and Mirfield assets, but there is a need for ongoing input and additional local intelligence to be fed in from local residents and workers.

The key challenge is to build on, support and make connections between existing and emerging communities including schools as community hubs, networks that enable people to connect with other people, and to support people. Also important are initiatives which contribute to healthy ageing, that enable people to maximise income and manage money more effectively, as well as encouraging people to become more physically active.

A number of questions were put to Helen and suggestions for additional assets to be included, such as the District Committee funding one hundred and twenty eight residents and workers from across the District to go through Mental Health First Aid Training.

The Kirklees Joint Assessment can be found at:

<http://observatory.kirklees.gov.uk/jsna>

RESOLVED – To thank Helen for her excellent and informative presentation.

6 Update on Business Rates following the 2017 Revaluation

Jacqui Wilson, Senior Manager, Welfare and Exchequer Services gave a presentation highlighting business rates information following the revaluation effective from 1st April 2017.

Jacqui advised that as a result of the revaluation 7 out of 10 businesses on average would receive a reduction in or no change on their rate bill. There is a transitional relief scheme to phase in and limit both increases and decreases in bills.

There is one hundred per cent relief available for any property with a rateable value of £12,000 or less. There is a sliding scale of relief for properties valued between £12,000 and £15,000. Businesses in a property with a rateable value of less than £51,000 will have their bill calculated using a lower multiplier of 46.6pence.

Reliefs are also available to charities and community amateur sports clubs. There is rural rates relief and for unoccupied properties with a rateable value of less than £2,900.

No business losing small business rate relief will see their bill increase in 2017/18 by more than £600 for the year. A £ 300 million hardship fund was made available to local councils to offer discretionary relief for hard-hit cases. In 2017/18 there are 15,

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536 rateable properties in Kirklees, and seventy five per cent of these have a rateable value less than £12,000.

RESOLVED: - To thank Jacqui for her helpful and informative presentation.

7 Try It, Like It, Do It- Dewsbury and Mirfield

Claire Howe and Andy Cook from the Sport and Physical Activity Development Team gave an update on progress in developing and delivering the Try It, Like It, Do It, Dewsbury and Mirfield scheme, which received £15,000 funding from the District Committee at the 23rd February meeting.

The aim of the scheme is to encourage and support inactive children, young people and adults to become active. It aims to remove barriers to being active; cost, confidence, support, time and image.

The team has been mapping and making contact with potential providing clubs and groups across the four wards. Activities on offer will include walking, jogging, cycling, dance, racquet sports, martial arts, bowling, football, rugby and cricket.

Promotion will take place through Kirklees website, social media, local networks, flyers, and a printed calendar leaflet. There will be two launch events; in Mirfield, outside the library on Saturday 6th May 12 midday until 3pm, and then on Saturday 13th May 11am-2pm outside Dewsbury Town Hall. The Flame Event in Dewsbury will be the close of the project.

RESOLVED:- To thank Claire and Andy for their presentation and for their work in developing and delivering the initiative.

8 Committee Budget Report

The current balances on the District Committee devolved budgets were highlighted. The Committee considered applications for funding and

RESOLVED that budget expenditure be approved as follows :

1. £3,500 revenue to Paddock Community Trust to establish a 'Back to Work Hub' in the centre of Dewsbury.
2. £1,639 to the Happy Memories Dementia Support Group to pay for a day trip for carers.
3. £27,200 New Homes Bonus funding to Physical Resources and Procurement to pay for surfacing to sections of the Kirklees Way between Hanging Heaton and Caulms Wood.
4. £20,000 New Homes Bonus to Chickenley Community Centre towards the cost of resurfacing the car park area outside the centre, and creating an

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additional fifteen car park spaces. This approval is subject to the completion of the asset transfer of the community centre from the Council to Chickenley Community Centre, and to any necessary Planning or other permissions for the works involved. Councillors C Scott and P Kane, having submitted a declaration of interest form, left the meeting during the discussion and decision on this application.

5. £2,500 to AMP Awards to develop and deliver a three hour music festival in Dewsbury Town Centre.
6. £5,720 to Eastborough Well Women Group to refurbish and equip the first floor of the Eastborough Community House to enable the running of additional training classes.
7. £5,000 to Ebenezer Methodist Chapel towards the costs of restoration of the church organ.
8. £2,000 revenue to Earlsheaton Parents and Friends Association towards the costs of cleaning up the parking area opposite the school on Commercial Street. This approval is subject to agreement between the Council and the school on the use of the piece of land.
9. £2,780 revenue to Bramwell Sports Development Team to run a two hour long Saturday night girls' group at School Croft Tenants and Residents Association building each Saturday for a pilot period of six months.
10. £10,350 capital and £2,520 revenue to Scout Hill Action Group towards the costs of equipping 'Dunroamin', Ravens Lodge Terrace, Scout Hill as the base for the action group, and to start delivering a range of community activities.
11. £17,500 capital or £17,500 New Homes Bonus to the Parish Council of Mirfield Team Parish towards the provision of a disabled toilet and store at St Mary's Community Centre on Church Lane, Mirfield. Agreed that an Expression of Interest would have to be submitted to the Director of Place and the amount to be granted and the source of funding would depend upon whether the application meets New Homes Bonus criteria.
12. £3,000 or £11,000 revenue to Mirfield Playground Project towards the costs of upgrading the play area at Mirfield Memorial park. Agreed the amount of funding would be determined following a discussion with the applicant group to determine their funding requirements.

9 Deputations / Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

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10 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

11 Dates of future meetings

No future dates have been set.