

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, 19 November 2019 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R Jackson (Chairman)

Councillor L Brailsford, Councillor S Carlton, Councillor M Cope, Councillor D Cumberlidge, Councillor P Harris, Councillor B Laughton and Councillor Mrs Y Woodhead

ALSO IN
ATTENDANCE: Councillors Mrs B Brooks and L Goff

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor N Mison (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Mrs G Dawn (Committee Member), Councillor Mrs L Hurst (Committee Member) and Councillor J Lee (Committee Member)

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

Councillors S Carlton and M Skinner declared personal interests in Agenda Items 6 – Review of Governance Arrangements – Active4Today; Item 7 – Active4Today Draft Business Plan 2020/21 and Performance Update; and Item 14 – Proposed Expansion of the Fitness Suite and Consideration of Alternative Management Arrangements at Southwell Leisure Centre – Update, as they were both Board Members of Active4Today.

Councillor P Harris declared a personal interest in Agenda Items 5 – Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) presentation; and Item 14 - Proposed Expansion of the Fitness Suite and Consideration of Alternative Management Arrangements at Southwell Leisure Centre – Update, as he was a member of Health Education England and a Southwell Leisure Centre Trustee.

31 DECLARATION OF ANY INTENTIONS TO RECORD THE MEETING

The Council recorded the meeting in accordance with usual practice. Councillor P Harris declared that he would record Agenda Item 13 – Exclusion of the Press and Public.

32 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33 CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP (CCG) PRESENTATION

An update presentation was provided by David Ainsworth – Locality Director, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group's.

The Chairman thanked David Ainsworth for attending and presenting the informative presentation and invited him back to a future meeting of the Leisure & Environment Committee.

34 REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS - ACTIVE4TODAY

The Committee considered the report presented by the Senior Health and Community Relations Officer which sought approval for the changes to the governance and financial arrangements between the Council and Active4Today Limited.

The report provided the details and reasons for the proposed changes regarding the Governance Agreement. The elected Members, Officer and Directors to the Board and their roles were also detailed and information regarding non-voting directors was also included which reflected recent external legal advice regarding non-voting directors. The Service Contract was also contained within the report and reasons for proposed changes explained in detail.

AGREED (with 7 votes For and 2 Abstentions) that:

- (a) Agree a Governance Agreement between the Council and the Company, that sits alongside the Articles, that underlines the Council's role as shareholder in exercising a decisive influence over both strategic objectives and significant decisions of the Company;
- (b) Agree to a review of the existing officer and member director appointments to the Board, given the conflict issues highlighted in section 3 of the report;
- (c) Give director voting rights to the Managing Director of the Company Active4Today;
- (d) Review the payment mechanism within the Service Contract so that there is a single payment mechanism either to or from the Company, with no separate clause for sharing in the 'operating surplus' of the Company;
- (e) Approve any consequential minor amendments to the Company's Articles arising from the above recommendations; and
- (f) Members note the aspiration for the company to be self-sustainable and hence the allocation of the management fee

budget will be brought to the January Committee.

35 ACTIVE4TODAY DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN 2020/21 AND PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Senior Health and Community Relations Officer and Managing Director – Active4Today, which provided the Active4Today Draft Business Plan 2020/21 and updated the Committee on the Company's latest quarterly performance, 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019.

Following Committee consideration of this report a final Business Plan would be presented to the January 2020 Committee, as such this was an opportunity for the Committee to influence the Final Business Plan for 2020/21.

It was reported that the best indicators for the underlying strength of the Company were the adult and children's membership bases. The management report detailed that the leisure centres were continuing to perform well with increases reported in adult membership up by 220 on the same period in 2018, rising from 8,635 to 8,855 (+2.55%) across all four sites with the Newark Sports and Fitness Centre continuing to perform strongly. Children's membership was down by 126 from 3,982 to 3,856 (-3.16%) compared with the corresponding period in 2018 which was largely attributable to the loss of water space at Dukeries Leisure Centre which would continue to influence junior memberships until the new swimming pool was operational in 2020. The overall membership at period end was 12,711 up from 12,617 in September 2018 a net increase of 94 members. The report also detailed the user visits at the end of period 2 which had increased from 582,939 to 620,938 up 37,999 compared to 2018 equating to an uplift of 6.52% achieved through improvements in junior usage up from 195,856 to 201,815 (+3.04%), 60+ usage up from 58,838 to 66,011 (+12.19%) and improvements to use by customers from more deprived areas up from 9,426 to 10,379 (+10.11%). The report also detailed GP referrals, partnership working and management fee for Southwell Leisure Centre Trust.

It was reported that the company was forecasting a £22,000 deficit at year-end based on performance to date. That represented a substantial reduction in the deficit forecasted in January 2019 of £75,000 and it was anticipated that the position in relation to income and expenditure would continue to be closely monitored to ensure that the outturn position was more favourable and the deficit forecasted was further reduced.

The Draft Business Plan 2020/21 was attached to the report. The company had identified a number of actions it was proposing to undertake with the aim of facilitating the delivery of the three outcomes the Committee set the company up to achieve, namely: Healthy and Active Lifestyles, Accessible Facilities and Improved Financial Viability.

