



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes

Notes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 27 April 2016 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Committee members present:

Councillor R Amos	Councillor Reeves
Councillor C Birch	Councillor Robinson
Councillor Fail	Councillor Smith
Councillor Hodgkinson	Councillor Matthew Vincent
Councillor Ibison	Councillor Michael Vincent (Chairman)
Councillor Ormrod	

Other councillors present

Councillor I Amos
Councillor Barrowclough
Councillor Beavers
Councillor I Duffy
Councillor R Duffy
Councillor Bowen, Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder
Councillor B Stephenson
Councillor E Stephenson

Officers present:

Philippa Davies, Corporate Director of Resources
Mark Broadhurst, Service Director, Health and Wellbeing
Ian Munro, Head of Culture, Leisure and Tourism
Clare James, Financial Services Manager
Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer

Three members of the public also attended the meeting.

OS.101 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Anderton and Jones.

OS.102 Declarations of interest

None.

OS.103 Review of splash pad fees and charges 2016/17 – call in

Councillor Ruth Duffy referred to the call-in request that had been submitted, which detailed the reasons for calling in the portfolio holder's decision to introduce a £2 charge for use of the splash pad facility in Fleetwood.

Councillor Duffy referred to a report prepared by Councillor Vivien Taylor in her role as Street Scene Portfolio Holder, which was considered by the Cabinet on 30 July 2014, which indicated that ongoing revenue costs regarding the facility were expected to be contained within existing budgets. She added that the new facility was described as being a modern alternative to the paddling pool; there was an assumption that an "alternative" to a free facility would also be free to use.

Councillor Duffy reminded members that the contract with the YMCA stated that operational costs and management fees for the forthcoming year would be agreed in November, and she asked Councillor Bowen to explain whether such agreement had taken place, and if not why not. Councillor Duffy asked why it had been left so late before proposing the charges for 2016/17.

Referring to paragraph 5.5 of Councillor Bowen's report, Councillor Duffy challenged the assertion that the initial capital cost of introducing a system to recycle water was considered prohibitive even when, according to Councillor Duffy, there was still £150,000 of Coastal Communities Fund monies available. She went on to say that stated the requirement in paragraph 5.4 of the Portfolio Holder's report, that there be three lifeguards present because of the inclusion of standing water was also inaccurate; the YMCA came under the Royal Life Saving Society's guidance and procedures which said that the number of lifeguards required was solely based on the number of people in the facility.

Councillor Duffy concluded by asking the committee to request that, in the light of the evidence presented, the portfolio holder be asked to reconsider her decision to charge for the splash pad facility.

Councillor Bowen responded by saying that there had never been any guarantee that there would be no fee for the splash pad or, indeed, any other council leisure facility. She also confirmed that the council had consulted with the Fylde Coast YMCA who had been supportive of charging, having favoured a fee of £2 per person and £1 for YMCA members. She added that people expect high quality schemes, which are good value to the council tax payer. The council would continue to subsidise the cost of the facility, and the small charge, as proposed, would help make the scheme more sustainable. It was important to try to

recover at least some of the cost; full cost recovery had not been applied.

In response to questions from members of the committee Councillor Bowen reiterated that it had never been said that a charge would not be made. She also confirmed that consultation had taken place with the YMCA, although not directly with the residents of Fleetwood. The suggestion was made that more detailed information about the consultation process and responses to it could usefully have been included in the portfolio holder's report dated 11 April 2016.

Councillor Bowen went on to explain, again in response to questions, that if the decision was made to not charge for the splash pad there would be an additional revenue cost of £28,000 in 2016/17 a situation that would get worse year on year, which was unsustainable.

Members of the committee voted on the proposal to support the call- in, which was defeated by 8 votes to 3.

RESOLVED that the call-in be not supported.

OS.104 Date and time of next meeting

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the committee be held on Monday 6 June 2016 at 6pm at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

The meeting started at 6pm and finished at 6.54pm.

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