

**Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Leisure and
Community held on 2 March 2016 from
7:00 p.m. to 8:07 p.m.**

Present: Jacqui Landriani (Chairman)
Mandy Thomas-Atkin (Vice Chairman)

Margaret Belsey	Cherry Catharine	Chris King
Liz Bennett	Sandy Ellis	Anthea Lea
Anne Boutrup	Colin Holden	Howard Muddin
Pete Bradbury*	Anne Jones MBE	Kirsty Page
		Dick Sweatman

* Absent

Also Present (as an appointed substitute): Councillor Ruth de Mierre.

Also Present: Councillors Edward Belsey, Mockford, Moore and Webster.

**33. SUBSTITUTES AT MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE – COUNCIL PROCEDURE
RULE 4**

The Committee noted that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Councillor Ruth de Mierre had replaced Councillor Pete Bradbury for the duration of the meeting.

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Pete Bradbury.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Jacqui Landriani and Cherry Catharine declared personal interests in agenda item 6 – Mid Sussex Wellbeing Service as they are current users of the service.

36. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 February 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37. MID SUSSEX WELLBEING SERVICE

Judy Holmes, the Assistant Chief Executive, introduced the report and provided an update on the financial constraints affecting the future of the service. She advised that due to national funding cuts, West Sussex County Council has asked the Council to remodel the service, and this Council has submitted a business case based on a 10% reduction in funding. There will be three months notice before any changes are enacted and the Assistant Chief Executive said that there was no certainty for the future of this successful service.

Liz Carter, Mid Sussex Wellbeing Manager, provided an overview of the service in 2015/16. There had been an increase in referrals from health professionals and the service had been able to expand to provide a diabetes prevention programme and to

support the local Dementia Friendly Initiative. She advised that the Mid Sussex Family Alcohol Service will not be re let and the Adult Weight Management Service would be provided in house. It is proposed that, subject to funding, the following services would be re-commissioned:

- Back to Exercise programme
- Falls Prevention
- Wellbeing Coaches

Several Members expressed their gratitude to officers for providing an outstanding service and that the Council should be proud of the results it has achieved.

In response to Member's queries about alternative funding streams for the service, the Assistant Chief Executive advised that it would be difficult to justify allocating funding from the Council's own revenue to fund this service. She confirmed that the Council had agreed to allocate £50,000 for schemes to protect vulnerable families. The Wellbeing Manager advised that Wellbeing Hubs were in discussion with CCGs about the potential of them providing funding for these services but this was still in early stages and would not be viable for 2016/17.

One Member asked about the value for money of the Back to Exercise programme provided by Albion in the Community and how the Council ensures people continue to exercise after three months. The Wellbeing Manager said that there had been a competitive tender process to secure the contract. Participants are supported to keep exercising either through joining a local club or becoming a member of the leisure centre.

Another Member asked if the revenue generated from these Back to Exercise courses could be used to fund other services. The Wellbeing Manager explained that the model for the scheme was that Albion in the Community source private instructors to run the courses, once the programme ends participants can enter into a private arrangement with the instructors to make the courses self sustaining.

A Member sought clarification on several points in the report. The Wellbeing Manager clarified that the additional commissioned services were the ones outlined in paragraph 22 of the report and that the Care Co-ordinators referred to in the report are employed by the CCG.

In reply to a question, Mark Fisher, Head of Leisure and Sustainability, confirmed that any boot camp courses or personal trainers using the Council's outdoor equipment pay a small fee.

The Chairman added her thanks to officers for their continued professionalism and providing a valued service for residents which affects long term change. As there were no further comments, she took Members to the recommendation which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Committee endorsed the proposed approach for the continued delivery of the Wellbeing Service for 2016/17.

38. REVIEW OF THE HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME

Lynne Standing, the Head of Housing, Environmental Health and Building Control introduced the report and advised that there were a few amendments to the Housing Allocation Scheme. She advised that the purpose of the Right to Move policy is to exempt social housing tenants from the local connection clause if they need to move for work purposes. The other main amendment relates to allocation of ground floor and lift-access accommodation.

The Chairman advised Members to restrict the debate to the changes in the policy which are highlighted in yellow.

