

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2016

Present:

Councillor Rawlins - In the Chair

Councillors Ahmed Ali, Alijah, Cooley, Fletcher- Hackwood, Grimshaw and Knowles

Councillor S Murphy, Deputy Leader

Councillor N Murphy, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Culture and Leisure

Rebecca Livesey, Eastlands Trust

Andy King, Greenwich Leisure Limited

Apologies: Councillors Cookson, Evans, Hassan, Madeleine Monaghan and Sharif Mahamed

CESC/16/34 Minutes

Decision:

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2016 as a correct record.

CESC/16/35 Sport and Leisure

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Growth and Neighbourhoods) which provided an update on the work of Sport and Leisure Services and its contracted partners with regards to sport and physical activity participation and community outreach work. It provided the background and context towards the development of a new Sport and Physical Activity strategy. It also set out the work taking place which would inform the Leisure Centre contracting arrangements beyond 2018. The Committee welcomed Rebecca Livesey from Eastlands Trust and Andy King from Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL). The Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure and Events) introduced the report across its main themes.

Ms Livesey reported that the past two years had been a period of significant change for Eastlands Trust. She advised that they had taken on responsibility for a number of new build facilities which had presented both challenges and opportunities but that they were meeting or exceeding all the growth targets that they had set for the year.

Mr King reported that this had also been a challenging period for GLL but that their statistics showed year on year growth in participation. He advised that they hoped to obtain a longer-term contract with the Council which would enable them to invest more and to develop links with Health. In response to a member's question, he also outlined how the company received and responded to customer feedback.

In response to a member's question, the Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure and Events) reported that figures were available on the age, gender and ethnicity of service users

but that this data was only available for approximately 40% of customers, predominantly those who were members of a gym or had signed up for lessons or a coaching programme. He advised that the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure was chairing a working group to improve access to culture and leisure services for different groups of people and that this work would include consideration of how data capture could be improved.

The Committee discussed how participation of different groups of people, including women, older people and homeless people, could be improved. A member advised that sport and leisure could support social inclusion by bringing groups together. Mr King reported that GLL was a social enterprise which had a Community Development Plan, developed in consultation with the Council. He advised that the plan had key performance indicators (KPI) and the outcomes were monitored and that he could provide further information to a future meeting. The Chair asked whether future procurement for services could embed accessibility for all and recording of equality data for service users into the contract. The Executive Member for Culture and Leisure assured members that this was embedded into the procurement process.

A member requested further information on how sports and leisure services engaged with older people. The Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure and Events) reported that free swimming had been provided for people aged over 60 and that specific measures and targets had been incorporated into the contracts for both Eastlands Trust and Greenwich Leisure Limited.

A member asked how the Council would engage with people who were currently less physically active in the consultation on the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. The Sport and Leisure Lead advised that the Council would use a similar approach to that used for the consultations on the Parks Strategy and the Budget to reach people who did not usually engage, including working with organisations which had links with these groups of people.

In response to a member's question, the Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure and Events) praised the work with community groups on Withington Baths and Broadway Leisure Centre, advising that this was aligned to the Our Manchester principles. He advised that the Council had learnt that different management models were needed for different leisure facilities and that, for some smaller facilities, it was appropriate for them to be run by community groups.

The Chair requested that officers undertake a piece of work to map the providers' Community Development Plans against the Our Manchester Strategy and all the Equality Strands, including engagement with Age Friendly Manchester and the All-Age Disability Strategy. She requested that they then provide a report on this to a future meeting, to include case studies.

Decision

To ask officers to undertake a piece of work to map the providers' Community Development Plans against the Our Manchester Strategy and all the Equality Strands, including engagement with Age Friendly Manchester and the All-Age Disability Strategy. To receive a report on this at a future meeting, to include case

studies.

[Councillor Alijah declared a personal interest as the Chair of the Hideaway Youth Project.]

[Councillor Fletcher-Hackwood declared a personal interest as a member of the Joint Management Committee of Platt Lane Sports Complex.]

