

## **Communities Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting Held on Wednesday 16 November 2016**

**10:00am Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich**

### **Present:**

Mrs M Dewsbury - Chairman

Mr R Bearman

Mrs A Bradnock

Mrs J Brociek-Coulton

Mr J Childs

Mrs H Cox

Mr N Dixon

Mr D Harrison

Mr H Humphrey

Mr J Law

Mr W Northam

Mr M Sands

Mr N Shaw

Mr P Smyth

Mr J Ward

### **1. Apologies and substitutions**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Mr C Aldred (Mr R Parkinson-Hare substituted) and Ms.C Rumsby (Ms E Corlett substituted).

### **2. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2016.**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2016 were agreed as an accurate record by the Committee and signed by the Chair.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

### **4. Urgent business: Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service**

- 4.1 The Committee was informed of the interim arrangements that had been put in place following the departure from operational service of Roy Harold who had recently made the decision to retire as Chief Fire Officer. This matter was the subject of an email to Committee Members. The Chairman agreed that this matter should be taken as urgent business because the sudden nature of the decision had meant that some Members considered themselves unsighted about the future direction of the service.
- 4.2 The Committee was informed that the former Assistant Chief Fire Officer, David Ashworth, who was present in the meeting, had been appointed interim Chief Fire Officer until June 2017. At the Committee's request, a briefing note about the

temporary arrangements, would be presented to the next Spokespersons meeting.

## **5. Public Question Time**

5.1 There were no public questions received.

## **6. Local Member Issues / Members Questions**

6.1 There were no Local Member Issues / Members Questions

## **7 Public Health Members Working Group**

7.1 The annexed report (7) of the Public Health Members Working Group was received.

7.2 Mr Richard Bearman, Chair of the Public Health Members Working Group, introduced the findings from the Working Group and explained how they could directly impact on the development of a new public health strategy. In introducing the report Mr Bearman placed on record his thanks to the members and officers who had taken part in the work of the group.

7.3 During discussion the following issues were noted:

- The Public Health Strategy set out the Council's responsibilities and priorities in commissioning public health services. The strategy recognised the importance of working closely with other council services and with key stakeholders including the Tobacco Control Alliance.
- The Working Group had examined what work was needed to raise awareness of foetal alcohol syndrome. The Public Health Strategy would include examples of the actions and initiatives that were being taken to address this issue.
- The Working Group had chosen not to examine the issue of designating specific safe environments for the injecting use of illicit drugs.
- The public had a misunderstanding of measurements of alcohol that made it harder to understand the harm that was caused by alcohol misuse.
- The Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan that was currently being prepared with partner organisations would be presented to the Committee in January 2017.
- The Public Health Strategy would be formally reviewed midway through the implementation.

## **7.4 RESOLVED**

- a. **That the Committee support the findings contained in the report and in Appendix A to the report.**
- b. **That the recommendations from the Working Group detailed at paragraph 1 of the report are incorporated into the Public Health Strategy 2016- 2020.**
- c. **That Public Health is included in the Member Development Programme for May 2017.**

**d. That a revised Local Member protocol related to public health is incorporated into the Council constitution.**

**8 Public Health Strategy 2016 – 2020**

- 8.1 The annexed report (8) by the Director of Public Health was received.
- 8.2 The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation and a report by the Director of Public Health about the enormity of the issues facing public health and how the Public Health Strategy for 2016 – 2020 was developed in conjunction with elected members who had participated in the Members Working Group.
- 8.3 The Committee discussed the County Council's statutory duty to coordinate actions to improve the health of Norfolk residents, to protect residents from potential health risks and commission a range of services that reduced inequalities across the population of Norfolk. The Committee also discussed the wider importance of public health in light of the NHS Sustainable Transformation Plan and cuts to the public health budget.

**8.4 RESOLVED**

**That the Committee agree the Public Health Strategy as set out at Appendix A to the report.**

**9 Progress made in Norfolk Community Learning Services (NCLS)**

- 9.1 The annexed report (9) by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services was received.
- 9.2 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services that updated Members on plans to improve further the NCLS and to reach a Grade 1 (Outstanding) rating by July 2018, following a recent Ofsted inspection where the services were rated as 'Good'.
- 9.3 The Committee was informed that the year-end retention rates for accredited programmes (Education and Training learners) had significantly improved over 2014-15. Also, the level of learner satisfaction with the NCLS was now at 93.1%, the highest level for any community learning service in the country. A positive Ofsted grade and continued strong partnership working meant that the service remained the second chance provider of choice in Norfolk. The NCLS had taken steps to prioritise the development of learners' English and mathematics skills, which were now being developed effectively. The NCLS had also taken steps to expand the choice of LeisureStream provision and increase income generation. These improvements meant that the NCLS was on track to achieve a grade 1 Ofsted rating by July 2018.

**9.4 RESOLVED**

**That the Committee approve the further improvement and development of NCLS as Norfolk's provider of 'second chance', employment/skills and**

leisure learning through:

- a. Completing all post Ofsted actions as set out in the service's current Quality Improvement Plan.
- b. Fully implementing the new structure and operating model for the service.
- c. Improving performance against key objectives including increasing numbers of learners from disadvantaged communities, achieving income targets for self-funded ('Leisure Stream') provision and increasing the number and quality of apprenticeships across Norfolk.
- d. Developing locality-based Community Learning Partnerships for implementation of the citizens' curriculum for empowering the most disadvantaged communities.
- e. Establishing more systematic partnerships and programmes with NCC service teams for delivering on the priorities of the County Council plan 2016-19.

