

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 17th July, 2014

Present:- Councillors Cherry Beath (Vice-Chair), Patrick Anketell-Jones, Brian Simmons, David Martin, Rob Appleyard and Nathan Hartley

19 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Cherry Beath informed the meeting that Councillor Robin Moss, regular Chairman of the Panel, had sent his apologies for this meeting. Therefore, Councillor Beath, as regular Vice Chair of the Panel, would Chair this meeting only.

20 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillors Moss, Ward and Furse had sent their apologies to the Panel. Councillor Rob Appleyard was a substitute for Councillor Furse.

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

23 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

24 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

The Chair informed the meeting that the Members of the Panel had received a number of statements about Warm Water Pools.

The Chair invited Alexander Jones Grech, Susan Charles and Susan Smith to read out their statements. All three speakers presented their views on benefits from the Warm Water Pools provision. Speakers also asked the Panel to support their suggestion for a provision of the Warm Water Pools.

The Chair informed the meeting that all statements submitted to the Panel would be placed on the Minute Book at Democratic Services, and all of these statements would be forwarded to the relevant Cabinet Member for consideration.

The Chair asked Jack Latkovic (Senior Democratic Services Officer) to read out a briefing note from the Council in terms of the Warm Water Pools provision.

Statement from the Council:

'Warm Water Exercise group – Briefing Note

The Council is looking at a range of options – including accessible teaching pools – as it seeks to modernise its leisure facilities, this is supported by the 'Fit for Life' Strategy.

The Council and the CCG will be working closely to ensure that the new leisure contract provides the best possible service for local people and supports them to live healthy lifestyles.

It is important to clarify that the provision of warm water swimming facilities is not the same as the provision of hydrotherapy services which is a specialist health service provided from appropriately equipped, specialist facilities and funded by the CCG.

The Council's objective is to provide accessible leisure facilities, rather than specialist health services, for which there is advice and guidance on best practice produced by Sport England in their 'Accessible Sports Facilities Design Guidance Note. (<http://www.sportengland.org/media/30246/Accessible-Sports-Facilities-2010.pdf>)

The Council appreciates comments from the public as it continues to develop plans for delivering these options through dialogue with potential contractors as part of the procurement process for the new leisure contract. This contract will be awarded in January 2015, with a contract start date of July 2015.'

Members of the Panel asked speakers some factual questions to which they gave their answers.

Members of the Panel also asked some technical questions in terms of the actual provision. Jack Latkovic suggested that Members could contact Sports and Active Team Business Development Manager directly with their queries.

25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous two meetings as true records and they were duly signed by the Chair.

26 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE (10 MINUTES)

The Panel noted the update (attached to these minutes as an appendix).

Cabinet Member update

27 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT- UPDATE ON NEW TOOLS AND POWERS (20 MINUTES)

The Chair invited Andy Thomas (Group Manager for Partnership Delivery) to introduce the report.

The Chair commented that the new ASB, Crime and Policing Act tools and powers had been an important development and the Panel should monitor its progress.

Councillor Appleyard commented that the public would welcome new powers though they would want to know at what point Community Trigger could be activated. The community would also need to understand what the level of tolerance was.

Councillor Anketell-Jones queried which powers the Council would have most interest in.

Andy Thomas replied that there had been an ongoing discussion in terms of the level of tolerance. The Community Trigger would be activated if a certain threshold has been passed. This varies from place to place but the Home Office have suggested that, at a minimum, it can be activated if:

- We have reported a number (vary from area) of separate incidents of anti-social behaviour and not received a satisfactory response; or
- A number (vary from area) of individuals in the local community have reported similar incidents of ASB and are dissatisfied with the response.

Andy Thomas suggested that the Panel should consider setting up a Task & Finish Group on this subject.

The Panel also heard from officers on a successful pilot which had been happening in Mendip.

Members of the Panel discussed on what part Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) would play with the new tools and powers; what steps victims should take; and who would be the lead contact.