CESC/16/36 Budget Process 2017-2020: Consideration of Options and Further Information

The Committee received a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and the City Treasurer. The report set out the financial considerations, the current forecast position and savings options for the period to 2019/20. The Committee was asked to use the information provided to identify which, if any, of the options put forward fall into either of the following categories: A: Options which should only be considered by the Executive if the overall level of savings required exceeds £40m or B: Options which should only be considered by the Executive if the level of savings required means that all options have to be taken forward, and no alternative savings can be found. The report was accompanied by a number of appendices including the Directorate Budget Report and briefing notes containing the additional information requested by the Committee at its November meeting. The Director of Neighbourhoods introduced the report across its main themes.

The Chair recommended that the Committee support the following Improvement and Efficiency Savings Options for Parks, Leisure and Events, to which members agreed:

- Further reduce costs of indoor leisure through re-commissioning of contracts
- Energy improvements on leisure buildings (any savings will accrue to the leisure contract)
- Wythenshawe Forum Trust (efficiencies from sharing back office functions)
- Co-commissioning leisure services across Greater Manchester (including looking at ways in which 12 leisure operators across Greater Manchester can collaborate more effectively)

A member who was also the Lead Member for Age Friendly Manchester reported that she had received representations from a number of individuals regarding the budget savings option for bowling greens. She advised that, while this option did not fall within the Committee's remit, it did have an impact on older people and the bowling greens were important in reducing social isolation and keeping people healthy. The Director of Neighbourhoods reported that this had been discussed at Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee and, if this was taken forward as a proposal, the Council would have detailed discussions with bowling groups on finding alternative options for their grounds maintenance.

In response to a member's request for further information on the response to the consultation, the Deputy Leader reported that the Council had had a good response so far through a range of methods. She encouraged the public to respond to the ongoing consultation.

The Committee discussed the options relating to service reductions in Parks, Leisure

and Events. In response to members' suggestions that the Council seek greater sponsorship for events, the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure reported that the Council already sought and obtained commercial sponsorship for events and that he did not think that much additional sponsorship could be achieved.

The Committee recommended that the Executive consider the following Service Reduction Options for Parks, Leisure and Events if the overall level of savings required exceeds £40m:

- 10% reduction in partner funding across all areas of events or ceasing 4 to 5 events
- Revised client function arrangements for the Community Leisure operation at Wythenshawe Forum
- Festive Lights - reduce scale by 50%
- Santa - install elsewhere in the city estimate if installed at lower height
- Santa - do not install at all in the city centre (in addition to above)

The Committee discussed the budget savings option to reduce Neighbourhood Investment Funding (NIF) budgets from £20,000 per ward to £10,000 per ward. A member reported that, previously, the funding allocation per ward had been based on levels of deprivation, rather than the same amount being allocated to each ward. She recommended that officers consider whether this approach should be used in future. A member acknowledged that, due to budget cuts, savings were needed but recommended that a smaller reduction to the NIF be considered. The Chair commented that community groups should be advised how to seek funding from other sources, as they could not rely on ongoing NIF funding. The Committee agreed that officers continue to progress the option to reduce NIF budgets but to recommend that they consider a smaller reduction. Members further requested that the criteria and its application be reviewed and that consideration be given to how the funding is divided between wards, for example, whether the amount of funding should be linked to levels of deprivation.

Decisions

1. To support the following Improvement and Efficiency Savings Options for Parks, Leisure and Events:

- Further reduce costs of indoor leisure through re-commissioning of contracts
- Energy improvements on leisure buildings (any savings will accrue to the leisure contract)
- Wythenshawe Forum Trust (efficiencies from sharing back office functions)
- Co-commissioning leisure services across Greater Manchester (including looking at ways in which 12 leisure operators across Greater Manchester can collaborate more effectively)

2. To recommend that the Executive consider the following Service Reduction Options for Parks, Leisure and Events if the overall level of savings required exceeds £40m:

- 10% reduction in partner funding across all areas of events or ceasing 4 to 5 events
- Revised client function arrangements for the Community Leisure operation at Wythenshawe Forum
- Festive Lights - reduce scale by 50%

- Santa - install elsewhere in the city estimate if installed at lower height
 - Santa - do not install at all in the city centre (in addition to above)
3. To agree that officers continue to progress the option to reduce Neighbourhood Investment Funding (NIF) budgets but to recommend that they consider a smaller reduction. To further request that the criteria and its application be reviewed and that consideration be given to how the funding is divided between wards, for example, whether the amount of funding should be linked to levels of deprivation.

