

## COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

24 October 2013

7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

# 3

### Minutes

#### Membership:

Councillor June Cordwell (Chair)	P	Councillor Stephen Lydon	P
Councillor Karon Cross (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor John Marjoram	P
Councillor Rowland Blackwell	P	Councillor Russell Miles	P
Councillor Tim Boxall	P	Councillor Nigel Prenter	P
Councillor Miranda Clifton	P	Councillor Paul Smith	P
Councillor John Jones	P	Councillor Penny Wride	P

P = Present    A = Absent

#### Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Mark Rees  
 Councillor Mattie Ross  
 Councillor Geoff Wheeler

#### Officers Present:

Strategic Head of Customer Services	Head of Cultural Services
Accountancy Manager	Facilities Management Officer
Facilities & Civil Contingencies Manager	Community Safety Manager
Head of Community Safety	Democratic Services and Elections Officer

#### Invited Guest:

Richard Bradley, Commissioning Development Manager, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

#### Also in attendance:

Gillian Hayward, Chair of Governors, Katharine Lady Berkeley's School  
 Sarah Watts, Wotton Community Sports Foundation

#### Chair's Announcements

##### **Ray Figg, Head of Cultural Services**

The Committee joined the Chair to applaud the service given to the Council by Ray Figg, Head of Cultural Services, who would be leaving the authority shortly.

**Stratford Park**

The Chair was pleased to report the following accolades presented to Stratford Park this year – the tenth Green Flag Award for Stratford Park; Stroud in Bloom Gold Award for Stratford Park and the Bronze Award given to the Leisure Centre for its fitness programme and the improvements made to the gym.

**CS.021      APOLOGIES**

None received.

**CS.022      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

**CS.023      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**      **That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 September 2013 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

**CS.024      PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

None received.

**CS.025      POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (GLOUCESTERSHIRE)/  
COMMUNITY SAFETY - UPDATE**

Richard Bradley, Commissioning Development Manager, provided the Committee with an outline of his role within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, working with a number of County-wide Partnerships, managing the delivery of the Police and Crime Panel and managing the Commissioner's Fund.

He drew attention to the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017, incorporating the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities, to be delivered over the next three years as follows:

- **Accessibility and Accountability** – addressed how local police officers work with their communities appropriately and effectively, with the right resources in a timely manner. Priority Lead: Chief Inspector Sally Crook, Gloucestershire Constabulary.
- **Older but not Overlooked** – to allow older people to feel safe and engaged within the community; not to overlook those with disabilities and learning needs. Priority Lead: Sally Pickering, Chief Executive, Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action (GAVCA).
- **Young People Becoming Adults** – to work with young people to enable them to become law abiding and good citizens. Priority Lead: Allison Wills, Chief Executive, Prospects.
- **Safe Days and Nights for All** – to manage the night time economy and to ensure that people feel safe during the day and night. Priority Lead: Andrew North, Chief Executive, Cheltenham Borough Council.
- **Safe and Social Driving** – to ensure that driving within communities is undertaken safely and responsibly, working to reduce offending and anti-

social driving. Priority Lead: John Hall, Fire Chief, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Commissioners Fund was divided into 3 areas – 1) Communities for Gloucestershire, with a budget of approximately £800,000; 2) £2million allocated to each of the five priority leads to deliver their priorities over the next 3 years; 3) charitable donations to good causes, with money allocated to the Stroud District Community Safety Partnership, the Door Youth Project, Stroud, and the Dursley Youth Club.

The Commissioning Development Manager explained that 45 applications for funding to support priorities had been approved; a considerable sum had been allocated to funding youth based initiatives and 50% funding had been allocated to County-wide projects. It was hoped that new money would be available for the Community Fund next year to allow key projects to be supported across the County. Details of funding available would be publicised in the near future.

A summary of the responses to questions raised is as follows:

- The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was held to account by the Police and Crime Panel, which included an elected representative from this Council. The Panel could scrutinise the work of the PCC and had the power to veto any precept increase and any appointment made to the position of Chief Constable. It was suggested that the Council's representative be invited to report to a future meeting of this Committee.
- Progress on work under the Safe and Social Driving priority was reported to the County Road Safety Partnership. It focussed on both young and older drivers, looking at the likelihood of accidents and how they occurred.
- In terms of accountability, it was explained that each Priority Lead had developed their own delivery plan and met with the PCC on a quarterly basis to discuss performance. This information would be published following the next Police and Crime Panel meeting in late November.
- In response to a request, the Commissioning Development Manager undertook to provide statistics on road traffic accidents during the Christmas period and at other times of the year. He explained that road safety campaigns would continue to take place around Christmas, with an emphasis on the consequences of driving the morning following excessive alcohol consumption.
- Consideration was being given to introducing either a bidding season or the opportunity for year round applications to be made to the Community Fund next year, once the funding available had been confirmed.

The Head of Community Safety relayed details of various low level initiatives being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership across the Stroud District, which accorded with the headlines of the Police and Crime Commissioners Plan. The Council worked with a range of partners to deliver projects and details of these would be circulated in a briefing paper to all Members of the Council.

**CS.026            JOINT USE SITES FINANCIAL UPDATE**

An update on the financial position of the joint use sites was provided by the Facilities/Civil Contingencies Manager. The report was a follow up to the Executive report in September 2012, when it was decided to continue operating all three joint use sites. He explained that Katharine Lady Berkeley's School (KLB) intended to operate the sports centre with the Wotton Community Sports Foundation, potentially with a joint venture company, proposing to take on the running of the site in 2014. Although the original timetable had been to transfer around Easter 2014, the date could slip to August 2014, to ensure that everything was in place. Should the transfer proceed, the equipment at the centre would go to the venture company to benefit the community. Members were informed that income across each of the centres had increased by £2,500 during quarter one this year, compared to the same period for 2012/13.

