

## Minutes of a meeting of the Keighley Area Committee held on Thursday, 14 December 2017 at Council Chamber - Keighley Town Hall

Commenced 6.00 pm  
Concluded 7.15 pm

### Present – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENT
Ali Brown BM Smith	M Slater Bacon Farley	K Hussain

Observers: Councillor Val Slater (Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing)

Apologies: Councillor Anne Hawkesworth and Councillor Andrew Mallinson

### Councillor Ali in the Chair

#### 31. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

#### 32. MINUTES

**Resolved –**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2017 be signed as a correct record.**

#### 33. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

#### 34. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

#### 35. NOMINATION TO LIST PROPERTY AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE -

## **ADDINGHAM SPORTS PAVILION**

Members were advised that the Council had received a nomination to list a property known as Addingham Recreation Ground Sports Pavilion as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act 2011.

The report of the Strategic Director, Corporate Services (**Document “P”**) considered whether the nomination and nominated asset met the Asset of Community Value Criteria set out in the Localism Act and contained a recommendation as to whether or not the nomination should be approved.

### **Resolved –**

**That in accordance with Option 1 the nomination of the property known as Addingham Recreation Ground Sports Pavilion, Main Street, Addingham, Ilkley, as an Asset of Community Value be accepted.**

### ***ACTION:* Strategic Director, Corporate Services**

(Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee / Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

## **36. PARKS AND GREEN SPACES SERVICE WEED SPRAYING CONTRACT REPORT**

The report of the Strategic Director, Place, (**Document “Q”**) provided a summary of the weed spraying contract delivered across the District; reviewed the delivery during the past year and considered the future options with regard to weed control on the highway and footpath network.

It was explained that the Council was responsible for the treatment of weeds on the adopted public highway throughout the Bradford district which included areas such as paved/tarmac footways; kerb edges and channels; areas around street furniture and hard central reservations. The treated areas amounted to around 3400km of linear surface. Members were reminded that whilst this was a highway function and part of that departments remit the Park and Green Spaces Service (PGS) had always undertaken the service delivery of that remit as an addition to the highway verge maintenance undertaken.

Due to the staffing demand, the specialist nature of the work and equipment required the Council had tendered the work outside of the service area as it was more cost effective to do so. The general weed spraying contact had been successfully tendered out to specialists since the late 1990s. The current contact, due for renewal, would be tendered for a three year period with a one year extension included.

It was explained that since the ban on the use of Residual chemicals (those which lay active in the ground for a long period of time and stopped germination of



seedlings) had been introduced in the late 1990s the chemical widely used for treatments, including the Bradford district, had been Glyphosate. The chemical Glyphosate was a broad spectrum systemic weed treatment and used to kill grasses and broad leaved annual weeds and when applied it was absorbed through the plant foliage and, as such, could not be used as a 'pre emergence' treatment. Glyphosate would only kill weeds that were present at the time of spraying and further growth could re-appear following spraying. The Council, working to confirm with the EU's proposals for the Water Framework Directive and Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive was looking to reduce the amount of chemicals used in the environment.

The contract requirement was for the contractor to carry out three applications annually of the weed killer Glyphosate. Appended to Document "Q" was the scheduled programme of works. The Council had specified in the contract that contractors should ideally use the latest up to date vehicle mounted technology for the majority of the spray application. Such technological advances had developed an application through sensors and infra-red beams that could detect chlorophyll in a plant which allowed only the weeds that were present to be sprayed and conformed to the EU's requirements.

Alternative methods of treatment which had been considered were reported although it was felt these were too labour and resource intensive and trials had not proved beneficial.

The report revealed that the number of complaints received fluctuated year on year and was dependent on seasonal weather conditions. The statistics from January – November 2017 were reported. To reduce complaints it was suggested that consideration should be given to include Highways officers in the monitoring of the contract as the majority of the contract was predominantly highway based and that department already employed officers to inspect the footway and highway on a daily basis.

In response to questions it was confirmed that moss on footpaths was not included in the weed spraying contract. Moss required treating with specific moss killer and that must be undertaken in dry conditions. It was also confirmed that the contract did not include rural footpaths and snickets although some additional funding had been secured which had been used to treat footpaths and snickets in September following complaints.

A Member referred to a number of side streets which had repeatedly been missed during the regular weed spraying applications. It was agreed that he would provide details of those locations and investigations would be undertaken.

**Resolved –**

- 1) That the approach to highway weed spraying in the Keighley Constituency be noted.**
- 2) That the Strategic Director, Place, be requested to assist in the visual**



## **inspection of the weed spraying process.**

### **ACTION: Strategic Director, Place**

(Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

## **37. PREVENTION AND EARLY HELP**

The report of the Strategic Director Children's Services (**Document "R"**) highlighted the progress the Council and partners had made in bringing together existing arrangements for early help and early years services.

On 7 November 2017 the Executive had been asked to approve a period of consultation on a proposed new Prevention and Early Help delivery model. Keighley Area Committee was asked to consider and comment on the report as part of that formal consultation.

