

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Leisure & Environment Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, Notts, NG24 1BY on Tuesday, 22 March 2022 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R Jackson (Chairman)
Councillor N Mison (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor L Brailsford, Councillor S Carlton, Councillor D Cumberlidge,
Councillor P Harris, Councillor Mrs L Hurst, Councillor J Kellas,
Councillor B Laughton and Councillor J Lee

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor M Cope (Committee Member)

51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS AND AS TO THE PARTY WHIP

Councillor S. Carlton declared an Other Registerable Interest in Agenda Item No. 6 – Active4Today Business Plan 2022/23, as he was a Council appointed Director for Active4Today.

52 DECLARATION OF ANY INTENTIONS TO RECORD THE MEETING

NOTED that the Council would undertake an audio recording and live streaming of the meeting.

53 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2022

AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman provided an update to the Committee on the developments that had taken place within the Committee's remit since the last meeting held on 25 January 2022.

The Council had declared a Climate Emergency and set out a plan to get the Council to net zero by 2035. Five council buildings had been identified for solar panels and that work would take place in the next financial year. The buildings included the Beacon Innovation Centre, Vicar Water and the three leisure centre sites at Newark, Southwell and Ollerton. All those sites were suitable, work financially and would collectively save around 100 tonnes of carbon per annum. Additionally, the installation of a further eight electric vehicle charge points in the district had been completed, bringing the district's total to 15 operational charge points.

Work continued on shaping the Brunel Drive depot site to meet the future needs of the services who utilised the depot. That would enable any future move to more electric vehicles as that work would look at the infrastructure that would be needed on the site, as well as accommodating any future waste streams. This work was also

practically being shaped by the pilot of two electric vehicles by the Community Protection Officers, those vehicles were charged at Castle House, which had two electric vehicle charging points in the car park.

In housing, just shy of £750,000 had been allocated to deliver improvements to homes by improving the energy performance. This had the multiple benefits of delivering energy cost savings for residents, reducing carbon and supporting green jobs.

Work was also underway to develop a Decarbonisation Plan for Council buildings at which PV wouldn't be appropriate, for example, the Palace theatre which was a listed building and sat within a conservation area. The Council were looking to gain an understanding of energy efficiency measures which could be undertaken across those buildings, and costs and payback periods associated with the implementation of any carbon reduction measures.

It was reported that the Council would meet its target of planting 10,000 trees a year ahead of target. This had been delivered in no small part by the delivery of the Vicardale development at Vicar Water, which had seen 4,000 trees planted over recent weeks.

The Council had also joined the Nottinghamshire wide Green Rewards App. The app was an online platform designed to incentivise and encourage residents to undertake positive behaviour change by enabling users to log carbon reducing activities and gain points for those activities which equated to prizes.

It was commented that lots of activity was now underway and it was important that the Council kept that momentum if they were to meet the target of net neutral by 2035.

In addition to the work to make Newark and Sherwood greener, members would also see more work was underway to make Newark and Sherwood cleaner.

The Council were issuing more enforcement notices for littering than ever before through their arrangement with WISE, but we're also starting to issue more notices for fly-tipping in their own right too. A number of successful prosecutions had also been secured.

As well as taking action where necessary and appropriate to do so, the Council were also continuing to work with residents who wanted to do more to help keep their communities clean and places to be proud of. On the agenda there was a paper about creating 400 green champions to further enhance that work.

The Council would also be undertaking its latest day of action in Southwell, working closely with a range of partners including the Town Council. These days were hugely popular and made a real impact in communities.

Statutory guidance was still awaited regarding the Environment Bill, which could have major implications on the waste and recycling landscape. Defra had indicated that this would be available in the spring but without it, there still was no detailed description about what the exact requirements would be or crucially how the new

burdens would be funded. As soon as that became available, a report would be produced for Member consideration.

55 ACTIVE4TODAY BUSINESS PLAN 2022/23

The Committee considered the report presented by the Health Improvement & Community Relations Manager which presented the Active4Today (A4T) Business Plan 2022/23, which sought Member approval.

Throughout the last financial year the Company had scrutinised income and expenditure to ensure that the latest operating costs were fully considered in order to forecast a realistic proposal for the 2022-2023 budget. In addition assumptions had been made when compiling this budget which included:

- Covid-19 restrictions not changing from the present position;
- Cost of living increases for salaries not increasing over the estimated 2%;
- Memberships continuing on the current trajectory, which was intrinsically linked to Covid-19;
- All facilities continuing to be available for operations;
- Utilities estimates being within the parameters expected;
- Pensions continuing at their current rate and not increasing further; and
- National insurance and VAT remaining the same as the current costs.

In view of the above, A4T were forecasting a management fee for the 2022/2023 financial year of £500k, to support its operations including its Covid recovery activities. That amount contained a combined management fee, taking account of Southwell Leisure Centre joining the Company. That figure included £174k of pension costs associated with the pooling agreement and the increased costs associated with the Southwell Leisure Centre employees. That forecasted figure supported the operations of four leisure centres and the sports development team, which brought no income into the Company, with the exception of grant funding, which was specifically attributed to the projects it supported. The sports development team however, contributed to the exceptionally important social benefits within the district, directly supporting hard to reach individuals and organisations and promoting the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle.

