

Runnymede Borough CouncilCOMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE7 January 2021 at 7.30 pm on 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 L Gillham and S Whyte also attended the meeting.

385 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 November 2020 were confirmed as a correct record to be signed when the Chairman was physically able to do so.

386 COMMUNITY FIRST UPDATE AND THE RUNNYMEDE HEALTH AND WELLBEING TASK GROUP AND TARGETED AREAS TASK GROUPS

The Committee received the annual report on all aspects of Community First and the work of the Runnymede Health and Wellbeing Task Group.

Members were informed about the projects that had been able to take place in 2020/2021 despite the Covid 19 pandemic and noted the budgetary position with reduced funding from both the Housing Revenue Account and the General Fund. The budget for 2021/2022 was £65,000; £30,000 from the Housing Revenue Account and £35,000 from the General Fund.

The effect of the Covid 19 pandemic on the targeted areas was described. Officers highlighted the rise in unemployment and the significant number of people that had been furloughed, notably in Thorpe, as well as the negative outcome for the voluntary sector and the various projects and initiatives for the health and wellbeing of the community. There had been a shift towards web-based provision in some areas whilst others tried to continue working within the different restrictions placed on them in and out of 'lockdown'.

In Addlestone North/Addlestone South it was noted that Addlestone Community Centre had experienced financial hardship and Christians Against Poverty had only been able to operate for part of the year. Community First would be able to provide some funding to Homestart Runnymede and Spelthorne and the Junior Citizen scheme.

In Chertsey St Ann's/Chertsey Riverside, the focus was on services for young people with collaborative work between Surrey Clubs for Young People to open the Gogmore Farm Park Youth and Community Centre and projects organised by the Loneliness Task Group.

In Egham Hythe the priorities included attracting shops, other than takeaways to the area, making environmental improvements and improving youth facilities. They also implemented the Runnymede Dementia Alliance action plan and carried out valuable work with high need families through the Runnymede Family Centre located in Egham Hythe. Community First funding assisted the mentoring service at Magna Carta School.

In Englefield Green West it was anticipated that the lease for the River Church would be signed shortly to facilitate the Community Hub. The Hub manager received a contribution to their salary from Community First funding and had been active in putting together a varied programme of events, and during lockdown had uploaded a number of activities to keep in touch with residents as well as commissioning a residents' survey, the results of which were noted by the Committee.

The valuable work of the Health and Wellbeing Task Group was also noted. A draft strategy had been produced, the priorities were noted and would be formally presented to the Committee in due course for approval, once the Member Working Party had considered it. Highlights of the year included promotion of a new Mindsight Children and Young People's counselling service provided by the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service. Officers also reported a new Furniture Removal Pilot Scheme and a leaflet currently with the Council's Communications team about hazards in the home.

The teams were praised for their work in the deprived areas of the borough, noting the restrictions of having very limited resources. Councillors provided feedback on their areas and the actions they had or were taking to promote projects including raising funds.

The Committee discussed the future provision of IT equipment for primary and secondary school pupils and Officers agreed to follow up queries with regard to establishing the gap in laptop provision in local schools and identifying and promoting potential sources of funding such as County Councillors, central Government and Tech Free UK.

Officers advised that if the project was financially viable, a report concerning potential proposals for a Befriending Service would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

387 SURREY YOUTH GAMES 2021

The Committee's approval was sought to proceed with the Surrey Youth Games in 2021 in a different way so as to accommodate the current and potentially future restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic.

In 2020, the Games could not take place and Officers across the County were keen not to lose the interest and participation levels of previous years which had benefited a large number of young people across a variety of sports.

Officers confirmed that a potential side shoot project would be to run a life skills employability programme alongside the Games for young people classed as 'Not in Education, Employment or Training.' Specifically, they would be encouraged to volunteer at the Games and it was hoped that this would also provide sustainable roots for further coaching opportunities in the future.

Rather than cancel the Games in 2021, or find themselves without a venue or a viable event that also complied with Covid restrictions, Members approved the option to go ahead with a more localised programme in the summer holidays, working with Active Surrey, who had also made a welcome financial contribution of £5,000 to assist. Achieve Lifestyle had also expressed a desire to be involved at Egham Orbit. The aim would be to concentrate on the more deprived wards and specific target groups. This was in line with the majority of the other boroughs and districts that had made a decision about the Games in 2021.