The report outlined the need for proposed changes to how services were delivered in order to ensure resources were targeted, at a time of increasing demand, to avoid a detrimental impact on outcomes to children. It was explained that unprecedented reductions in Government funding meant that the Department of Children's Services could not deliver services in the way it previously had. The proposed focus would be on a partnership approach which was more targeted to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities for children and young people across the District.

The Deputy Director, Education, Employment and Skills addressed the meeting and provided a visual depiction, in diagrammatic form, of the proposed changes to how the children's centre core offer across the District would be provided. The proposals would result in a move from separate services (the seven Children's Centre clusters and five Early Help clusters) to one new Prevention and Early Help Service. The preferred model included a combination of a small group of central services and four new Prevention and Early Help teams. Based on the Families' Needs Assessment it was proposed that the four area based teams would cover Keighley/ShIPLEY combined; Bradford East; Bradford West and Bradford South. There would be two types of teams working in each area dealing with both case management and preventative measures. The proposals would cut out duplication and implement a whole family approach where families would not receive a series of interventions from different services.

It was clarified that approximately 50% of current posts would be removed from the structure which would equate to 220 to 240 full time equivalent posts. In response to which Members expressed concern that the service may not be able to function appropriately. That concern was acknowledged, however, the element of duplication in the previous structure was reported and that should additional funding be secured the potential for teams to be enlarged was stressed. The proposals would result in a move to generic job descriptions and whole family approach.



Concerns that staff, transferring from their current specialisms to prevention and early help across all key stages, would not have the necessary skills to fulfil their new roles were raised. Members were assured that a skills passport approach was being established to provide a professional development programme for all personnel.

Members questioned the rationale for a combined Keighley and Shipley area based team. It was explained that a great deal of research had been undertaken to assess the levels of deprivation and wards/neighbourhoods with the greatest needs would be targeted. Should levels of need fluctuate the area teams could consequently be amended.

The lack of teams in the outer rural areas was questioned and it was explained that there would be funding available which could be used for direct commissioning to support health and that key priorities would be identified in each locality.

A Member questioned the level of engagement following consultation on the proposals and it was explained that information sessions were being promoted; key centres were conducting face to face questionnaires; officer attendance was being provided at public/partner events and the consultation process would be monitored and tweaked to ensure the consultation had the widest reach. A fortnightly update would be provided to Members with the first of those updates being provided on 15 December 2017. In response to questions it was confirmed that the Area Co-ordinators were assisting with the consultation process by advising of the community groups which should be approached.

Members were advised that revised structures could not yet be circulated as these were being revised in line with the consultation. Any essential vacancies were being filled on a temporary basis as it was envisaged that a lot of redeployment would be required. It was anticipated that opportunities would be available for people in redundant roles.

**Resolved –**

- (1) That formal consultation is underway from 15 November 2017 until 12 February 2018 with all interested parties as outlined in Appendix 12 to Document R be noted.**
- (2) That it be noted that Executive will receive a further report in April 2018 following formal consultation.**

**ACTION: Strategic Director, Children's Services**

(Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

**38. COMMUNITY LED SUPPORT**



The report of the Strategic Director, Health and Wellbeing (**Document “S”**) outlined the work of the Department of Health and Wellbeing on developing a departmental culture that encompassed Community Led Support. Social care support would be delivered in ways which were determined by people directly delivering services along with local partners and members of the communities they were serving.

It was explained that the proposed model would be delivered slightly differently in varying locations but would have the same guiding principles and provide a reduction in bureaucracy. Work to support the changes would be delivered through a combination of workshops, training, facilitation, mentoring and meetings.

Members were reminded that an initial event was being held on 9 January 2018 at Victoria Hall, Keighley. The event would bring together elected Members, ward officers and wardens, social workers and VCS organisations to understand more about Community Led Support, to learn about each other’s roles and to provide an opportunity to develop networks.

In the afternoon there would be a market place event where partners, including Voluntary and Community Sector organisations would be able to showcase their organisations. Members were advised that their active involvement in a community leadership role was valued and that their local expertise would be very much appreciated.

In response to questions about potential job losses it was explained that it was not envisaged, at the current time, that this would be the case.

The report revealed that Keighley Central would be the first ward with the new approach and it was queried when the arrangements would be expanded to other localities. It was explained that the social work team in Airedale had identified sufficient networks in Ilkley to implement the arrangements speedily. There were a number of enthusiastic managers and a strong voluntary network in the Keighley constituency and it was envisaged that Keighley Central could become involved in March 2018.

Members suggested that the service consult on the proposals with the Youth Service and Housing Associations and in response it was confirmed that there had been consultation with those groups and it was believed that there was a lot of potential for inter generational work. Details of a ‘Gig Buddy’ scheme operated by Bradford College which could be implemented in Keighley were reported. The scheme involved young people attending events with a mate/buddy rather than a paid staff member. A Member expressed concern, however, that volunteer services may be lost if volunteers did not receive the appropriate support.

**Resolved –**



**That the report be noted.**

**ACTION: Strategic Director, Health and Wellbeing.**

(Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

Chair

**Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Keighley Area Committee.**

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER

