

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

3 September 2015

7.00 pm – 9.55 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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Minutes

Membership

Councillor Chris Brine (Chair)	P	Councillor Elizabeth Peters	P
Councillor Jonathan Edmunds (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Gary Powell	P
Councillor June Cordwell	P	Councillor Nigel Prenter	P
Councillor Stephen Davies	P	Councillor Stephen Robinson	P
Councillor Julie Job	P	Councillor Chas Townley	P
Councillor John Jones	P	Councillor Penny Wride	P
Councillor Russell Miles	A		

P = Present A = Absent

Other Councillors Present

Councillor Geoffrey Wheeler

Officers Present

Head of Environmental Health	Community and Facilities Manager
Principal Accountant	Solicitor
Principal Procurement Officer	Democratic Services Assistant
Licensing Officer	
Public Spaces Officer	

Others Present

Interim Director of Public Health - Sarah Scott
 Police & Crime Commissioner - Martin Surl

CSLC.010

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Russell Miles.

CSLC.011

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

CSLC.012 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED **That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 June 2015 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

CSLC.013 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

None received.

CSLC.014 **WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16**

The Committee updated the work programme for 2015/16 to include the following additional matters to be covered at its next meeting in December:

- Task and Finish Group on Youth Strategy Feedback
- Task and Finish Group on Council Tax Scoping

RESOLVED **To update and add the above to the work programme.**

CSLC.015 **PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT**

The Interim Director of Public Health presented the Public Health Annual Report to the Committee. Report headlines were:

- The annual public health grant in 2013/14 was £21.7 million with spending on alcohol and substance abuse the largest area of expenditure (£6.711 million). In June 2015 an in year cut to the annual grant of 6.2% was announced.
- The development and launch of a new Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) platform in September 2015. This was initially a self-service data repository now reviewed and redesigned as a new digital platform/virtual bookshelf which can be more readily accessed by members of the public online.
- Gloucestershire Health & Wellbeing Board has instigated a programme of events focused around the five Gloucestershire health and well-being priorities.
- Looking at public health in 2015 and beyond, the emphasis will be on delivering value for money, managing the performance of commissioned services and the development of an appropriate quality and safety service framework. This will involve shaping and refining the public health “offer” by age, place and to ensure that services are commissioned responsive to need.
- Future progress areas will include a refresh of the Gloucestershire Health & Wellbeing Board’s delivery plans, a focus on developing a more representative patient voice and the planned recruitment of a permanent Director of Public Health.

RESOLVED **To note the update.**

CSLC.016 **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE – ANNUAL UPDATE**

The Committee received an oral update from the Police and Crime Commissioner who gave an overview of current strategy. Key issues highlighted were:

- A more streamlined and operationally efficient organisational structure. Gloucestershire is now policed as one county rather than the six divisions previously. The number of police superintendents has been reduced from eight to two.
- Heavy investment in new technology; the majority of police officers now have a mobile device which enables them to process 85% of their administrative work on this device rather than at the police station. This was rolled out from July.
- A review of police buildings and estates to ensure that they are fit for purpose. Compass House, Gloucestershire's new state of the art custody facility, was opened in January 2015.
- Partnership work with second sector agencies and the voluntary community sector is a key area of focus and investment. The Commissioner's Fund was set up to support schemes put forward by local residents to make their communities safer and reduce the perception of criminality within the local community. This fund currently supports twenty seven neighbourhood projects in Stroud including the Door Youth Project and a support system for older people, the GL11 Community Hub in Cam.

In reply to questions, the Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed:

- Two new mobile police stations have been purchased and will be in service shortly; they will not have a predetermined route but will have the flexibility to be able to respond to community need.
- There are currently no plans to close Stroud Police Station.
- The future of Gloucestershire's magistrate courts will be determined by the Ministry of Justice's ongoing national review of the court system.
- Parking obstructions are police issues but low operational priority for police officers; the GCC manages the enforcement of on street parking restrictions.
- The police send a response officer out to all burglaries to make an initial assessment.