A Member commented that written confirmation had not been sent to Members of the Committee regarding Southwell Sports Forum and whether that would be supported and what the Company would be doing about removing unhealthy snacks from its vending offer, which had been raised at the 25 January 2022 Committee. It was considered disgraceful for the leisure centres to promote the sale of unhealthy snacks as the Council were supposed to be supporting healthy lifestyles, the sale of unhealthy snacks should therefore be removed.

The Health Improvement & Community Relations Manager confirmed that those issues would be taken back to the Active4Today operational meetings and an update would be brought back to Members.

A Member commented on a meeting attended with the YMCA, which had informed that the YMCA were going to open a café which would provide fresh food. It was suggested that Active4Today pursue partnership work with the YMCA regarding food.

A Member commented on the difficulty booking children's activities on-line as each child had to have an email account, which became complicated when families had multiple children. It was suggested that a family account would be more user friendly.

The Health Improvement & Community Relations Manager confirmed that technology was high on the Company's agenda and would share the feedback with the Active4Today team which would continue to develop its solutions to improve the customer experience. It was further confirmed that ongoing dialogue was taking place with the management team of YMCA regarding collaborative working.

AGREED (with 8 vote For and 1 Abstention) that the Active4Today Business Plan 2022/23 be approved.

56 COMMUNITY PLAN PERFORMANCE FOR QUARTER 3 2021/2022

The Committee considered the report presented by the Transformation and Service Improvement Manager which provided the Quarter 3 Community Plan Performance Report (October-December 2021).

A Member commented that Balderton had at present a high level of anti-social behaviour and asked for more community work to be undertaken within that ward. A day of action was also requested for Balderton.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Community Plan Performance report be noted.

57 BUDGET REQUESTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director of Communities and Environment which informed Members about the extra labour/ resource and capital expenditure required to carry out additional work that had recently been secured by the Street Scene Team. That followed successful contract negotiations by officers within the unit. There was a mixture of internal and external works that would increase revenue income to the council, as well as redirecting monies currently being spent with private contractors back to the authority.

The Committee was also informed about the additional expenditure needed to establish a network of Green Champions in line with the commitments established in the Community Plan.

A Member commented that a Parish Council had undertaken contract work for Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) but were unable to continue with that work, it was suggested that perhaps the Council could do the work on behalf of NCC.

Another Member commented that this was a positive achievement and asked that the app be extended to an online facility, as some people struggled with apps.

A discussion took place regarding the use of electric technology and that the tractor being used was not electric. It was confirmed that at present there were no vehicles on the market to sustain a day's work, this would be reviewed as technology improved.

A Member commented on the excellent work undertaken by the street cleansing team.

A Member sought clarification regarding certain items of equipment that were not available for the Clipstone action day and would the additional funding provide that additional equipment. The Director of Communities and Environment confirmed that he would provide an answer regarding that.

Councillor L Brailsford arrived during the debate of the above minute.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the significant increase in income and work conducted by the Environmental Services Street Scene Team be noted;
- (b) there was capacity for expansion and Policy & Finance Committee be recommended that the Leisure & Environment Committee supports the request for the additional funding outlined in 7.1 of the report, to enable the Street Scene team to continue with improved service delivery standards and put in place the resources to continue with its commercial development;
- (c) Policy & Finance Committee be recommended to approve an additional £870 budget to the Grounds Maintenance budget for 2022/23 funded from the Change Management Reserve in 2022/23 and in future years added into the Base budget (subject to any additional income generated during 2022/23);
- (d) Policy & Finance Committee be recommended to allocate £43,000 into the capital programme for 2022/23, funded by capital receipts; and
- (e) Policy & Finance Committee be recommended to approve the utilisation of £15,000 from the Cleaner, Safer and Greener reserve during 2022/23 in relation to the Green Champion scheme.

58 ANNUAL REVIEW OF EXEMPT REPORTS

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive listing the exempt item considered by the Committee for the period 16 March 2021 to date.

The Committee agreed that the report considered on the 16 March 2021, entitled, 'Southwell Leisure Centre – Alternative Management Arrangements', be released into the public domain.

AGREED (unanimously) that the content of the report entitled: 'Southwell Leisure Centre – Alternative Management Arrangements', be released into the public domain

59 GREEN REWARDS PLATFORM

The Committee considered the report presented by the Transformation and Service Improvement Manager which provided an update on the progress of the Green Rewards App.

The Green Rewards App was launched to Newark and Sherwood residents on the 16 February 2022. A targeted Communications Plan was developed to enable the launch to reach as many residents as possible. The plan included scheduled social media posts, videos of endorsement from Councillor Lloyd and boosted social media posts.

Newark and Sherwood had signed up to the App for one year and after that year the success of the App would be reviewed. The review would consider the carbon savings attained, impact achieved and take up across the geography and demographics of the district. A recommendation on whether to continue with Green Rewards would then be taken to members for decision.

Members commented that the app was a great scheme and asked if social media could be used to indicate what community was performing the best. It was suggested that composting should be recorded as part of the recycling targets, as composting was not measured currently.

Another Member commented that people love competition and schools should be involved. The Transformation and Service Improvement Manager confirmed that communities and schools could take part.

AGREED that resident participation in the Green Rewards App be noted.

60 HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE

There were none.

Meeting closed at 6.50 pm.

Chairman