

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

17 FEBRUARY 2022

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Tim Fleming (In the Chair)

Councillors: Gordon Cranney, Angela Falconer, Sue Little, Darren Price and Carl Richardson.

Also present: Councillor Rachel Creevy as substitute for Councillor Amy Prince in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.
Frank Harrison.
Monica Vaughan.

Officers: Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services
Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning
Ian Gardiner, Head of Leisure, Recreation and Participation
Sarah Scarr, Heritage and Countryside Manager
Julian Heward, Communications and Marketing Team
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

25. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Amy Prince.

26. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Carl Richardson and Rachel Creevy declared personal interests.

27. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2021

Received.

28. Public Question

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services indicated that a public question had been submitted by Ms Monica Vaughan to Council on 16 December 2021. The Managing Director had subsequently determined that the question would be most appropriately dealt with at a meeting of this Committee. The question was –

“The request is to have a full audit of the sports clubs, sports hall and playing fields so that HBC can put together an informed sports strategy taking into account the aspirations of the clubs who use these facilities. I’ve spoken to a few clubs and all thought the new facility was going to have a sports hall and are disappointed that this is not the case. There is also concern that there are no expansion opportunities on the new site.

A number of clubs go out of the area to compete and to set up major competitions as there are no facilities in town. So Hartlepool is not only missing out on revenue for sports hall hire it is missing out on hospitality income for hotels, restaurant and bars.

An audit of the facilities and the sports club is required to fully understand the sporting picture in Hartlepool and the challenges they face when trying to book facilities in town.”

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services responded in the following terms.

Hartlepool Borough Council adopted a Playing Pitch and Indoor Facility Strategy 2019 – 2024 which was agreed by the Adult and Community Based Services Committee in July 2019.

The assessment of facilities and strategic context was produced in line with guidance produced by Sport England namely:

- Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (produced in 2014); and
- Playing Pitch Guidance, An approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (produced in 2013).

Both documents provided a robust framework for decision making across the borough in terms of its facility stock. A Strategy and Action Plan and detailed Assessment Report were also produced.

The scope of the Indoor Facilities Strategy included assessment of:

- Swimming Pools;
- Sports Halls; and
- Other Indoor Facilities

The scope for the Playing Pitch Strategy covered; Football, Rugby, Cricket, Hockey, Tennis, Bowls and Golf.

Clubs, Governing Bodies, facility providers and other appropriate stakeholders were engaged in the development of the strategy and this ensured that the final document was reflective of the town's aspirations whilst ensuring there was clear evidence to inform recommendations alongside robust assessment of participation trends, sustainability of facilities and condition and age of facilities.

The strategy produced a clear recommendation for the replacement of Mill House Leisure Centre and informed further appraisal of options to progress with a strategic leisure development whilst being proportionate to the facilities it should include. Further stakeholder engagement and consultation has been conducted throughout the feasibility and development of Highlight (the Strategic Leisure Development on the Waterfront). An evidence based approach has been used to inform the development of the facility mix and business case for Highlight, through the rigorous application of Sports England's Strategic Outcomes Planning model and guidance.

Through the Indoor Facilities Strategy, the assessment of demand and supply indicated that Hartlepool has adequate sports hall provision to serve the existing and future needs of the town. The priority action moving forward is to ensure that sports halls are accessible and that community use agreements are progressed with independent operators, especially within education.

In conclusion it is not deemed that a further assessment of facilities is needed at this point in time. The work has already been completed and the strategic evidence base is clear in relation to the priorities for facilities in the town to serve the population. Any further work would require significant investment of time and resource which can be better utilised to progress the implementation of the agreed strategy and the wider work of the development of Highlight.

The Council remains committed to supporting the role, work and development of clubs in the town, ideally in partnership with other local organisations and national governing bodies of sport, given the vital role that clubs play for local residents. Furthermore the Council would always positively consider options in relation to any facility developments.

