

Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee

Meeting held 13 June 2022

PRESENT: Councillors Richard Williams (Chair), Paul Wood (Deputy Chair), Sue Alston, Tony Downing, Marieanne Elliot, Alan Hooper, Bernard Little, Karen McGowan and Peter Price

1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the housekeeping.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 An apology for absence was received from Dawn Shaw, Director of Libraries, Learning, Skills and Communities.

3. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

3.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 There were no formal declarations of interest made at the meeting.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 The following petitions and questions were received and responses were provided.

5.2 A question was received from Janine Lawson:

“We have only just become aware that the first meeting of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee is tomorrow (2pm). This means our public question is late. However, we would be extremely grateful if, as an exception, the committee could consider our urgent public question. We realise it will be the only opportunity we have to raise it before Tramlines this summer. We thank you in advance for this. (We are writing to you as Chair and have copied the Deputy Chair, Green group spokesperson, Cllr Bernard Little from the Central LAC, plus our own councillors)

Our question is about Tramlines and securing the best arrangements with local residents and businesses for the most successful possible event. You may be aware that improving understanding and practical arrangements between festival organisers and the local Hillsborough community is a long-standing concern. A number of different local people and groups have made considerable efforts to secure better relationships and improvements in

arrangements for tramlines this year. We have been making little headway overall - for example, being given blanket general reasons why things can't happen. We feel sure that improved arrangements can be put in place to ensure tramlines is successful for all, and based on the learning from previous years.

So, and as a matter of urgency, how can this committee help Hillsborough residents and local businesses secure improved arrangements for this summer's Tramlines festival - in particular, over the issues of festival re-entry for local residents and helping ensure the local community and businesses are better considered over the festival period? We are looking to make sure there are specific and practical improvements on last year that can be agreed and implemented.

We would suggest that re-entry be allowed until 4pm which would negate any concerns that the Safety Advisory Committee have surrounding anti-social behaviour whilst allowing businesses to benefit from the festival and families to enjoy the event.

We would further like to request that an urgent meeting be convened to discuss the matter given the limited time scales available.

I look forward to hearing from you".

The Chair noted the question and explained that a written response would be given as soon as possible.

6. COMMUNITIES, PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

6.1 The Executive Director of People Services Portfolio introduced this item to give a brief introduction. The Head of Communities and Head of Parks and Countryside gave a presentation which included information on:

- Purpose
- Service Structure
- Key Achievements
- Community Services
- Family Hub
- Community Cohesion
- Asylum Migration
- Page Hall
- Voluntary Sector Liaison Team
- Community Safety
- Local Area Committee Support
- Youth Services
- Parks and Countryside
- Coronial & Bereavement Services
- Sports, Leisure and Health
- Libraries

- Business Improvement

Members of the Committee asked questions and responses were provided by Lorraine Wood and Ruth Bell surrounding youth service recruitment, grant aid, LAC teams of staff, funding, nature emergency, marble memorial, club structures, pavilion conditions, off road vehicles in park areas and disabled access.

The Committee noted the presentation.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 The Executive Director of People Services portfolio presented the Work Programme and informed Committee that it would develop further over the summer. It was explained that it would be a standing item on the Policy Committee agendas and could therefore be shaped through conversations. It was highlighted that there were proposed items for the September meeting. Members raised points and asked questions. The following responses were given:

- Each Policy Committee meeting would have a forward plan as a standing item to discuss existing and proposed items.
- Ruth Bell agreed to find out if there was a proposal to bid for Sport England money.
- It was clarified that the pre-agenda meetings are a good forum for discussion around adding items onto future work programmes.
- In relation to the Induction Programme detailed in 2.2 of the report, John Macilwraith agreed to find out about the start date and report back to the Chair.

8. FEE INCREASES FOR BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

8.1 The Service Manager for Coronial and Bereavement Services presented the report which provided the Committee with an overview of the bereavement services fee increase.

The report sought approval for the proposed fee increase for Bereavement Services in 2022-23, outlining that Bereavement services proposes to increase fees by 4% for burials, cremations, and memorials (rounded up to the nearest £5), with some exceptions as outlined in the report. Fees are rounded to keep prices straight forward and a cap of 5% has been applied to ensure no item is disproportionately affected.

