

# **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

17 January 2020

The meeting commenced at 11.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor: John Tennant (In the Chair)

Councillors: Marjorie James, Sue Little and Amy Prince

**Also Present:**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher and Councillor Tony Richardson was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Lee Cartwright

Officers: Tony Hanson, Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **42. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Stephen Akers-Belcher and Lee Cartwright.

### **43. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **44. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2019**

Received.

**45. Opening Times of Water Play** (*Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To outline a proposal to extend the opening times of the water play areas on the Headland.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Committee was advised that the paddling pool in the Headland currently opened for six weeks a year to coincide with the summer school holidays. Seaton water play area opened in 2018 and was open from the start of the bathing water season 1 May until 30 September. Following a request from Members that the water play area opening times be extended, the feasibility of this request had been explored. This would require additional works to ensure that the systems were protected from frost, which could mean that the sites would not necessarily be open every day.

It was proposed that an alternative would be opening over Whit from the second May Bank Holiday including school half term, the benefits of which were set out in the report. Seaton play area was already open during this time and would therefore bring the Headland paddling pool in line with this. Members were referred to the risk, financial and staffing considerations of the proposals, as set out in the report.

During the lengthy discussion that followed a Member suggested that opening times for Seaton be extended until 31 October. The Assistant Director advised that the proposals for Seaton water play area remained unchanged and were currently operational from 1 May to 30 September, the reasons for which were outlined. It was also suggested that should the pilot be successful the feasibility of opening the Headland play area every weekend in line with Seaton opening times be explored. Further views were expressed in relation to the benefits of opening Seaton water play area during October and the Committee requested that a consultation exercise be undertaken across all Wards to seek input/views regarding the proposals/suggestions of Members to extend the opening of the Seaton water play area from 30 September to 31 October.

In relation to the recommendation that following completion of the pilot project, Members delegate the decision over its continuation to the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Chair of

Neighbourhood Services Committee, Members were of the view that decisions around the continuation of the scheme should be a Committee decision and requested that the outcome of the pilot project be reported as soon as possible to this Committee and include information around usage figures, the costs associated with extending the opening times of the Headland water play areas from May to end of September in line with Seaton opening hours including the feasibility of extending provision until the end of October.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the proposal to open the paddling pool in the Headland over the Whit period in May 2020, as a pilot project, be approved.
- (ii) That a consultation exercise be undertaken across all Wards to seek input/views regarding the proposals/suggestions of Members to extend the opening of the Seaton water play area from 30 September to 31 October.
- (iii) That the decision around continuation of the scheme be taken by the Neighbourhood Services Committee.
- (iv) That the outcome of the pilot project together with information around usage figures, costs of extending the opening times as well as the outcome of the consultation process be reported to this Committee as soon as possible.

## **46. National Lottery Heritage Fund: Seascape Bid** (Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)

### **Type of decision**

For information

### **Purpose of report**

To inform the Committee of a proposed National Lottery Heritage Fund Bid which will include the coastline of Hartlepool within the project boundary.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services presented the report which included background information to the work of Durham Heritage Coast Partnership. The project aimed to better protect and celebrate the heritage-rich and distinctive coastline. The Seascapes

Partnership was seeking to secure £5m of funding to enable this area's distinctive combination of natural, industrial and cultural heritage to be conserved, enhanced and celebrated, the benefits of which were included in the report.

The activities for the projects spanned four themes, SeaScape Over Time, Revealing Hidden Heritage, Accessing the Sea and Blue Future, details of which were provided. The project would be delivered by a team of seven officers hosted by five organisations.

In relation to the defence structures and coastal bombardments referred to in the SeaScape Over Time project, as set out in the report, a Member referred to any war related buildings along the coastal stretch and the potential need to undertake a review/audit of any repairs and maintenance to enable safe access for local people and visitors which the Assistant Director agreed to feed into the SeaScape Partnership.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the SeaScape Project application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund be noted.
- (ii) That the comments raised in relation to repairs/maintenance to enable safe access for local people and visitors be conveyed to the SeaScape Partnership.

## **47. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

The Chairman ruled that the following item of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

## **48. Any Other Business – Dog Fouling Patrols**

An update was requested in relation to progress made following a question raised at the October meeting of Council when it was agreed that the costs and delivery of two separate enforcement team's in relation to dog fouling and littering, as part of this year's budget, be explored and be reported to this Committee. The Committee requested that a report be submitted to this Committee prior to the end of the current municipal year.

**Decision**

That a report be provided to this Committee, prior to the end of the current municipal year, in relation to the costs and delivery of two separate enforcement team's in relation to dog fouling and littering.

**49. Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair reported that the next meeting would be held on Friday 21 February 2020 at 1.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 am.

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 24 JANUARY 2020**