Reference was made to the retention of the other two joint use sports centres at Maidenhill and Thomas Keble Schools. Clarification was sought on the intent of point 2 of the decision box, which appeared to apply to all 3 joint use sports centres. The Facilities/Civil Contingencies Manager explained that the proposed decision at point 2 would give the Council the option to reduce the notice period for the other two schools to terminate their agreements if they so wished.

Members felt that the arrangement for each joint use centre should be considered separately on its own merits; it was felt that the respective school should determine whether or not the agreement should be terminated. Accordingly an amendment to the wording of point 2 of the decision, to attribute the decision solely to the joint use centre at Katharine Lady Berkeley's School, was proposed and seconded and on being put to the vote was CARRIED.

A Member enquired after the position of the joint venture company. The Chair invited the Chair of Governors at KLB to address the Committee to respond. She confirmed that the company had not yet been formed; there was still work to be done and it was hoped that the school would be ready to take over by 1 April 2014, although realistically it was likely to be September. She hoped there would be an opportunity to generate a profit to enable an expansion of the existing facilities to be made. Officers were thanked for their help and support with the project.

- RESOLVED**
- 1. That the financial position of the joint use sites is noted.**
  - 2. That the Head of Cultural Services in consultation with the Chair of Community Services Committee has delegated authority to reduce the notice period required for the termination of the agreement by Katharine Lady Berkeley's Joint Use Sports Centre.**
  - 3. That the equipment at Wotton Sports Centre is donated to Katharine Lady Berkeley's School or a joint venture company for community use, in the event of a termination of the agreement.**

**CS.027                      BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2013/14**

The Accountancy Manager presented the Committee with a forecast of the outturn position against its revenue budgets and capital programme for 2013/14. The report provided the second quarter monitoring statement, including transactions up to 30 September 2013, with projected income and expenditure to the end of the financial year. Whilst the outturn had increased, there was an overall projected net under spend of £121,500 due to a number of significant variations as depicted in Table 2. Members' attention was drawn to the significant increase in projected income from car park enforcement, totalling £25,000 and to the projected under spend of £60,000 from the Revenues and Benefits budget as a consequence of changes to staffing and the introduction of Welfare Reform. The only capital variation was the Museum Walled Garden project which would be completed over two financial years. The unspent budget would be re-profiled and slipped into the 2014/15 budget proposed to the Strategy and Resources Committee.

A summary of the responses to questions raised is set out below:

- The Accountancy Manager explained that the projected £16,100 over spend for the bar at the Subscription Rooms had been based on a worse case scenario. The performance of the venue, together with income and expenditure, was being monitored closely by the General Manager. It was anticipated that the future events programme would raise income to decrease the over spend.
- Members welcomed the good news of the £60,000 under spend on the Revenues and Benefits budget and hoped that this sum could be utilised elsewhere by the Committee. The Accountancy Manager explained that whilst the Committee could consider the use of this money at its budget meeting in December, the sum was an 'in year' saving and therefore not all of the saving would be available to spend, due to the implications of Welfare Reform.
- Reference was made to the outsourcing of some of the workloads within Revenue and Benefits to Civica's 'On Demand' service, as a consequence of Welfare Reform. The Strategic Head of Customer Services explained that the outsourcing applied only to back office functions. She informed the Committee of the benefits of using the 'On Demand' service which would be more cost effective than employing additional staff. The potential impact of Universal Credit also had to be taken into account. A number of future initiatives to manage the service were being explored so as to prevent any negative impact on service provision.
- The Strategic Head of Customer Services explained that the money allocated to the Food Bank initiative enabled neighbourhood wardens to assist with the distribution of food parcels within the District. The Kitchen Challenge Project, also supported by the Council and other organisations, provided an opportunity to teach people to cook, recognising nutritional values and to improve self confidence.

**RESOLVED      To note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital programme for 2013/14.**

**CS.028**      **MEMBER REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS/EVENTS**

**RESOLVED**      To approve the following appointments for the remainder of this Civic Year:

<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Councillor(s) appointed</b>
Crime and Disorder Meeting (½ yearly)	Councillor June Cordwell
Parking Board	Councillor John Jones
Older Peoples Forum	Councillor Rowland Blackwell
Youth Council	Councillors June Cordwell and Miranda Clifton
Stroud District Council Health and Wellbeing Partnership	Councillor Karon Cross Sub: Councillor Stephen Lydon
Health and Wellbeing Second Tier/District Lead Officers meeting	Councillor Karon Cross Sub: Councillor Stephen Lydon

**CS.029**      **MEMBER APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

**RESOLVED**      (i) That Councillor Paul Smith is appointed to the vacancy on the Stroud Hospital League of Friends for the remainder of this Civic Year;

(ii) That no further appointment is made to the Stroud Festival Limited in addition to Councillor Nigel Prenter.

**CS.030**      **WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED**      To agree the Committee's work programme, subject to the following change:

- **3 December 2013** – Delete 'Fees and Charges-Cultural Services'
- The Council's representative on the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel to be invited to a future meeting to update on the work of the Panel.

**CS.031**      **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

None received.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

**Chair**