

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

25 JANUARY 2024

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

Present:

Councillor: Bob Buchan (In the Chair)

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

Also present: Darren Best, Independent Chair of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board
Evelyn Leck

Officers: Jill Harrison, Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services
Neil Harrison, Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services
Ian Gardiner, Head of Leisure, Recreation and Participation
Marnie Ramsey, Head of Community Hubs and Wellbeing
Scott Campbell, Service Manager, Learning and Skills
Jennifer Gant, Parks and Open Spaces Team Leader
Sarah Scarr, Head of Service - Heritage and Open Spaces
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

32. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Young.

33. Declarations of Interest

None.

34. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023

Received.

35. Indoor Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy *(Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision Test (ii) – Forward Plan Entry CJCS 146/23

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to respond to the motion submitted to Full Council on 28 September 2023 which stipulated 'That the Adult and Community Based Services Committee receive an update on the implementation of the Indoor Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy and that all sports clubs in the town be engaged in discussion on the future provision of sporting facilities in the town.'

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported that the current Indoor Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy (IF&PPS) was developed by Neil Allen Associates in conjunction with Council officers, community colleagues, local sports clubs, National Governing Bodies of Sport and Sport England and was formally adopted in 2019 for a five year period. The strategy, therefore, was due for review in 2024.

Given the importance and complexity of the work associated with developing a clear, current and fully consulted IF&PPS and to ensure understanding and expertise in relation to the modelling for facility planning. The Council will be required to commission an external consultancy to lead this work. This is common practice nationally to conduct work of this nature. A proposed time line for the development of the brief for the external consultants through to the submission of their final report was set out in the report.

While acknowledging that it wasn't possible to require groups to engage, a Member questioned if there was scope to record those that had and those that had not. The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services stated that during the previous engagement exercise, there had been 100% engagement locally and we know there is a strong desire for local clubs and organisations to share their views on the future need of facilities in the town so we would expect a high level of engagement again. If there are organisations who do not engage initially then National Governing Bodies of Sport will be asked to encourage local club engagement as they will also be included in the process. While taking into account all the feedback received from the various bodies and local groups, it was not always possible to achieve all they requested.

Decision

That the proposals to review and revise the existing Indoor Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy (2019 – 2024) as reported be approved.

36. Conservation Area Management Plans *(Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision, Key Test (ii), General Exception Applies.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to provide information on two Conservation Area Management Plans (CAMPs) that have been developed with the support of funding from Historic England's Capacity Building Grant Scheme. The reports were completed in draft form and it was considered that these should be taken out to public consultation prior to finalisation.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services that the work on reviewing the CAMPs for Seaton Carew and the Headland was based on the two areas being at risk using the Historic England criteria to assess buildings at risk. Consultants Purcell were commissioned to prepare plans for each area. Historic England provided grant assistance of £20,000 to support the work. This was matched by £10,000 of council funding from the Adult and Community Services Budget.

It was now proposed to take the two draft documents out for public consultation which would also be referred to the Planning Committee as the final documents will be guidance documents for planning policy decision making. The format of the consultation would be the same as at the initial stages of this work. Drop in sessions for members of the public would be held in key locations within the area at varying times of the day to allow attendance. Further to this stakeholders would be approached directly for comment.

Decision

That the two draft Conservation Area Management Plans for Seaton Carew and the Headland be approved for public consultation.

37. Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/23 and Strategic Business Plan 2022-2025 *(Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services and Independent Chair of Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To present to the Adult and Community Based Services Committee the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/23 and Strategic Business Plan 2022-2025.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services submitted for the Committee's information the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2022/23, the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Business Plan for 2022 – 2025 and the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Communication and Engagement Report for 2022/23.

The Independent Chair of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board, Mr Darren Best, was present at the meeting and outlined the key elements of the Annual Report to the Committee. The Annual Report was generally positive and had been produced in an easy to understand format. While the number of concerns raised that had resulted in Section 42 Investigations was quite high, the Independent Chair did not see this as a cause for concern, nor the increasing number of concerns being raised year on year. The Independent Chair considered that these reflected the growing confidence and knowledge among the public to highlight issues. An area of concern was the growing complexity of issues that were being investigated but this reflected the general increasing complexity of social care cases being handled by local authorities.

Members welcomed the report and commented on the increasing number of referrals and asked if the work that was undertaken locally in Safeguarding Week to highlight how people could raise their concerns was having an impact. The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services stated that Safeguarding Adults Week did usually see an increase in reports in the weeks following, so the profile was having an effect. The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services stated that she did not see the increase in reports as a concern, but shared the view of the Independent Chair that increased awareness was positive. People were more confident to raise issues or highlight concerns they had for their family or neighbours.

A Member questioned the interaction between the service and the CQC (Care Quality Commission). The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services commented that Adult Social Care Services would now also be assessed by the CQC with all local authorities due to be assessed over the next two years. Locally officers met with CQC staff on a regular basis to discuss local issues and share with them the work our local teams undertook in the assessment of local providers. In addition to CQC inspection, commissioned providers within Hartlepool are also subject to the Council's Quality Standards Framework.

The meeting briefly discussed the issues around individuals who may appear to require support in the community but decline support. Issues around human rights and autonomy could come into play if a person has capacity to make decisions but made a conscious decision not to accept any assistance volunteered. While services or assistance could not be imposed on people, the Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services commented that in such circumstances officers would work with partners and look to other ways of trying to engage wherever possible.

The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services informed the meeting that this was the last year that Mr Best would present the TSAB Annual Report as he was stepping down from his position as Independent Chair. The Executive Director wished to record her thanks for Mr Best's leadership of the Board over the past four years. The process of recruiting a new Independent Chair has already commenced.

