

Runnymede Borough CouncilCOMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE17 September 2020 at 6.30 pm via MS Teams

Members of the Committee Present: Councillors I Chaudhri (Chairman), C Howorth (Vice-Chairman), M Adams, T Burton, D Clarke, M Harnden, N King, A Neathey, J Olorenshaw and S Walsh.

Members of the Committee absent: None

Councillors D Whyte and S Whyte also attended the meeting.

179 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor I Chaudhri was elected as Chairman.

Councillor A Neathey asked for it to be recorded in the Minutes that as was the protocol for the Labour and Co-operative Party, he would be abstaining on the vote, but this was not a reflection on the persons standing for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. He also wished for it to be recorded in the Minutes that although he had called for it to happen, Councillor N King's resignation from the position of Chairman showed that he was a man of principle and a passionate advocate for the yellow bus service.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for electing him and expressed his gratitude, he was delighted that Councillor N King was still a Member of the Committee.

180 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor C Howorth was elected as Vice-Chairman.

181 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 July 2020 were confirmed as a correct record to be signed when the Chairman was physically able to do so.

182 COMMUNITY SERVICES KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – QUARTER 4 AND OUTTURN 2019/2020

The Committee noted the Quarter 4 and Outturn results for 2019/2020, in respect of the key performance indicators for Community Services; covering a range of activities including Community Transport, Meals at Home, Homesafe, the Social Centres, Social Prescribing, Community Alarm and Telecare and Handyman services.

There had been an uptake in the Meals at Home (110% against the target) which was partly attributable to Covid 19, but Officers were confident it could be maintained. The other successes for the year were the Handyman Service and Homesafe Plus, achieving 295% against the target for referrals and 312% for referrals to Services provided by Runnymede Borough Council. Officers reported good collaboration with the North West Surrey Integrated Care Partnership and potential for expansion and income generation.

Members congratulated staff on their achievements and enquired about resources for Social Prescribing. Officers confirmed that they had recruited recently to the section,

unfortunately another person in the team had left, leaving a vacancy. That member of staff was thanked by the Corporate Head of Community Services for all her work. The impact of Covid and the future direction and focus of Social Prescribing would need to be examined to explore further opportunities to develop the Council's work in this area.

#### 183 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – QUARTER 4, AND OUTTURN 2019/2020

The Committee noted the quarter 4 and outturn results for 2019/2020 for Community Development. Officers reported that Covid 19 had adversely impacted on their programme of live and one-off events, all of which had to be cancelled. The Community Halls had only just re-opened but bookings were reduced. However, despite the difficult summer, Chertsey Museum had performed well and after much preparation by the Curator and her staff, was open again to visitors.

Members expressed their thanks to the staff in Community Development, noting the number of compliments recorded. There was one complaint, the details of which Officers would furnish the Councillor with that enquired about it.

#### 184 ENHANCED SECURITY MEASURES FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES - UPDATE

An updated was provided with the programme of works to improve security measures in the Council's parks and open spaces.

Officers had undertaken a comprehensive audit, producing a prioritised list of costed works; a budget of £250,000 had been approved for the first phase covering 28 sites and most of the work was complete. The kind of measures taken included new and/or upgraded vehicle barriers, new bollards, upgraded fencing and gates and the creation of ditches and bunds, as appropriate to each site whilst facilitating legitimate access for the public.

Officers agreed to follow up on a query raised regarding accessibility and the 'anti motorbike' barrier in the vicinity of Gogmore Farm.

The Committee appreciated that Officers could not provide a complete guarantee of no future unauthorised access but wished to thank the Green Space team and the Council's contractors, Burleys, for maintaining the borough so well through such a difficult time.

#### 185 PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY UPDATE

An update on the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy, produced to complement the Local Plan, at the request of Sport England, was noted.

Officers reported that a Ground and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GANTIP) inspection had identified a number of improvements, which required funding, that could be made to the Council's football pitches. These included an increased frequency of aeration, decompaction and grass cutting, more monitoring and prompt repairs, annual rotation or off-setting of pitches and application of weed and feed product and football and cricket to work together to improve the grounds. Some of these improvements could be considered when the current Grounds Maintenance Contract was reviewed and Officers would submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee, noting the contract was due to expire at the end of 2020.

Inevitably, Covid 19 had affected use of the pitches. Officers hoped that football would recommence shortly, subject to current guidance and the production of suitable risk assessments. Compliance with both was each park user's responsibility. If any breaches

occurred, the Council would be responsible for any enforcement action that might be required.

186 CHERTSEY MEADS MANAGEMENT LIAISON GROUP – MINUTES 3 MARCH 2020

The Minutes of the meeting of the Chertsey Meads Management Liaison Group, held on 3 March 2020, as attached at Appendix 'A', were noted.

187 EXTENSION OF MEALS AT HOME SERVICE

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of this matter under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the discussion would be likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Part 1 of the Act.

The Committee's approval was sought for a proposal to pilot an extension of the Meals at Home service in another local authority's area, where the need for it had been identified and no service was currently provided. Officers confirmed that by re-organising the existing service, the new one could be provided within existing resources. A significant amount of research had been conducted prior to concluding that the pilot was feasible and had the potential to generate income. It was also stressed that the pilot would be on a 50% risk and reward basis with the other local authority in the partnership, which Members agreed was a very positive step.

Some concern was expressed regarding the use of casual staff to run the pilot, but Officers were hopeful that if vacancies arose and the pilot continued to be part of the normal service, these staff could, if they wished, become permanent members of the team.

The Committee welcomed the entrepreneurial nature of the proposal and fuller utilisation of vehicles, and the plan to use market testing without commitment was also approved.

Members discussed the potential re-organisation of Local Government and how that might affect service delivery and partnerships with other bodies such as the Health Service and authorities bordering Surrey. Officers advised they were mindful of this and would make and take opportunities that arose which might benefit the Council.

Officers agreed to retry engagement with the other local authority mentioned in the report prior to commencing the pilot and Officers would report back, post-pilot should the need for additional resources be required.

**RESOLVED that –**

**the proposed extension of the Meals at Home Service, working in partnership with the authority mentioned in the report, be approved.**

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 9.17pm)