RESOLVED that –

Option 2 for local delivery of the Surrey Youth Games in 2021 be approved

388 RENT GRANT AID APPLICATION FOR COOPERS HILL RECREATIONAL TRUST

The Committee's approval was sought to increase the level of rent grant aid to Coopers Hill Recreational Trust (the Trust) from £1,500 to £3,500 per annum, to offset an increase in their lease rent from £4,000 to £6,000 per annum, following a recent review by the Council's Commercial Services team.

Members were advised that the Trust occupied premises in Englefield Green and had two main users; Manorcroft United Football Club and Coopers Hill Lawn Tennis Club. Both paid rent to the Trust as Leaseholders for the site. The lease had 47 years remaining thereon.

The Committee reviewed the Trust's financial and operational details, noting they met the criteria of the recently updated Grant Aid Criteria and Policy to qualify for financial assistance. Members were advised that the Trust was solvent and had maintained its membership levels, although inevitably they had lost income in the current climate and through one of the site's users, St Jude's Players, no longer using some storage facilities. In support of their application, letters from Strode's College and St Jude's school had been submitted by the Trust.

Officers were asked to provide Cllr N King with details of the Trustees of Coopers Hill Recreational Trust

Officers agreed to confirm when the next rent review was due and to feedback to Commercial Services the Committee's view that more frequent reviews, and advance notice, with smaller rent increases would assist small organisations to plan and maintain sustainability.

It was understood this review was one of the backlog that Commercial Services were working their way through and that it was likely other similar requests would be forthcoming.

RESOLVED that –

The rent grant aid contribution to Coopers Hill Recreational Trust be increased to £3,500 per annum to cover the additional rent costs of the recent lease rent review

389 RUNNYMEDE PLEASURE GROUNDS DRAFT ESTIMATES 2021/2022

The Committee's approval was sought for the draft estimates for Runnymede Pleasure Grounds in 2021/2022.

For this item, Members noted they sat as Trustees of the Pleasure Grounds.

Officers reported another healthy year for the Pleasure Grounds' finances; partly owing to the increased numbers of people parking there to exercise on the Open Space and enjoy the fresh air during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Trust's unrestricted reserves stood at £225,325, from which, as previously approved, £45,000 would be used to purchase, install and maintain the new ANPR system. There had been delays owing to supplier issues and work on site having to be suspended but Officers were confident it would be up and running by mid-February 2021. Promotional material was being progressed through the Council's Communications team.

Members noted that the Magna Carta Legacy Limited still owed the Trust £12,500 to help towards the cost of maintaining the Queen Elizabeth II statue and surrounds which were opened in 2015.

The Committee agreed that the car and especially the coach parking fees and charges were modest and very good value. They had been set at the same level with no increase since 2014/2015. Members were content not to increase them for 2021/2022.

RESOLVED that –

The proposed financial projection for 2021/2022, be approved

390 AVIATOR PARK SKATE PARK

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 received a confidential report concerning Aviator Park, a small open space, adjacent to a new housing development in Addlestone. It contained a well used skatepark, ball court and youth shelter, which were installed in the early 2000's as part of a S106 agreement for the development of the original office blocks.

Members were advised that complaints have been received from residents of the new development nearest the open space and its facilities about what had been established by the Council's Environmental Health team as a statutory noise nuisance. This had resulted in a case due to be heard at the Magistrates' Court in February 2021.

The Committee noted that actions had been progressed to respond to complaints from residents about noise and anti-social behaviour in Aviator Park but despite this, complaints from the residents continued. The Committee considered various options for further action and after some discussion agreed that the entrance to Aviator Park be fenced off and that the opening hours should be restricted as an interim arrangement, following consultation with residents.

The Committee also agreed a revised recommendation that it would consider options for the relocation of the skatepark if required and necessary due to a Court Order and a further report would be brought back to the Committee with other potential locations and costs.

The Committee noted that pending a decision on potentially re-locating the skatepark and associated facilities including consideration of where to re-locate them, it would be necessary to fence off the entrance to Aviator Park. If staff or volunteers were unable to assist with the opening and closing of the park, it would be necessary to engage the services of a contractor to open and close the facilities to restrict their use for an interim period of approximately 6 months, to reduce noise from the skatepark. This would also address reports of anti-social behaviour by users of the youth shelter.

The Chief Executive had been consulted and agreed that these interim arrangements should be put in place while other locations were considered as potential sites to relocate the skate park. Members of Community Services Committee agreed that where possible, existing equipment should be reused to reduce some of the cost involved, although a new concrete pad and additional equipment would probably be required.

