



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

24 March 2022

7.00 pm - 8.05 pm

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

Licensing Manager

Accountant

Democracy & Information Governance Officer

Head of Community Services

Community Health & Wellbeing Manager

Health & Wellbeing Officer

CSLC.059 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Craig, Crews, Job and Oxley

CSLC.060 Declaration of Interests

There were none.

CSLC.061 Minutes

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2022 are approved as a correct record.

CSLC.062 Public Question Time

There were none.

CSLC.063 Progress on Stratford Park Lido - Leisure Review

The Chair, Councillor Brine, provided Committee with an update on the work of the two Task and Finish (T&F) groups (Lido and Local Authority Trading Company (LATC)). The Lido T&F group were focusing on 3 main areas: improving physical and mental access, heating the pool, and developing the changing rooms. The group were exploring longer access hours, recruiting additional lifeguards and working with the Barnwood Trust on disabled access.

Funding was successfully secured from the Community Infrastructure Levy funding for exploring options to heat the pool.

The Chair, Councillor Brine thanked the LATC T&F group and advised that Max Associates Limited had been commissioned to produce the business plan within the next 6 months.

Councillor Aldam suggested Committee visit the Lido to see the changes. The Chair, Councillor Brine confirmed.

Councillor John Jones asked how the pool would be heated. The Chair, Councillor Brine and Head of Community Services advised the existing equipment was being modernised to generate heat using surplus combined heat and power from the Leisure Centre.

CSLC.064 Community Services and Licensing Budget Monitoring Q3 2021/22

The Accountant presented the report and explained the projected net revenue overspend of £340K and provided additional narrative on the overspend variations on the Pulse, Customer Services and Revenue and Benefits.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson and seconded by Councillor Prenter.

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

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

CSLC.065 Taxi Policy Review Stage 2 - Medicals, CCTV and Emissions Policy

The Licensing Manager provided an overview of the report and background on the three main aspects of the report County Consultation on CCTV in taxi and private hire vehicles, the proposed change to driver medicals and to set up a T&F group to review the vehicle age policy and consider an emission-based policy in line with the Council Plan.

The Licensing Manager advised she had spoken with the Chair prior to Committee to include an additional item to consider as part of the decision which was to consider the request for a fare increase for taxi vehicles under the remit of the T&F group.

The Licensing Manager responded to Members questions with the following answers:

- The County consultation would be separated by District in terms of responses and making a Stroud specific policy.
- Medical cost through a GP was over £100 and a GP summary should be free. A medical through a private specialist company was around £60.
- If Stroud chose to add CCTV as a requirement it would be mandatory for all and Stroud would become data controllers of the video data.
- Currently there's no County policy or guidance on age/emissions therefore an emissions policy would be Stroud specific if changed from vehicle age.
- Potential and scope for County grant incentives for electric vehicles.
- T&F group remit would include hybrid vehicles consideration as part of the consultation for a vehicle emissions policy
- The Licensing Officer would compare the fare increase proposals from taxi traders with other districts to aid the T&F group for their considerations.
- Currently a handful of electric cars and a slow increase of hybrid vehicles licensed.

The Chair, Councillor Brine asked Committee if they would be happy to accept a friendly amendment to amend point 'c' of the decision to include the consideration for a request for a fare increase for taxi vehicles under the T&F group remit.

The friendly amendment and Motion was proposed by Councillor Prenter and seconded by Councillor John Jones.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

Councillor John Jones, Prenter and Robinson were nominated for the T&F group.

RESOLVED:

- a. To approve undertaking a public consultation on CCTV in taxi and private hire vehicles as detailed in Appendix A, and;**
- b. To approve an amendment to the Council's policy on driver medicals as laid out in paragraph 3.8 of this report, and;**
- c. To approve setting up a task and finish group to consider a draft vehicle emissions and consider a request for a fare increase for taxi vehicles.**

CSLC.066 Play Area Review

The Health and Wellbeing Officer provided an overview of the report and advised that Stroud District Council (SDC) managed 21 play areas, 2 multi-use game areas including 10 play areas in the General Fund. Stratford Park Leisure Centre was not included as part of the Play Area Review Action Plan but would be included in the feasibility study as part of the Leisure Review. The aim of the review was to encourage play and community cohesion by being well designed, located near other community facilities/pedestrian and cycling networks and to be well regarded to allow communities to have value and ownership of the play areas. Page 16 of the action plan (appendix E) outlined the four stages being undertaken during the review.