Members of the Panel agreed that these issues should be included in the review from the Task & Finish Group.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and to consider establishment of a Task and Finish Group of Panel members to examine in full the implications of these new powers for the Council and its partners, including the issues raised in the debate.

28 STRATEGIC RIVER GROUP (15 MINUTES)

The Chair invited Mark Minkley (Team Leader for Environment) to introduce the report.

Mark Minkley informed the Panel that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 6th June, approved the River Corridor Fund of £340K, which included identified edge protection safety works at Widcombe.

Members of the Panel debated this matter and commented that the Panel would want a further update on this matter in six months' time.

The Panel requested that these issues be included in the next update:

- Position of the Scrutiny within the whole process – the Panel felt that Scrutiny should have more prominent role.
- Community Safety – an update either from River Safety Group of Strategic River Group
- Point of contact – Panel felt that the public might be confused if there have been many points of contacts
- Flooding issues
- What is the exact role of River Co-ordinator?
- Environment and how the river could contribute towards Energy Strategy.

The Panel welcomed the creation of the Strategic River Group by saying that the group would contribute towards culture and events in the area.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive a further update in six months' time. The update should include issues raised by the Panel in their debate.

29 BATH WORLD HERITAGE SITE: UPDATE (20 MINUTES)

The Chair invited Tony Crouch (World Heritage Manager) to introduce the report.

Members of the Panel welcomed the report and commended the forthcoming revision of the World Heritage Site Management Plan, the work of the World Heritage Enhancement Fund grant scheme and progress of the 'Great Spas of Europe' project.

Members of the Panel also welcomed that the World Heritage Team had been working proactively with other organisations and services.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

30 PANEL WORKPLAN

It was **RESOLVED** to note the workplan with the following addition:

- An update from the Strategic River Group in January 2015

The meeting ended at 2.40 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and REGENERATION

Ben,

It might be worth reiterating the latest on the Enterprise Area Masterplan, as presented to the Transport Strategy consultation launch, plus EA stakeholders last Tuesday and FoBRA last Thursday:

NEXT STEPS:

Cabinet November 2014

Co-ordinated Strategy:

- Economic Strategy - key driver
- Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan
- Transport Strategy
- River Strategy
- Enterprise Area Masterplan - delivery mechanism for the Economic Strategy

Co-ordinated Delivery:

- Bath Riverside
- Bath Quays Waterside
- Key routes: Seven Dials, Store St/Stall St, Saw Close
- Innovation Quay

CORE VALUES:

Quality - of place, of developers, of occupiers

Design - architecture, linkages, public space

Heritage - views and roofscapes: World Heritage setting

Sustainability - 'green' building, walking and cycling, ecology

Water - at the heart of Bath's identity, River Avon, spa water, Kennet and Avon Canal

Activity - leisure, families, health and wellbeing

Rediscovering and reconnecting the River!

HERITAGE SERVICES

- late summer evening opening has started at the Roman Baths, which will now remain open until 10pm until the end of August (last admissions 9pm); the Pump Room restaurant is also open each evening;
- the Roman curses from the Sacred Spring have been inscribed by UNESCO on its Memory of the World UK list; you attended the ceremony in Edinburgh with Stephen Clews;
- Heritage Services has worked with the Britain-Australia Society on the installation of an armillary sphere in the NE garden of the Assembly Rooms to commemorate the bicentenary of the death of Admiral Arthur Phillip, first Governor of New South Wales and 'Father of modern Australia'; Phillip lived at 19 Bennett street opposite the garden;
- the Assembly Rooms' summer exhibition World War One in Fashion will be opened on Sunday by journalist Kate Adie, who has recently published a book about WWI and women;
- the grant-funded cataloguing project at the Record Office has unearthed a small diary recording Bath weather every day for six years between 1756 and 1761. It was kept by the Rector of Bath, Rev'd Duel Taylor and shows that extremes of weather were not unusual: "17 December 1759. A sharp north east wind which has frozen the river so hard the people have walked over it in great numbers for 3 days past".

WORLD HERITAGE

See full report later on agenda.

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