Members were advised that suitable fencing would cost £5,000 which would be met from existing open space budgets. However, opening and closing the park/skate facilities would require a revenue supplementary estimate in the sum reported to cover the cost of employing an external contractor to carry out this task for a year. On the assumption that this started in February 2021 that would make additional costs split as reported between the current year with the remainder in 2021/2022. Therefore, a supplementary revenue estimate would need to be approved by the Corporate Management Committee.

The Committee was advised that if an alternative location was found for the skate park there would be a requirement for a capital sum to be made available of approximately £100,000 to replace the facility on a like for like basis. There was currently no provision in the Capital Programme for this and a full business case would need to be submitted to a future meeting of the Community Services Committee and subsequently, the Corporate Management Committee at the same time as reporting any alternative sites.

There was a clear preference by the Committee to retain the facilities if possible, noting the scarcity of youth related facilities in Addlestone and that the skate park was already on site and open for some years before the residential properties in question. Therefore, Officers were asked to expedite remedial works on site with the developers and report back on consultation with residents on detailed proposals for interim arrangements and in the longer term and to discuss increased CCTV monitoring with Safer Runnymede.

Officers were also asked to feed back to Planning Officers the Committee's views regarding planning related issues discussed at the meeting.

RESOLVED that –

- i) the progression of option 2 be approved, as an interim 6 month arrangement, following consultation with residents;**
- ii) options for the relocation of the skate park will be considered if required and necessary due to a court order and a further report brought back to this Committee with other potential locations and costs; and**
- iii) Corporate Management Committee be asked to approve a supplementary revenue estimate of up to the sum reported, split as proposed between 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 to cover the cost of the interim action proposed**

391 SERVICE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE AND FUNDING AWARD FROM THE INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIP

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 the development of the Community Services Business Centre to facilitate plans to improve the health and social care offer to residents in North West Surrey.

Members were advised that the Council's Corporate Head of Community Services had successfully secured funding in the sum reported at the meeting from the North West Surrey Integrated Care Partnership (NWS ICP) for the collaborative delivery of services related to health and social care by the four borough councils of North West Surrey (Runnymede, Elmbridge, Spelthorne and Woking).

Officers reported that this was an important step in the Council's development and that of partner councils, in establishing itself as a key partner and provider of services within an integrated health and care system.

Members were informed that until the formation of the ICP, engagement between health and the Council was minimal. However, through the ICP there was now the place for meaningful collaborative working in:

- Personalised Care Planning (affects Runnymede staff establishment)
- Borough Integration within Hospital Discharge Teams
- Homesafe Plus (affects Runnymede staff establishment)
- Step Down Accommodation (may affect staffing resources)

Officers reported that currently, the Council had a vacancy for a 25 hour per week Social Prescribing Officer. It was proposed that this role would now be converted into a full time Personalised Care Planning Officer, employed by RBC. If approved, it was likely that recruitment to this post would commence in early 2021.

Officers confirmed that subject to the Corporate Management Committee's approval to extend the staff establishment, a new post of full time Coordinator/Development Officer would be recruited to lead the Homesafe Plus project. Officers also reported that given much of the infrastructure for Homesafe Plus was provided by this Council and that over the last three years Runnymede had led its coordination and management, partner boroughs had agreed that this Council should recruit and host this post.

Members were pleased to note that the ICP Board also supported the proposals relating to step down accommodation, this included two properties in Runnymede. Colleagues in Housing were leading this project on behalf of Community Services, which could include use of Independent Retirement Living properties, given the age and vulnerability of many of the current residents. The Committee was advised that Officers would report implications and proposals with regard to Step Down Accommodation to a future meeting of the Housing Committee whose approval would be needed to use Council owned accommodation for this purpose.

Members were advised that budgets for each of the projects would ensure that delivery of the services and recruitment of staff was not at the cost of the Council. Further, whilst these funding bids did not create any surplus for the Council, a contribution of £3,000 per annum in recognition of the support provided by Safer Runnymede to the Homesafe Plus service would be received.

Members noted that if approved, Runnymede would need to recruit two new employees as a result of the funding. These posts were a full time Personalised Care Planning Officer to replace the part time Social Prescribing Officer post and a full time Homesafe Plus Coordinator post for which approval from Corporate Management Committee would be requested for the consequential changes to the staffing establishment.

The Committee noted the detailed narrative with regard to the four service areas, legal and financial implications and were enthusiastically supportive of the proposals, thanking Officers for their work and level of commitment to supporting vulnerable members of the community.

RESOLVED that –

Corporate Management Committee be recommended to approve the changes to the staff establishment in Community Services to facilitate the proposals

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 9.21 pm)