The Health and Wellbeing Officer responded to Members questions with the following answers:

- The initial bid for funding was for SDC owned play areas and therefore all investment would be going to SDC areas only.
- To add 'sustainable' into the vision was possible as the report was a draft.
- As part of stage 2, SDC Youth Council and youth forums in addition to youth clubs and groups would be included in the consultation to encourage youth participation.
- Parish and Town Councils and community and voluntary groups would be signposted to local funding opportunities for play areas they own that will not be included as part of this SDC play area review.
- The Health and Wellbeing Officer would advise Councillor Edmunds where the 2 multi-use game areas were located outside of Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Aldam and seconded by Councillor Prenter.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve the Play Area Consultation and Development Action Plan.**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Communities in consultation with the Chair of Community Services and Licensing**

to explore the play options and make recommendations back to this committee on investment and future management options.

CSLC.067 Member/Officer Reports (To Note)

p) Community Grants Information Sheet

The Chair, Councillor Brine, informed Committee that he would bring the Community Grant information sheet ahead of the other Member Reports.

Councillor Hoskin advised she was pleased to see Cashes Green Community Centre in the successful column and thanked the Community Health and Wellbeing Manager for the approach taken with the Community Grants.

The Chair, Councillor Brine advised Committee that those organisations who were unsuccessful were being provided support in being able to locate other funding and supporting them in applying for future bids.

a) Gloucestershire Health Overview Scrutiny Committee

There was no report for Committee and therefore no questions.

b) Covid-19 Engagement Board

The Member report had been circulated prior to Committee. There were no questions.

c) Museum in the Park (Cowle Trust)

The Member report had been circulated prior to Committee. There were no questions.

d) Police and Crime Panel

Councillor Tucker commented that under the 'other main topics', the second sentence that referenced 'the 12 Police' was not complete and appeared to be missing.

e) Citizens Advice

The Member report had been circulated prior to Committee. There were no questions.

f) Mental Health Champions

The Member report had been circulated prior to Committee. There were no questions.

g) Performance Monitoring

The Chair, Councillor Brine, asked members if they understood the new format. Councillor Aldam confirmed she was interested in supporting Councillor Job and Prenter in Performance Monitoring if the timings of meetings had scope to facilitate her attendance.

h) Woodchester Park Mansion

Councillor Robinson advised Committee that the Trustee's at Woodchester Park Mansion would welcome a visit from as many Councillors interested in attending and to host a future Community Services and Licensing Committee.

i) Stroud Arts Festival Limited

Councillor Aldam advised Committee that the charity was set up to promote and support all different types of artistic activities throughout the Stroud District since 1946. To celebrate the charities 75th anniversary, the charity held a world-class series concert in 2021-22 in addition to the arts exhibition across the Stroud Subscription Rooms, Lansdown Hall and St Lawrence Church in which 1,300 attended.

The aims and objectives of the charity were to encourage and promote participation through live events and workshops, inspire and encourage home grown talent through grants and sponsorships and introduce children/young people to the arts through free entry to under 18s.

In October 2022 a 5-day festival was being held which would include an Opera from Hewletts Opera, a classical music concert, visual artistic exhibition, theatre performance, silent film screening, concert for young children with live music and illustrations, sponsoring a large scale local education project on a theme of connections about the sounds of machinery mills/trains/canals and a potential Special Education Needs event.

j) Health and Wellbeing - Physical and Mental Health Information Sheet

The Member report had been circulated prior to Committee. There were no questions.

k) Health and Wellbeing Information Sheet

The Member report had been circulated prior to Committee. There were no questions.

l) The Pulse Information Sheet

The Member report had been circulated prior to Committee. There were no questions.

m) Careline Information Sheet

The Member report had been circulated prior to Committee. There were no questions.

n) Neighbourhood Wardens Information Sheet

The Member report had been circulated prior to Committee. There were no questions.

o) Update on the LATC Progression Information Sheet

Councillor John Jones enquired what the LATC abbreviation was. The Chair, Councillor Brine advised it stood for Local Authority Trading Company.

q) Community Grants Information Sheet

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q) Customer Services Information Sheet

The Member report had been circulated prior to Committee. There were no questions.

CSLC.068 Member Questions

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Chair