A Member suggested that the Committee ask Southwell Leisure Trust to provide regular reports to the Committee providing their accounts.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the Committee consider the Active4Today Draft Business Plan 2020/2021 and make any representations to the Company via the Authorised Officer;
- (b) the Quarter 2 performance be noted;
- (c) Active4Today provides the January committee meeting with its latest in-year financial position and full year forecast in order that the Committee can form judgements on the appropriateness of the ‘management’ fee payable in 2019/20; and
- (d) the Leisure Centre Trust be asked to provide regular reports including their accounts.

36 REVIEW OF BULKY WASTE AND ELECTRICAL ITEMS COLLECTION

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager Transport & Waste Services, which provided the Committee with an analysis of the collection service and set out proposals for future development.

The council currently collected household waste that did not fit in the household bin through two routes. The first used a box van equipped with a tail lift to collect electrical items including fridges and freezers. These were taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre where they were passed on for recovery. Other bulky items were collected using a refuse collection vehicle and were taken with the household refuse for incineration. The service collected over 4300 bulky items and 1410 electrical items in 2018/19. A study was already underway to look at the possibilities of implementing a re-use scheme for many of the items collected through these services in council properties.

Questions had been raised about whether charging for Excess waste collection encouraged fly tipping. Comparisons were made with three local authorities who collected excess waste free of charge, to see if there was a significant variation in the quantity of fly tipped waste or in its composition which was detailed in Appendix A to the report. The analysis showed that a free collection did not result in a reduction in fly tipping there were significant number of factors involved in fly tipping which was a crime that did not follow geographical boundaries. Some of Newark and Sherwood’s best features such as its rural nature combined with great transport links unfortunately made it an ideal area in which to fly tip waste.

The report detailed the review of charges and proposals.

Members commented that more publicity regarding bulky waste should be undertaken using the Councils magazine ‘Voice’ and leaflet drops informing the community what can be recycled such as batteries and how that can be achieved. It was also commented that small independent traders should be allowed to register to use household collection centres which may reduce fly tipping; this should be raised with Veolia. It was suggested that a periodic bulky waste collection should be undertaken in targeted areas. It was also commented that the days of action should

be planned well in advance in order for communities to be fully engaged. It was suggested that the Council work with the retailer to coordinate the disposal of white goods, although the Business Manager Transport & Waste commented that due to the amount of white goods being purchased this may be difficult to achieve.

Members commented on the recent prosecution and current prosecution taking place regarding fly tipping and asked if that could be disseminated into the community to act as a warning that action was taken for this crime.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) Newark & Sherwood do not progress with a "free of charge" bulky waste service at this time;
- (b) the bulky waste and white goods charges are altered in line with the proposals in 5.3 of the report;
- (c) the provision of free bulky waste days are trialled in selected areas and are dovetailed with the next 3 Days of Action being planned in 2020; and
- (d) some of the current Cleaner, Safer, Greener budget is utilised to fund the additional promotion of the bulky waste service.

37 NEWARK AND SHERWOOD TIME TO CHANGE EMPLOYER PLEDGE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director of Communities and Environment which sought nominations for the appointment of Member Mental Health Champions from each political party given the cross party support for the motion entitled 'The mental Health Challenge' which was considered at Full Council on 15 October 2019.

It was reported that given the cross party support and to enable the Council to progress its commitment to the 'Time to Change Employer Pledge', it was proposed that each political party nominate a Member Mental Health Champion.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Leisure and Environment Committee approve the proposal that each political party nominates a Member Mental Health Champion to support the Council deliver on its commitment to the 'Time to Change Employer Pledge.'

38 OLLERTON TOWN CENTRE DAY OF ACTION

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director of Communities and Environment which appraised Members regarding the Ollerton Town Centre Day of Action, which took place on 23 October 2019.

It was reported that the event involved the District and Town Councils, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Newark and Sherwood Homes, the County Council and community volunteers. Over the course of the day, more than 6.6 tonnes of rubbish was removed through community litter picks, street cleaning and action on fly-tips. A tonne of green waste was also removed by the Council's grounds maintenance team and evergreen shrubs planted. The report listed the highlights from the day.

The district council partnered with iMAGESKOOL to create a piece of graffiti art on the skate park on the Sherwood Energy Village. Up to sixty young people from four to fifteen years of age worked on the project.

The Committee thanked Officers for their hard work.

AGREED (unanimously) that the report be noted.

39 LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN (1 NOVEMBER 2019 TO 17 MARCH 2020)

The Leisure & Environment Committee Forward Plan was provided for Member information. Members were encouraged to submit any areas of work they wanted to address for the forthcoming year.

AGREED that the Forward Plan be noted.

40 HEALTH & WELLBEING

There was nothing to report.

41 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

AGREED (with 8 votes For and 1 vote Against) that:
under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public
be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on
the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt
information as defined in Paragraph 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the
Act.

42 PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE FITNESS SUITE AND CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS AT SOUTHWELL LEISURE CENTRE - UPDATE

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Director – Communities and Environment which updated the Committee on the proposed expansion of the fitness suite and sought Member consideration regarding the relationship of that proposal to the development of potential management changes at Southwell Leisure Centre Trust involving Newark and Sherwood District Council and its leisure company Active4Today.

(Summary provided in accordance with 100C(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.)

Meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Chairman