In a supplementary question Ms Vaughan questioned the aspiration of the Council in terms of its sports provision. Sport England set specific requirements for facilities for regional and national level sport and in relation to sports hall provision, none of the current stock provided that; was the Council simply happy to meet community demand which meant that for all higher levels of sports young people would have to travel outside of Hartlepool to access those facilities and training.

The Assistant Director stated that the Playing Pitch and Indoor Facility Strategy took into account local usage and through a robust assessment process showed that Hartlepool had a good stock of facilities. For

example, it was shown that Hartlepool could not support a new 50 metre swimming pool and hence the new pool at the Highlight would be a leisure pool. Sport England would not support a 50 metre pool as it had invested in the pool at Sunderland which provided the elite facility for this region. The Assistant Director stated that the issue Hartlepool had with its sports provision was accessibility for people of all ages and abilities.

The Chair allowed extensive debate on the question and response. Some Members expressed some concerns around consultation and the Assistant Director stated that she was happy to share the extensive work that supported the production of the Playing Pitch and Indoor Facility Strategy, which showed the involvement of local sports clubs and associations in its preparation. Simply bringing forward new facilities, such as the suggested 4G pitches for Seaton Carew, could be counterproductive. New facilities simply pulled the demand away from existing ones as had been proved at significant cost to the Council at Greyfields.

Following the lengthy debate the Chair thanked Monica Vaughan for her question and all those present for the debate it had engendered. The Council was aspirational in its development of sports facilities for people of all abilities in Hartlepool. Those that proved to be capable of much higher levels of achievement would need to travel to regional and national facilities and Hartlepool was not unique in that. The Council had attracted significant financial support for sports provision in the town, with recent examples of this being the investment in cycling at Summerhill and the development of Highlight.

Decision

That the question, response and discussions be noted.

29. Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020/21 and Strategic Business Plan 2021/22 (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services and Independent Chair of Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board*)

Type of decision

Non key decision.

Purpose of report

To present to the Committee the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020/21 and Strategic Business Plan 2021/22.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services reported that the Independent Chair of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board had apologised for being unable to attend to present the annual report due to a recent family bereavement. The Director presented the report and clarified

that the Care Act requires all Safeguarding Adults Boards to produce an Annual Report setting out;

- what it has done during that year to achieve its objective,
- what it has done during that year to implement its strategy,
- what each member has done during that year to implement the strategy,
- the findings of any safeguarding adults reviews which have concluded in that year,
- any reviews which are ongoing at the end of that year,
- what it has done during that year to implement findings of reviews; and
- where it decides during that year not to implement a finding of a review, the reasons for its decision.

The Board was also required under the Care Act to publish an annual strategic plan setting out its strategy for achieving its objective and what members will do implement the strategy. The two documents were submitted as appendices to the report.

Members welcomed the annual report and the achievements of the Teeswide Board. Member's requested specific statistics for Hartlepool drawn from the Teeswide statistics included in the report and the Director indicated that they could be shared with Members following the meeting.

A Member also suggested that it would be useful for Members to have some specific training in safeguarding. The Director stated that the Board did provide some comprehensive online training and that she would circulate links to the training following the meeting.

Decision

That the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020/21 and Strategic Business Plan 2021/22 be endorsed.

30. Strategic Outcomes Planning For Leisure *(Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key decision.

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with the final report following the completion of the Strategic Outcomes Planning Model (SOPM) for leisure services.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported that Max Associates were commissioned in 2020 to apply Sport England's Strategic Outcomes Planning Model (SOPM) in Hartlepool, to:

- Reflect, position and optimise the essential contribution of sport and physical activity in addressing wider wellbeing and social outcomes across the town
- Inform and shape the future delivery of the sport and physical activity – “Leisure, Recreation and Participation” (LRP) - service
- Support and inform the capital investment in “Highlight”, and
- Provide a strong, insight-led platform for a funding application to Sport England’s Strategic Facilities Fund

The SOPM also provided the Council with service and facility interventions for delivering and facilitating community leisure and wellbeing in the Borough, to meet the needs of the local population. It was based on a well evidenced and researched review of existing and future provision and includes clear recommendations, a delivery framework and action plans.