**10 Norfolk Library and Information Service : Estimating the value of libraries**

10.1 The annexed report (10) by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services was received.

10.2 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services that looked at the impact of library staff on individuals and communities.

10.3 The Committee discussed how Library staff played an important role in supporting customers to make best use of services by helping them access information, to learn digital skills and by encouraging literacy for people of all ages. Members recognised that there was little hard evidence to show the social value of investment in libraries and in library staff. There were, however, considered to be a number of good examples within the report of where the service delivered significant community benefits beyond the core Library and Information Service functions.

10.4 The Committee discussed the potential use of capital funding for introducing self-service access to a larger number of Norfolk libraries that would be made available to the Service in 2017/18 on an 'invest to save' basis and the staffing reduction that would be made from April 2018, to deliver the planned saving of £0.622m in 2018/19, and asked for a further report to the January meeting on this matter.

**10.5 RESOLVED**

**That the Committee note the impact that library staff have in supporting Communities and ask for a further report to be presented to the next meeting.**

**11 NLIS : Update on Police Information Service at Thetford and Gorleston**

## **Libraries**

- 11.1 The annexed report (11) by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services was received.
- 11.2 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services that provided an update on the pilot project between Norfolk Constabulary and Norfolk Library and Information Service to offer a Police Information Service at Gorleston and Thetford Libraries.
- 11.3 The Committee was informed of a low public take up in the police information offer at Gorleston and Thetford libraries. At the request of the Police, the pilot was due to finish on 1 January 2017 (and not the end of March 2017 as had previously been planned). The findings would be collated and provided to the Committee in due course.

### **11.4 RESOLVED**

**That the Committee note the progress after the first month of operation of the pilot.**

## **12 Norfolk Prevent Strategy 2016-19**

- 12.1 The annexed report (12) by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services was received.
- 12.2 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services that provided an update on Norfolk County Council's responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, progress so far achieved and issues to be addressed.
- 12.3 The Committee noted the work that was being done to engage local communities with Prevent and the relevance of the Prevent Strategy to the work that was being done with regard to the Council meetings its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation.

### **12.4 RESOLVED**

**That the Committee**

- a. Note the actions taken so far and issues to be addressed.**
- b. Note, the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) agreed strategy will be used as a basis to establish Norfolk County Council's implementation plan.**
- c. Nominate the Chair, Vice Chair and Group Spokes of Communities. Committee to attend Norfolk's next Counter-Terrorism Local Profile briefing, to ensure there is a sound understanding of terrorism-related threats, risks and vulnerabilities for the area as detailed in Paragraph 16 of the report.**
- d. Ask for a further update report on this matter in the New Year.**

13      **Risk management**

13.1      The annexed report (13) by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services was received.

13.2      The Committee received a report by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services that included the latest Communities Risk Register as at the beginning of November 2016, following the latest review conducted during October 2016.

13.3      **RESOLVED**

**That the Committee:**

- a. consider the mitigating actions identified in Appendix A of the report to be appropriate**
- b. agree to the suggested approach with regard to Risk Management improvement actions that are set out in Appendix C to the report**
- c. note the definitions of risk appetite and tolerance set out in paragraph 2.6 of the report.**

14      **Performance Management**

14.1      The annexed report (14) by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services was received.

14.2      The Committee received a report by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services that was the fourth performance management report to the Committee to be based upon the revised Performance Management System implemented on 1 April 2016.

14.3      During consideration of this item, the Committee welcomed the work that the Interim Chief Fire Officer had planned for a recruitment exercise in April 2017 to increase the numbers of retained firefighters.

14.5      **RESOLVED**

**That the Committee note the performance data, information and analysis presented in the vital sign report cards and agree that the recommended actions identified in the report are appropriate.**

15      **Finance Monitoring**

15.1      The annexed report (15) by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services was received.

15.2      The Committee received a report by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services that provided information on the latest budget position for 2016-17. It provided information on any forecast over and underspends and the forecast use of reserves.

15.3 During consideration of this item, Members spoke about how they considered flood response capability to be of more importance to the wider community than the work of the underwater search and rescue service. The underwater search and rescue service was of particular relevance to the work of the Police, especially in relation to the recovery of dead bodies and of the gathering of evidence of loss of life.

15.4 **RESOLVED**

**That the Committee note:**

- a. **The revenue budget for 2016-17.**
- b. **The current risks being managed by Services.**
- c. **The capital budget for the 2016-17 capital programme.**
- d. **The balance and current forecast of reserves as shown in section 4 of the report and that if proposals for any further use of reserves in 2016-17 will be highlighted to this committee if the resulting forecast level of reserves falls below the 31 March 2017 balances anticipated at the time the budget was set.**
- e. **Members are asked to approve the current Public Health savings plan as set out in Appendix A to the report.**

16 **Update on key service issues and activities (including decisions taken under delegated authority).**

16.1 The annexed report (16) by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services was received.

16.2 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services that provided regular information about key service issues and activities and informed Members of a decision taken under delegated powers by the Executive Director within the Terms of Reference of this Committee.

16.3 **RESOLVED**

**That the Committee note:**

- a. **the latest service update at Appendix A to the report.**
- b. **the delegated decision set out in section 2 of the report.**

**The meeting concluded at 1 pm**

**Chairman**