

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

10 December 2015

7.00 pm – 9.05 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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Minutes

Membership

Councillor Chris Brine (Chair)	P	Councillor Elizabeth Peters	A
Councillor Jonathan Edmunds (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Gary Powell	P
Councillor June Cordwell	P	Councillor Nigel Prenter	P
Councillor Stephen Davies	A	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
 Councillor Doina Cornell

Officers Present

Community and Facilities Manager	General Manager (Dursley Pool)
Accountant	
Democratic Services Assistant	
Strategic Head of Customer Services	

CSLC.023

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Davies, Russell Miles and Elizabeth Peters.

CSLC.024

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CSLC.025 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED **That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 December 2015 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

CSLC.026 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

None received

CSLC.027 **UPDATE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Doina Cornell gave an update on the work of the committee which had held three meetings; July, September and November. Two main issues had been identified by the committee, which were of national concern; shortage of nurses and GPs that are retiring and not being replaced. The Ambulance Trust which had also experienced staff shortages and had embarked on a programme to attract potential employees.

In respect of Social Care the following areas were highlighted;

- The programme for over 50 health checks would be rolled out to workplaces to improve take up.
- Greater emphasis on mental health and the development of a suicide prevention strategy.
- Childhood Obesity was a continuing problem.
- The Stroud based charity Turning Point, had a new contract through to 2017.

Gloucestershire Care Services had become a Trust, an initial inspection had identified areas for improvement but noted the good feedback on staff attitudes.

In response to questions from Members it was noted that consideration was being given to re-establishing a County Ambulance Service and withdrawing from South West Ambulance Service. The target of 8 minute response times was not being met.

CSLC.028 **WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16**

The Committee updated the work programme for 2015/16. The following additional items were agreed;

- Joint Meeting/information evening with Housing Committee members to consider Welfare Reform and responsibilities for Housing Strategy.
- Youth Strategy to be reported on in March 2016.

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

CSLC.029**REVENUE ESTIMATES – REVISED 2015/16 AND ORIGINAL 2016/17**

The Accountant presented the report which set out the revised estimates for 2015/16 and original estimates for 2016/17. Changes to the budget had been made following previous reports to Committee. Members noted that the budget for Community Safety had been reduced, this related to efficiency savings but with no reduction in front line services. Members discussed the costs associated with providing bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless families. They raised concern about families being given accommodation outside the Stroud Area. It was noted that there was a lack of suitable accommodation in Stroud; suggestions were made as to whether the Council's void properties or warden accommodation in sheltered homes could be used.

RECOMMENDED TO STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE a) the estimates set out in the report be approved
b) Growth and investment, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report is included in the Council's budget plans for 2016/17

CSLC.030**REVIEW OF DESIGN AND TENDERING PROCESS FOR DURSLEY POOL FITNESS EXTENSION**

The Manager of Dursley Pool gave a report on the progress of the contract and identified a number of key learning points for future procurement projects. The project would be completed on time and within the revised budget. The Manager informed Members that the external legal and professional advice provided at the beginning of the contract was to; undertake separate procurements for the design and the building. She informed Members that; if undertaking the project now her advice would be to have one contract for covering design and build. The additional cost for the project of £95,000 was mainly due to construction industry build prices.

The Manager gave an outline of some of the changes to the design that had been made during the project; including changing from a single tier to a two storey building and presented the Committee with design impressions of the finished building.

The Manager informed members that there had been full support throughout the project from the Council's Asset Management Team as members of the project board. In response to lessons learned training on procurement was being rolled out to all employees.

RESOLVED To note the update.

CSLC.031**PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Councillors Julie Job and John Jones gave a verbal report on the performance monitoring meeting held in November. They had examined the first case under the new universal credit system and had noted that Gloucestershire Homeseekers had received 700 more applications than the previous year. It was noted that there had been a reduction in the number of properties available for rent.

A concern had been raised about the use of Chinese Lanterns and the potential hazards to land owners and farmers. It was acknowledged that information and

raising awareness about the problems would be the only way forward. It was also suggested that information should be provided to licensed venues.

RESOLVED **To note the update.**

Local Housing allowance

At the end of the meeting Cllr Townley asked if the Council could revisit the Broad Market Area as the rates did not reflect the costs of the area. The Chair said that it did need to be looked at again. This issue was challenged when it was originally introduced but it can be raised again with our MP's to make representations to Government.

CSLC.032

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

None received.

The Meeting Closed at 9.05