



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

02 December 2021

7.00 pm - 8.12 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

### Minutes

#### **Membership**

**Councillor Chris Brine (Chair)**

**Councillor Jonathan Edmunds (Vice-Chair)**

Councillor Beki Aldam

Councillor Gordon Craig\*

Councillor Kate Crews

Councillor Jessie Hoskin

\*= Absent

Councillor Julie Job

Councillor John Jones

Councillor Gill Oxley\*

Councillor Nigel Prenter

Councillor Steve Robinson

Councillor Ken Tucker

#### **Officers in Attendance**

Strategic Director of Communities

Project Manager for Leisure, Health and Wellbeing

Democratic Services and Elections Officer

Head of Community Services

Community Health and Wellbeing Manager

Accountant

The Chair advised the Community Wellbeing Grants 22/23 would be moved to item 5.

#### **CSLC.038 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gordon Craig and Gill Oxley.

#### **CSLC.039 Declaration of Interests**

There were none.

#### **CSLC.040 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021 are approved as a correct record.

#### **CSLC.041 Public Question Time**

There were none.

Community Services and Licensing Committee  
02 December 2021

Subject to approval at  
next meeting

**CSLC.042 Community Wellbeing Grants 22/23**

The Community Health and Wellbeing Manager introduced the report and explained the two proposed grant variations; a large grants scheme which would replace the current one year to a three year grant and to establish a smaller grant scheme which will be aimed at smaller organisations who could apply for a grants less than £1k.

Councillor Aldam asked if the smaller grant process would have a similarly small feedback report when the organisation reports back on how the funds are spent. The Community Health and Wellbeing Manager confirmed the report would be a few simple questions.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Robinson and seconded by Councillor Tucker.

Councillor Robinson explained how beneficial the process will be for organisations to be able to apply for smaller grants.

On being put to the vote, the motion was passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED to approve and adopt the recommendations made in Section 3 of this Report for the 2022 Community Wellbeing Grant process.**

**CSLC.043 Community Services and Licensing Budget Monitoring Report Q2 2021/22**

The Accountant presented the report and explained the projected net revenue overspend of £430k with additional narrative on the significant variances.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Robinson and seconded by Councillor Edmunds.

Councillor Robinson advised Committee that he spoke with the Accountant and Head of Community Services regarding the reduction in the street naming maintenance budget and was satisfied with the answer provided.

On being put to the vote, the motion was passed unanimously.

**RECOMMENDED to note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital Programme for this Committee.**

**CSLC.044 Community Services and Licensing Committee Revenue Estimates - Revised 2021/22 and Original 2022/23**

The Accountant presented the report and outlined the in year virements and adjustments which included carry forward from the previous year and redistribution of corporate maintenance budgets in addition to inflation increase outlined in the budget strategy. The Accountant also advised of the budget pressure overspend with Revenue and Benefits and Customer Services and the typo on the first page of appendix B, fees and charges for the 'partner attending Healthy Lifestyle classes' which should read £2.50 instead of £2.30.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Job and seconded by Councillor John Jones.

On being put to the vote, the motion was passed unanimously.

**RECOMMENDED to Strategy and Resources Committee**

- a) The revised Community Services and Licensing revenue budget for 2021/22 and original 2022/23 revenue budget are approved.
- b) The Fees and Charges list as shown at Appendix B is Approved

**CSLC.045 Council Plan and Performance Indicators relevant to this Committee**

The Chair introduced the report and reminded Committee that the Council Plan was approved in September and whilst the objectives within the Council Plan cannot be amended, the Key Performance Indicators can be amended, and a new performance monitoring report template is being produced.

Councillor Aldam asked a question on linking objectives together between Committees and for the plan to clearly list where KPI's link across different Committees. The Chair confirmed that this could be investigated and advised that the new performance monitoring system will allow for better linked Committee working. Councillor Crews suggested wording to the objectives on how they impact the Council's carbon footprint. The Chair asked Councillor Aldam to send the cross-Committee objectives to the Chair and Strategic Director of Communities for further investigation.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Prenter and seconded by Councillor Aldam.

Councillor Aldam asked that socio-economic factors are acknowledged when talking about Anti-Social Behaviour and ensure the respective parts of the plan in supporting vulnerable individuals in the community are linked together. The Chair explained the performance monitors could look at these types of report back to Committee.