CESC/16/37 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

The Committee received reports of the Deputy Leader and the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure which provided an overview of work undertaken and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in the Our Manchester strategy for those areas within their respective portfolios. The Deputy Leader and the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure introduced their reports and outlined the work they had been doing.

In response to a member's question, the Deputy Leader advised that, following the referendum on the UK's European Union (EU) membership, the city needed to do more itself to foster international relations, both business and social links, including sharing learning between European cities. She reported that the Council was considering its international links and the resources that could be used to support these. She welcomed a member's suggestion that this work include consideration of how members could facilitate these international relationships.

The Committee discussed the work that had taken place on the Our Manchester approach, including training sessions and events for staff, members and partners. A member advised that most residents were not aware of the Our Manchester approach and that more work was needed to engage with local people on this. The Deputy Leader advised that the Council was aiming to hold three 'Have Your Say' events in three different areas of the city by the end of March to receive initial feedback from residents and plan next steps. Members discussed how ward councillors could contribute to these events, for example, using their knowledge of people already working in a way which fitted in with the Our Manchester approach.

In response to a member's question, the Deputy Leader reported that there was a good voluntary and community sector (VCS) within Manchester which had a strong relationship with the Council. She advised that Macc and the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) were currently working on a State of the Sector report and that the Committee might want to consider this at a future meeting. A member recommended that volunteers be invited to Our Manchester events to talk about what they had done, advising that this would be a way of both recognising their contribution and providing real life examples to people in attendance. A member asked that the Committee consider how volunteers could be better engaged in the Committee's work when it had items relating to the VCS on its agenda.

Members discussed how the Council and its partners could engage with people who did not usually participate in Council events or respond to consultations, particularly some young people. The Deputy Leader praised the approach that had been taken to engage with people on the Family Poverty Strategy and outlined some of the

approaches taken. She advised that the Council needed to use more innovative approaches. The Executive Member for Culture and Leisure outlined how young people were engaged through the Youth Fund, the Youth Council and the Valuing Young People Board.

The Executive Member for Culture and Leisure outlined the work currently taking place to widen access and participation to culture and leisure within the city and, in response to a member's question, reported that this would include consideration of access for homeless people.

In response to a member's question, the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure reported that it was important to gain support from and work with GPs, the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the NHS on getting people more active as this would improve their health and well-being and reduce budget pressures on health services. He advised that some cities had demonstrated the benefits of promoting health and fitness and gained support from health organisations and that Manchester should pursue this. The Director of Neighbourhoods reported that the Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure and Events) was working with CCG colleagues on future leisure contracts, which might include, for example, prescriptions relating to leisure facilities.

The Chair recommended that the Committee receive update reports from the Deputy Leader and the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure at an appropriate time.

Decision

To receive update reports from the Deputy Leader and the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure at an appropriate time.

CESC/16/33 Overview Report

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report contained a list of key decisions yet to be taken within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to approve.

A member requested that the Committee receive a report on CityVerve, a programme aimed at building and delivering a smarter, more connected city through technology, and its community engagement programme. Another member requested that the report on Support Available to Asylum Seekers and Refugees scheduled for the February 2017 meeting include information on support for asylum seekers and refugees who were victims of domestic abuse. The Chair advised that she would discuss these issues with officers outside of the meeting and schedule them into the work programme, as appropriate.

Decision:

To approve the work programme, subject to the above comments.