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee agrees a general 4% increase (rounded up to the nearest £5 and capped at 5%) to Bereavement Services fees and charges, alongside the specific changes listed in the report.

8.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 8.3.1 Raising fees as outlined is recommended to offset additional costs caused by significant rises in inflation and the cost of living, notably on items such as gas, fuel, machinery and supplies.

8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 8.4.1 Increasing fees by 2% would not generate the additional income required to respond to budget challenges and would require a reduction in the quality of services provided.

9. **PARKWOOD SPRINGS LEASE UPDATE**

- 9.1 The Chair clarified to the Committee that the purpose of the report was to provide an update only.

- 9.2 The Head of Parks and Countryside presented the report which provided the Committee with an update and overview on the Parkwood Springs project. Details and features of the park were explained, as was the intended use. The places to ride project was explained and the link with mountain bike trails. The intended improvement for facilities was also explained. It was pointed out that Sport England were being worked closely, particularly around funding and legalities. Current and future plans were outlined.

- 9.3 Members raised points and questions and responses were provided around:

- The arrangement of site visits and an active and productive friends group.
- The ongoing work with the ski slope.
- Wetland and its attraction for different species.
- Mountain bike provision and car parking access.

- 9.4 The Committee noted the report.

10. **APPLICATION FOR TRAILBLAZER STATUS FOR NEW PROGRAMME FUNDING**

- 10.1 The head of communities presented the report which provided the Committee with an overview of the Council's desire to apply for trailblazer status. The report outlined that the status would boost the programme and development of Family Hubs and Start for Life Services in Sheffield, once again.

The report was to gain the approval for Sheffield to apply for TRAILBLAZER status in the upcoming new government funded programme. Details were provided regarding Family Hub & Start for Life programme. It was explained that at the autumn budget, the government committed £300 million for 75 upper-tier local authorities to deliver Family Hubs / Start for Life services over the next 3 financial years.

- 10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy

Committee gain approval for Sheffield to progress to the application stage for Trailblazer status. Key contacts from the Local Authority have been part of the focus group for information about trailblazers and Sheffield is seen as having positive outcomes with regards to family centres development, infant feeding support and parenting programmes across the city.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 Some additional funding in year one to enable rapid delivery on the menu of options for the funded services.
- 10.3.2 Join a network of England wide trailblazers where they can share learning and troubleshoot.
- 10.3.3 Be identified by central government as a national leader in the implementation of the programme.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 10.4.1 If the decision is not approved then Sheffield will receive allocated funding for the programme with no enhanced opportunities for the communities and the city

11. MONTH 1 MONITORING, FINANCIAL POSITION AND BUDGET TIMETABLE

- 11.1 The Director of Finance and Commercial Services presented the report which brought the Committee up to date with the Council's financial position as at Month 1, 2022/23. The report also sought the Committee's agreement to a proposed budget timetable for the development of the 2023/24 budget.

- 11.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:-

1. Note the Council's challenging financial position and the Month 1 position.

2. Note the budget timetable set out in this report including the requirement for the Committee to plan to develop budget proposals over the course of the summer.
3. Note that the Strategy and Resources Committee was recommended at its 31 May 2022 meeting to “require any Policy Committee that is forecasting an overspend on their budget to develop an action plan to address the overspend in-year and ask the Finance Sub-Committee to monitor both the development of any required action plans and delivery against them”.
4. Continue closely to manage and monitor expenditure in line with budget expectations and ensure forecasts represent current financial conditions.
5. Ensure that the spend in the community response team that is unfunded for 23/24 is managed with this in mind.
6. Reaffirms the approach approved by the FC on 1st June 2022, that to act as a balance to the Corporate Risk Register, there should be a Corporate Opportunities Register, detailing new funding opportunities, partnership opportunities and initiatives that will help deliver the Council's objectives, such as supporting those affected by the cost of living crisis.

11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 11.3.1 By the law the Council must set and deliver a balanced budget, which is a financial plan based on sound assumptions which shows how income will equal spend over the short- and medium-term. This can take into account deliverable cost savings and/or local income growth strategies Page 54 Page 11 of 11 as well as useable reserves.

11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 11.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balance budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced. No other alternatives were considered.