Councillor Robinson asked if the revised performance monitoring template would include more detailed information on a few topics rather than information on all service areas. The Chair confirmed and explained it would allow Members to review in detail areas for concern. The Chair also advised that he'd like for a third Member to support Councillor Job and Prenter in reporting on performance monitoring and inform the Chair or Strategic Director of Communities of their interest.

On being put to the vote, the motion was passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED to:** a. Agree on the performance indicators that are relevant to this committee, and

**RECOMMENDED to Strategy & Resources that:**

- b. These performance indicators are incorporated in the Council Plan and updated and monitored according to the Council's Performance Management Framework.

**CSLC.046 Management Options Appraisal**

The Project Manager for Leisure, Health and Wellbeing explained that the contract for Stratford Park Leisure Centre is due to expire in October 2024 and the report outlines the different Management Options and whether Stratford Park, the Pulse, the Museum in the Park and Health and Wellbeing could operate under one Management Option. A meeting to discuss initial Management Options took place with Max Associates Consultants and

the Councils Leisure, Health and Wellbeing Project Team to look at different management models as part of the strategy planning, which included inhouse, externally run, Local Authority Trading Company (LATC), Not for Profit Director Organisation (NDPO), Joint Venture and Asset Transfer. All options explored; the Council would have to borrow money to make improvements to the current and any future centres.

The Task and Finish Group that was established met several times and ruled out Joint Venture and Assets Transfer options and later ruled out external and NDPO leaving inhouse and LATC as the two options to consider. Both options were equal in deliverables, however the LATC financials were significantly better in saving the Council £200k a year with Stratford Park and the Pulse, benefiting an 80% reduction on National Non-Domestic Rates and VAT savings on income and reduced pension costs.

The Project Manager for Leisure, Health and Wellbeing concluded explaining that the Museum in the Park and Health and Wellbeing would be excluded from the Management Options until the LATC had matured.

Members asked questions on, whether the Council can give the 'Teckal' company a grant to assist with funding equipment, if the Council is able to claim VAT back on purchasing equipment through a 'Teckal' company, when the Museum in the Park and Health and Wellbeing would also be considered under the Management Option, the financial costs associated with needing specialist consultants on setting up the LATC and whether they would need to be retained throughout the life of the LATC and if any Council Officers would sit on the LATC board and if there would be any representatives from outside bodies

The motion was proposed by Councillor Prenter and seconded by Councillor John Jones.

On being put to the vote, the motion was passed unanimously.

The Chair gave thanks to the Task and Finish Group in addition to the Health and Wellbeing team and advised that the Stratford Park Lido Task and Finish Group are due to meet on 6 December.

- RESOLVED**
- a) **Agree the recommendation by the Leisure Review Management Option Task and Finish Group that a company with 'Teckal' exemptions is adopted as the preferred option for Stroud District Council to manage its Leisure Centres from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024.**
  - b) **Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Communities in consultation with the Chair of CS&L to explore the Local Authority Trading Company options and reporting back to this committee providing a full financial analysis including board structure.**

#### **CSLC.047    Member/Officer Reports (to note)**

- a) Gloucestershire Health Overview Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Fenton was not in attendance to provide her report.

- b) Gloucestershire Covid-19 Local Outbreak Engagement Board  
Councillor Cornell was not in attendance to provide her report.
- c) Museum in the Park (Cowle Trust)  
The Member report had circulated prior to Committee.
- d) Police and Crime Panel  
The Member report had circulated prior to Committee.
- e) Citizens Advice  
The Member report had circulated prior to Committee. Councillor Tucker advised that 'Bureau' is no longer included within Citizens Advice name.
- f) Mental Health Champions  
The Member report had circulated prior to Committee.
- g) Performance Monitoring  
The Member report had circulated prior to Committee. Councillor Job endorsed the Chair and Councillor Prenters comment on a third Members assistance.  
  
Councillor Robinson queried whether recruitment for the Youth Officer had started. The Head of Community Services advised the post would be advertised shortly.
- h) Woodchester Park Mansion  
The Member report had circulated prior to Committee

#### **CSLC.048    Work Programme**

The Chair advised a letter on behalf of Committee had been sent to Gloucestershire County Councillor Dave Norman in respect to the Stroud Road Safety Liaison Group and a response has been received advising a meeting will take place on the 15 December to discuss next steps and District's involvement. The Chair gave thanks to Councillor Tucker for his assistance.

Councillor Aldam asked if information on performance monitoring could be circulated to encourage interest.

**RESOLVED            To note the above update to the Work Programme.**

#### **CSLC.049    Member Questions**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm

Chair