Members commented that one of the main obstacles for many young people participating in many sports was simply the cost; many couldn’t get involved with regular organised sport because they couldn’t afford it. The Assistant Director commented that accessibility was an issue and defining the barriers to that was key. Lots of work was undertaken with sports clubs, and clubs did lots on their own, to help with things like equipment and kit recycling and supporting promising young sportspeople with scholarships.

Some Members did feel that more could be done for those in low income families and the Assistant Director commented that the leisure service did have income targets to meet and was already one of the cheapest services in the country; it was difficult to balance social outcomes and regeneration with achieving sustainable income.

During further discussions Members commented on what engagement was undertaken with those that didn’t use any of our facilities to ascertain why; was cost a major issue. The Assistant Director indicated that the Council did engage with service users and others on a regular basis. The Head of Leisure, Recreation and Participation reported that a new leisure management system was being developed to manage all the Council’s various venues and this would give a greater insight into users and allow much more targeted marketing.

Members pursued the issue of gaining information from those that didn’t use our facilities. Members considered that this insight may help in the direction of future services and suggested that surveying young people in secondary schools would be valuable. It was suggested that schemes such as offering free family swims to those families where their children had just completed their school swimming course could be valuable means of bringing more people into swimming for leisure.

Decision

That the report be noted and the recommendations and actions referenced throughout be approved.

31. Referral from Council – Housing for Disabled People *(Director of Adults and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key Decision.

Purpose of report

For Members to consider the motion in relation to suitable accommodation for disabled people that was referred to Committee by Full Council on the 16 December 2021.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning reported that Council on 16 December 2021 considered the motion set out below which it subsequently agreed be referred to this Committee: -

“The Equality and Human Rights Commission has reported that around 2% of households in Britain includes a disabled person who does not live in appropriate housing and that disabled people are far less likely to own their own home. (EHRC, May 2018).

The impact of living within unsuitable and un-adapted accommodation is multifaceted. The impact on the mental and physical health of the disabled person and their carers can be significant, and that’s without the additional financial cost on the health service from accidents caused by inadequate housing.

In Hartlepool, we have a significant number of families who are in need of social rented and adapted accommodation to meet the needs of a disabled person in that family. Anecdotally, we have around 20 families waiting for suitable family size accommodation to meet their needs, with no clear timeline for when this will happen.

We have an obligation, both legal and moral, to provide accommodation for someone with an assessed need, or a need for adapted accommodation.

Our own Housing Strategy, strapline states “Developing and maintaining successful communities, where people choose to live, by meeting the housing needs of our residents now and in the future”, but we are failing to meet this for some of our most vulnerable families.

Therefore, Council resolves to:

- Undertake an audit of those people with an assessed need for adapted, family size accommodation to identify the scale of need;
- Bring an action plan to the appropriate committees for how we intend to meet those needs, using any tools at our disposal;

- Consider how we further improve our housing offer to families with a disabled member in future and bed this into our Local Plan and Housing Strategies moving forward.
- Consider compiling an “Accessible Housing Register” to provide a potential solution to future supply problems.”

The Assistant Director reported on the numbers of families on the housing list who needed three or more bedrooms with one of those being on the ground floor. This totalled 22 families at the time the report was written and the report also detailed the family make-up of those on the list.

The Assistant Director stated that an Officer Working Group involving officers from all the appropriate teams in the authority and representatives from partner housing providers was to be established chaired by the Assistant Director, to review the current situation and explore actions to meet the needs of families and respond to the council motion. The aim would be to provide recommendations to Committee later in the year.

Councillor Creevy, who had initiated the original motion to Council, welcomed the report and the working group and stated that if Elected Member involvement was required she would be happy to participate.

Decision

That the establishment of an officer working group which also involves relevant partners to allow further consideration of the motion be welcomed and approved.

32. Strategic Development for Culture and Creative Sector in Hartlepool (*Director of Adults and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

Non-Key Decision.

Purpose of report

To update the Committee on progress and to present a final draft of a Cultural Strategy for Hartlepool, that would inform the priorities for the creative sector, ensure sustainable recovery from COVID 19 and develop a vision for the town that will be led by a Creative Partnership.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported that the cultural strategy, submitted as an appendix to the report, had been developed considering the context of evolving agendas within HBC and across the town including destination management, regeneration, investment and funding opportunities and emerging critical mass of projects, events and activities. The aim of the work had been to:

- Set out shared strategic direction and priorities for the cultural and creative sector that can inform individual decisions and work;

- To create a document that provides and evidence base for a needs-led and stakeholder-led strategy;
- To identify the appropriate governance or vehicle for collaborative or coordinated strategic activity in future (e.g. a Cultural/creative Partnership).

The strategy will interact and inform other key strategic developments internally and across the town including Economic Growth Strategy, Heritage Strategy, ISQ development and Capital Programme.

Members welcomed the document and fully supported the proposals within. Members questioned the situation in relation to the Town Hall Theatre as they were aware that many theatres around the country had closed due to the impact of the loss of trade during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Assistant director indicated that at this time the Town Hall Theatre was being used as a Covid-19 vaccination centre. Work would be commencing on the reopening of the theatre once its current role ended. There was a need for some investment in the facility. Significant investment had been obtained to undertake major works at the Borough Hall and the Town Hall Theatre would be needed to fill the gap while that work was undertaken. After that consideration would need to be given to the role of the two venues as it would be counterproductive to have internal competition.

Members asked what sort of promotion was undertaken for events in Hartlepool. The Assistant Director stated that a wide range of promotion work was undertaken from social media through to radio and occasionally TV. Promotion of the cultural sector in the town was also carried out alongside other regional events, such as the Lindisfarne Chronicles returning to the North East, to link our heritage into that wider story.

Decision

That the content of the strategy be noted and the principles, aims and proposed recommendations of this work as outlined in the strategic document be supported and approved.

33. Annual Report of Adult Social Care Complaints and Compliments 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 *(Director of Adults and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To present to members the Annual Report of Adult Social Care Complaints and Compliments 2020/21.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning indicated that the report provided an analysis of complaints and compliments and demonstrates learning that had occurred from complaints and actions implemented as a result.

During 2020/21, 66 compliments had been received relating to adult social care. A total of 25 complaints had been received during the same period; a decrease of 10 compared to the previous year. Of the 25 complaints received, 7 were not considered further and 18 complaints were investigated; 5 less than the previous year. Of the 18 complaints investigated in 2020/21, 17 had concluded the local statutory complaints processes and 1 complaint remained ongoing which would be carried forward to 2021/22.

Members welcomed the report, particularly the compliments to the service which reflected the excellent work undertaken by staff. Members also commented that it was pleasing to see that the majority of complaints had been resolved at stage 1.

Members asked if the reduction in the number of complaints reflected the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Assistant Director stated that it was too early to say at the moment. Social care services continued throughout the pandemic, so the level of service in many areas had not diminished. Members commented on the excellent services provided by social care staff and other officers during the pandemic who had gone above and beyond normal service provision to ensure the continued care and safety of vulnerable residents.

Decision

That the contents of the Annual Report of Complaints and Compliments 2020/21 be noted and that the report be published online.

34. Care Home Update (*Director of Adults and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with an update in relation to care home provision for older people.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning reported that since the last report in July 2021, there had been further developments, many of which relate to the COVID19 pandemic. Care home occupancy has decreased slightly to approximately 87% in older people's care homes across the

town and there were currently 97 vacancies across the 16 older peoples care homes. Officers continued to monitor care home vacancies closely to understand both short and long term impact and to assess whether further support is required by the homes affected.

