

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

7 DECEMBER 2023

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

Present:

Councillor: Bob Buchan (In the Chair)

Councillors: Gary Allen, Ged Hall, Sue Little, and Carole Thompson.

Also present: Councillor Paddy Brown as substitute for Councillor Mike Young in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.
Evelyn Leck.

Officers: Jill Harrison, Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services
Sarah Scarr, Head of Service - Heritage and Open Spaces
Julian Heward, Communications and Marketing Team
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

27. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rob Darby and Mike Young.

28. Declarations of Interest

None.

29. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2023

Received.

Councillor Hall requested that his personal declaration during the debate on the Assistive Technology Service (minute 23 refers) be recorded.

30. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 to 2026/27 (Director of Finance, IT and Digital and Director of Adult and Community Based Services)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the MTFS and to enable the Committee to scrutinise / comment on the savings proposals referred from the Finance and Policy Committee.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services gave an outline of the report submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee on 27 November 2023 and went on to outline each of the savings proposed for services within this Committee's remit, as detailed in Appendix C to the report. Details of any comments made by the Committee to be forwarded to the Finance and Policy Committee are included in the decision below.

The Committee discussed the issue of removing the of the lifeguards from the Headland and noted the information set out in Appendix F to the report which showed that data taken from Headland lifeguard reports indicated that the main focus of lifeguard time was spent dealing with slips, trip and falls on the Block Sands paddling pool, rather than the wider bathing area. It was clarified during questions, that there would be five lifeguards employed during the summer season in Seaton Carew.

Members suggested the potential of using volunteers for the provision of lifeguards. The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services stated that administering volunteer programmes could be very time consuming and couldn't always guarantee cover when it was needed.

The Vice-Chair noted that the lifeguards in Seaton Carew were also engaged to switch on and off the water play area on Seaton Carew sea front. If the use of this facility was restricted only to the 6 weeks school holiday period it could reduce the attractiveness of coming to the resort for families. The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services stated that extending the operation of the water play area would require additional cleansing and legionella testing for which there was no additional budget.

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services stated that there would be continued focus on water safety education with children and young people in schools. The work around water safety was undertaken with partners including the Coastguard and Fire Brigade.

Decision

That as requested by Finance and Policy Committee the Committee considered the recommended 2023/24 savings proposed detailed in Annex A - Appendix C relating to the services within this Committees portfolio and Members made the following comments to be reported back to Finance and Policy Committee on 22 January 2024 in relation to each of the savings proposed.

Budget Reduction Heading	Budget Reduction 2024/25 £000	Adult and Community Based Services Committee comments
Remodelling of beach lifeguard service	25	No specific comments were made.
Fees and Charges Increase in line with September CPI	250	No specific comments were made.

31. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The meeting concluded at 10.20 am.

H MARTIN

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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