Decision

That the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2022/23, the Strategic Business Plan for 2022 – 2025 and the Communication and Engagement Report for 2022/23 be noted.

38. Parks and Open Spaces Place Based Management Plans *(Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (ii). Forward Plan Entry CJCS 136/23

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with an update on the public consultation held in August 2023 on the parks placed based plans and the resultant development of the plans.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported on the Public Consultation Outcomes Summary following the

consultation on the parks and open spaces plans. The percentage of positive responses to the survey and consultation gave enough confidence to continue with the majority of the aims and objectives set out in the parks management plans. Of those that scored low in positive responses, and were not re-visited during in person sessions, objectives had been amended or removed from plans. The main areas of priority for respondents were based around the themes of maintenance, security, tackling antisocial behaviour, community involvement and protecting park assets. Priority has been given to action points relating to these themes.

The Parks and Open Spaces Team Leader gave a presentation to the Committee outlining the main aspects of the consultation feedback and how the management plans were being adapted to reflect the views of park and open space users.

Members welcomed the plans and commented that they would provide a substantial platform for working with national bodies when seeking funding and/or support. The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services supported the comments and thanked the team involved in the production of the plans and the consultation process. The plans were already providing a good response from the public.

The meeting discussed issues around the maintenance of local parks and the problems caused by anti-social behaviour and vandalism. The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services commented that public support in tackling anti-social behaviour and crime in the parks was key. It was important that any instances witnessed by the public be reported to the Police. While there may not be an instant response to such calls, the call would be logged and would be used to build up the intelligence around anti-social behaviour and crime in local areas which could lead to future action. Any issues of maintenance or issues with trees could be reported to the Council either online or by calling the Contact Centre where they would be logged for future maintenance.

Decision

That the Committee supports and approves the adoption of the place-based management plans for the four parks as submitted.

39. OFSTED Inspection, Jobs and Skills Service *(Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To share the outcome of the Ofsted inspection for the Jobs and Skills Service which was conducted in December 2023.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported that the Ofsted rating achieved by the Jobs and Skills Service (previously known as Adult Education) in December 2017 was 'good'. There had been a range of changes to the Ofsted inspection framework since the last inspection and the Jobs and Skills Service delivery model had also changed since the last inspection and the service was now embedded within Community Hubs.

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services was pleased to report that the service had received a 'Good' rating from Ofsted and during the feedback and debrief inspectors highlighted that, while there are no scales within each rating, the rating was a 'solid good'. Both the Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services and the Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services extended their congratulations to all the staff involved in the service.

The Committee welcomed the report. A Member did comment that there was some room for improvement in the ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language) and that much could be learned from the services in other areas of the country that were dealing with significant numbers of other languages in their community.

Decision

That the content of the report and the Ofsted rating achieved be noted and the Committee's congratulations be extended to all the staff involved.

40. Investing in Volunteers *(Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to update the Adult and Community Based Services Committee on the Council's Community Hubs Service being awarded Investing in Volunteers.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported that the Investing in Volunteers is the UK quality standard for all organisations who work with volunteers. It aimed to improve the quality of the volunteering experience and demonstrate that organisations value the enormous contribution made by volunteers. The award in England is managed by NCVO (The National Council for Voluntary Organisations). Investing in Volunteers is the only quality standard that focuses on volunteers and it was a significant achievement for any organisation to receive the award.

There were currently over 120 volunteers within the Community Hubs Service and new opportunities are promoted through Hartlepool Now. All volunteers are assigned a member of staff who provides support and direction throughout their volunteering journey. There are also opportunities for training and further development alongside regular celebration events to thank all of the fantastic volunteers within the Community Hubs.

Members welcomed the report and commented that it was another good example of the good practice throughout the Community Hubs. The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services commented that there were some great stories from the volunteers in the hubs which showed how many had found a purpose and some had also found new employment through their volunteering. The Committee extended its congratulations to all involved in volunteering in the Community Hubs for achieving the Investing in Volunteers status.

Decision

That the content of the report and the Investing in Volunteers status be noted and the Committee's congratulations be extended to all the staff involved.

41. 'Drawing Attention' Exhibition at Hartlepool Art Gallery *(Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide members of the Adult and Community Based Services Committee with information regarding the planned British Museum 'Drawing Attention' Tour at Hartlepool Art Gallery from May to August 2024.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported that the British Museum released in June 2022, a 'call for partners' to take part in the touring exhibition 'Drawing Attention' which would see over 40 significant artworks from their permanent collection shown in venues around the UK.

The artworks that form the exhibition had been selected by the British Museum and showed a wide range of approaches, exploring questions of identity, memory and materiality, amongst others. They were to be shown alongside works on paper dating back as far as the early 1500s, to demonstrate the emerging artists' continuities and dialogue with historical traditions of drawing.

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services indicated that only three venues were successful in their application to take part - York Art Gallery, Wolverhampton Art Gallery and Hartlepool Art Gallery. The exhibition will be shown in Hartlepool between 18 May and 24 August 2024. An exhibition of this size from a national institution would usually involve significant financial outlay, however, on this occasion all transport, conservation, framing and installation costs are met by the British Museum. Tees Valley Museums Group had additionally allocated funds to provide engagement activities which will take the form of two projects; one with students from the Northern School of Art and one with a local youth group.

Members welcomed the report and the attainment of this important exhibition coming to Hartlepool. Members commented if it would also be possible to see more exhibits from our own collection shown in the future. The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services commented that this was being actively considered and there would be a rotation of the works at the Hartlepool Museum and Art Gallery.

Decision

That the report be noted and the opportunities the proposed exhibition presented were welcomed.

42. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The meeting concluded at 11.45 am.

H MARTIN

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

PUBLICATION DATE: 5 FEBRUARY 2024