The number of out of borough placements currently stood at 99, which was reduced from 109 in March 2020 and 127 in March 2019, meaning proportionately more people were now being supported in care homes in Hartlepool.

There had been a significant number of Covid outbreaks in care homes across Hartlepool (particularly since December 2021) and in early January all 16 older peoples care homes were experiencing outbreaks at the same time, meaning new admissions were not possible. A number of homes had now come out of outbreak, and a number of homes were accepting new admissions following a detailed risk assessment.

The report highlighted the announcement of a nursing home closing in Hartlepool by 31 March 2022 which would have a significant impact on residents and their families, as well as the availability of new placements across the town. This would inevitably lead to more use of Out of Borough placements. A new care home that would have capacity to support 90 older people was due to open in May 2022 (estimated date) which would potentially increase capacity significantly.

Members expressed their significant disappointment at the announced closure of Gretton Court. The Assistant Director stated that work was ongoing with families to help in the finding of new homes for the current residents.

Members also expressed concern at the spike in the number of Covid-19 cases in homes across the town. The Assistant Director commented that the spike in cases in homes reflected the wider increase in cases across the town.

Decision

That the report be noted.

35. Allotment Strategy: Update on Consultation and Engagement (*Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the consultation and engagement that was completed last year and to outline the next steps that will be taken in order to deliver the Allotment Strategy.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported that committee on 29 July 2021 supported the proposed approach to the consultation and engagement process. The consultation began in October 2021 and ended in mid-November and comprised:

- meetings with nine Allotment Associations;
- 17 drop in sessions at allotment sites at varying times of day including week days and weekends;
- two drop in sessions at the Central Hub, one on an afternoon and the other on an evening;
- paper questionnaires sent out to all tenants; and
- an online questionnaire which could be completed by tenants, partners, people on the waiting list and anyone else with an interest in allotments.

It was reported that 183 completed questionnaires were subsequently received. The Heritage and Countryside Manager gave a presentation to the Committee outlining the detailed response to the consultation and many of the positive issues that it had brought forward.

Members noted that one of the principal issues raised was site security. The Heritage and Countryside Manager commented that the Burn Valley site was partially covered by external cctv but noted that security was a broader issue raised by many allotment holders and associations. On site cctv would require onsite electricity which could be costly and for which there was no budget. Officers were working with partners wherever they could on this issue.

Members welcomed the consultation exercise and the response reported and thanked the team for their work in positively engaging with allotment holders and allotment associations. There was some concern at the potential for associations to take on the running of allotment sites as this was a significant step which required much greater commitment and skills to undertake properly. The Heritage and Countryside Manager stated that of the associations they had spoken to, none wanted to take on that full management role but did want some greater involvement in how the current budgets were spent, particularly around security. This was welcomed by the team as it would bring their direct knowledge and experience into the management of sites.

Decision

That the outcome of the consultation and the timescale for development of the Allotment Strategy be noted.

36. Leisure, Recreation and Participation Service Re-Branding *(Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To share details of the rebranding of the Leisure, Recreation and Participation Service.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported that the current brand in place is “Get Hartlepool Active” which is used on social media platforms, the services’ website and on other printed or promotional materials. The new brand name “Active Hartlepool” had been developed with support from branding consultants TA6. The new logo and brand design shown in an appendix to the report. The new brand would be launched in spring 2022, alongside a new website and would also dovetail with a new leisure management system, all of which would raise awareness of services, make it easier to access information and book activities and facilities. These changes were being aligned as part of a service-wide transformation process, to minimise confusion for customers.

Members welcomed the new branding and the proposed launch in the spring.

Decision

That the report be noted and the new branding for the service welcomed.

37. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 17 March, 2022 commencing at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 pm.

H MARTIN, CHIEF SOLICITOR

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