RESOLVED **To note the update.**

CSLC.017 **UPDATE ON APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES – 2015/16**

RESOLVED **1. To note the update, and that
2. No further appointments to outside bodies are required for 2015/16.**

CSLC.018 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2015-16 - QUARTER 1**

The Principal Accountant provided the Committee with an update on the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital programme for 2015/16. Report headlines were:

- (111K) Underspend Housing General Fund - Salary savings within savings within private housing and underspend on homelessness.
- (32K) Overspend in Community Safety - Income shortfall on Careline line, Careline contract renewal overspend and overspend on abandoned vehicles.

- (28K) Underspend in Sport & Health Development - Salary saving and delay in launching cycle scheme.
- (35K) Underspend in Revenue and Benefits - Salary savings within the service.
- All Community Services Capital Schemes are on target (see Table 3 – Capital Outturn Forecast page 12). The level of capital spend for the first three months of the year is relatively low. Overall delivery of the capital programme is on track with significant spend budgeted for the Dursley Pool Fitness Extension.

RESOLVED **To note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue Budget and the Capital programme for 2015/16.**

CSLC.019 **GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

The Licensing Officer introduced the Report on the Council's Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 which:

- Outlined the principles the Council will apply when exercising its functions under the Gambling Act 2005 for the three year period commencing January 2016 when the current Statement expires.
- Had been subject to public consultation from 15 June 2015 to 21 August 2015 (see Appendix 1 - Schedule of Consultation Responses and Working Party Comments).

RESOLVED **To note the report, and**
RECOMMENDED **The adoption of the revised Statement of Principles**
TO COUNCIL **under the Gambling Act 2005.**

CSLC.020 **LICENSING ACT 2003 – STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The Licensing Officer introduced the Report on the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 which:

- Outlined the principles the Council will apply when exercising its functions under the Licensing Act 2003 for a five year period commencing January 2016 when the current Statement expires.
- Had been subject to public consultation from 15 June 2015 to 21 August 2015 (see Appendix 1 – Schedule of Consultation Responses and Working Party comments).

RESOLVED **To note the report, and**
RECOMMENDED **The adoption of the revised Statement of**
TO COUNCIL **Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003.**

CSLC.021 **TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Public Spaces Officer outlined a report to Committee on the adoption of a policy for the management of the Council's tree stock to ensure that the Council:

- Complies with its duty of care to ensure that trees in its ownership are managed in accordance with relevant legislation and in a manner that ensures public safety and minimises risk to property.
- Delivers a consistent service across the Authority; the Policy provides clarity to Officers and the public as to what constitutes a reasonable request for tree works.
- Ensures value for money in respect of tree works.
- Reflects best practice in respect of tree management by allowing resources to be redirected away from damaging and unnecessary tree works and towards a proactive inspection regime.

RESOLVED

1. **That the following wording be added to the list of Policies as set out in Appendix A to the draft Tree Management Policy:**

“Prior to works being carried out on mature tree the potential for bat roosts will be assessed. If it is found that there are features within the tree that are likely to be suitable for bat roosts, a survey will be carried out. If bat roosts are found to be present appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented before any work takes place”.

2. **To note the report and to adopt the draft Tree Management Policy.**

CSLC.022

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Councillors John Jones and Julie Job gave a performance management update:

- The underspend of £40K to the service figures for homelessness prevention was an indicator that the Council’s early intervention strategies in this area was proving effective. The recovery process has been improved over the last year resulting in a higher level of income being obtained.
- Dursley Pool Fitness Extension has now reached level 8 of the risk assessment due to extra materials and costs incurred. The Committee were reminded that a project update will be provided by the Dursley Pool and Sports Centre Manager at the next CSLC meeting in December.
- Future confirmed projects include the Walled Garden Project (MITP) and the replacement of pay parking machines.

RESOLVED

To note the update.

CSLC.022

MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

None received.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Chair