One Member asked a series of detailed questions around the Right to Move 1% quota. The Head of Housing, Environmental Health and Building Control advised that the Council would review the 1% quota in light of experience and that housing would not be kept empty for this purpose. She confirmed that bidders will no longer be able to bid for properties larger than their needs except in the case of sheltered accommodation when there are 2 bedroom properties available to let and, by the nature of sheltered housing, lettings are restricted to older single people or couples.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Community advised Members that the Council has to respond to national legislation when needed and that careful consideration is taken of the impact on residents. He said that the changes reflect the best use of the limited housing stock available.

As there were no further questions, the Chairman took Members to the recommendation which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Committee endorsed to Full Council the revised Housing Allocation Scheme at Appendix 1 to take effect from April 2016.

39. PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY MONITORING REPORT

Mark Fisher, the Head of Leisure and Sustainability introduced the report which was an update on the Playing Pitch Strategy which had been agreed by this Council in February 2015. He advised that good progress had been made in delivering quality sports pitches across the district. The delivery of projects would be prioritised in accordance with the criteria set out in the strategy such as existing provision, local demand and availability of funding.

One Member asked for an update on the planning application submitted for St Francis Sports Ground, Haywards Heath. Simon Hardy, the Business Unit Leader for Community Services and Culture advised that there were still discussions taking place around land ownership and access but that it was expected that a planning application would shortly be submitted.

Another Member asked about the allocation of £50,000 in the Medium Term Financial Plan for drainage improvements and whether the rent of hiring out existing pitches could be used to purchase ATPs.

The Head of Leisure and Sustainability confirmed that the £50,000 allocated for 2016/17 will go towards increasing the longevity of the pitches but maintenance

during the winter months and heavy rainfall continues to be challenging for contractors. It is hoped that a proactive drainage scheme will add further stability.

The Business Unit Leader for Community Services and Culture acknowledged that it was important to invest in ATPs, particularly for the three towns however, the biggest difficulty with ATPs was security. Therefore the best option was to work with local clubs to promote options to secure ATPs through use of s106 monies.

In response to a Member's comment, the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Sustainability said that due to prudent fiscal management by the Council over the previous 6 years they were now able to invest in sports pavilions and maintenance of shared playing pitches. She advised it was challenging to keep the pitches in good quality but thanked the Council's contractor for the hard work they do. She concluded that it was often a case of balancing provision between existing pitches and the expense of providing new ones.

As there were no further comments, the Chairman took Members to the recommendation which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the contents of the report.

40. REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT

The Head of Leisure and Sustainability introduced the report which would be one of a series of updates the Committee would receive over the following months. The report focused on current performance and possible future service options. The Head of Service thanked Members for their attendance at the recent training event and visits.

Several Members expressed their thanks to officers for organising the recent trips and stated how informative they had found them.

David Harper, the Business Unit Leader for Waste and Outdoor Services, provided an update on the current project rollout and explained that there has been a marked increase in the quality of recyclate being sent to the MRF plant at Ford but that it was important to increase education.

One Member asked about the use of plastic bags and that people are purposely buying supermarket carrier bags to deal with their rubbish. The Business Unit Leader for Waste and Outdoor Services acknowledged that it was worrying that this was continuing as they are a contaminant at the MRF plant and that this continued to be a big problem.

Another Member asked about road sweeping and how the Council can let residents know when a sweep will be done. The Business Unit Leader for Waste and Outdoor Services advised that wherever possible Serco will do a targeted letter drop to a residential area to advise them when a road sweep will take place. However, there are some instances when an immediate road sweep is required for Health and Safety reasons.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Sustainability thanked Members for their attendance on the recent visits. She stated that this was a core service for residents and was grateful for the hard work of officers and the contractor Serco to deliver such a good service.

As there were no further comments, the Chairman took Members to the recommendation which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the contents of the report.

41. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LEISURE AND COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

The Chairman advised that the report showed the provisional work programme for 2016/17 but that some items might be moved to other meetings closer to the time.

In response to a question, the Head of Housing, Environmental Health and Building Control advised that the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy had been established 5 years earlier to comply with Government legislation and that this was a scheduled review of the policy.

As there were no further questions, the Chairman took Members to the recommendation which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the Committee's Work Programme as set out in the report.

Chairman