

Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 2 April 2019

in Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby

Present: Councillors Watts (Chair), Brown, Beeby, Caine, Ferguson and Watt

Co-opted Representatives:

Lyn Buckingham, Community Representative
Kate Booth, Tenants Voice Representative
Gloria Ellenton, Business Representative

73. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Butcher, McNab and Rahman and also from the Parish Representative and substitute representative.

74. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate whether these were prejudicial or non-prejudicial, the nature of the interest, and whether they intended participating in the relevant agenda item. There were no such declarations.

75. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 5 March 2019, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that:-

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 5 March 2019, copies of which had been circulated to Members, be agreed as a correct record.

76. Lead Member/Service Update

The Lead Member for Community and Head of Culture & Leisure were present to update Members on their areas of responsibility. A briefing report had been circulated in advance and a number of items were highlighted, including Grants review and One Off Grants, Heritage Lottery and Public Health funding allocations, the upcoming 10 year anniversary of the swimming pool and the Golf Course management and catering arrangements.

Members acknowledge the excellent services and events the team continued to provide. Queries were raised and responses provided as follows:

- West Glebe Park – it was confirmed that improvements were being made to the top path; comment was also made on damage to the gate and a long term problem with the door to the hall and it was confirmed these issues would be followed up with the centre manager;
- LPSC – concerns were raised that there were ongoing issues with out of action toilets; it was explained that refurbishment work was due to be undertaken but two contracts had failed to start for various reasons; the Head of Service would query interim repairs with the centre manager;
- Golf Course – the financial situation was queried and it was confirmed that this was improving following a good winter season and the improvements made to the facilities;
- Coronation Park – queries were raised around footpath work and damage caused to trees and paving slabs by youths. It was explained that the footpath work was necessary for access to the container used by the Friends of the park group. The group was working with the new Shared Service team to support the improvements

being made which should make a significant difference to the park going forward. Most of the trees removed had been self-seeders. Youths causing damage was not new unfortunately but the police were aware and the damage would be put right as soon as possible. Concerns about CCTV cameras not working would also be followed up.

- Cycling update – it was explained that the Panel had been waiting for an update for some time; the Lead Member/Head of Service agreed to cover this at a future meeting if the Council's cycling champion was still unable to attend;
- 'Play' facilities for adults – it was asked if there were any plans to provide facilities for older people; the Head of Service said there was outdoor gym equipment in some places but no other plans currently, however, he would discuss ideas further with the Community Representative.

It was understood that the police were seeking premises in Corby town and comment was made that the new Chief Constable was keen to increase police presence in Corby and had some good plans in relation to knife crime.

Concerns were raised in relation to the withdrawal of Parish Grants. It was explained that this had been referred to the Corporate Services Director on behalf of the Rural Area Forum and he would respond to the Forum in due course.

77. Scrutiny Work Plan

The work plan circulated with the agenda papers was noted.

It was confirmed that Electric Corby had agreed to attend the meeting to provide an update on their activities on 2nd July.

78. Items from Forward Plan

The Forward Plan was updated and circulated with the agenda papers for each meeting to enable Members to select items they wished to see brought to the Panel, in addition to key policy items which were brought forward to the Panel automatically.

It was requested that the Cycling update be added for 2nd July meeting.

79. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7:40 pm.