

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD

14 March 2022

Present: Councillor Bell in the Chair.

Councillors Chambers, D Clews, Gosling, M Humphreys, Jenns, Jordan, H Phillips, McLauchlan, Symonds and A Wright.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Parker (Substitute Councillor Symonds), Rose, L Smith and S Smith (Substitute Councillor D Clews).

32 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor M Humphreys declared a Non-Pecuniary interest on Minute Number 35 by reason of being a Trustee of North Warwickshire Citizens Advice (NW CA) and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

33 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 17 January 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2022, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34 **Leisure Facilities: Service Improvement Plans**

The Director of Leisure and Community Development reported on the Service Improvement Plan (SIP), detailing activity through to the end of January 2022, through which the Board had agreed to monitor the operational performance of the leisure facilities at each of its meetings. In addition, a draft SIP for the 12 months period commencing from April 2022 was appended for Members' consideration and approval.

Resolved:

- a That the progress made against the requirements identified in the approved 2021/22 Leisure Facilities Service Improvement Plan through which operational performance is monitored be noted; and**
- b That the draft Service Improvement Plan through which the operational performance of the leisure facilities will be monitored through to 31 March 2023 be approved.**

35 **Financial Assistance to Outside Organisations**

The Director of Leisure and Community Development reported on the requests for assistance through the provision of an annual grant that had been received from Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA), North Warwickshire Citizens Advice (NW CA), Live & Local, the North Warwickshire Allotments' Federation and North Warwickshire First Responders. The need to reduce the Annual Grants programme by £20,000, owing to the need to make significant savings in the Authority's revenue budget, was also addressed.

Resolved:

- a That the work undertaken by the organisations funded in 2021/22 through the Annual Grants scheme be noted; and**
- b That £31,100 be awarded to North Warwickshire Citizens Advice (NW CA) and £500 be awarded to North Warwickshire First Responders.**

36 **North Warwickshire Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies - Progress Report**

The Director of Leisure and Community Development informed Members of the progress made in respect of delivery against the priorities set out in the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy (2020 to 2033) and the adopted Playing Pitch Strategy (2018 to 2031).

Resolved:

- a That the progress made in respect of the implementation of the priorities of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy (2020 to 2033) and the Playing Pitch Strategy (2018 to 2031) be noted;**
- b That the principle of the Authority entering into an agreement with Piccadilly Community Association, through which it could assume responsibility for the management and maintenance of a Memorial Garden within part of Piccadilly Sports Field be agreed, prior to the possible consideration of this matter at a future meeting of the Resources Board; and**
- c That the Resources Board be requested to assess the sustainability of the proposed Piccadilly Memorial Garden project during its consideration of whether or not to enter into a corresponding agreement with the local Community Association.**

37 Leisure Facilities: Local Authority Trading Company

The Director of Leisure and Community Development provided information in relation to the establishment of a Leisure Facilities Local Authority Trading Company and sought the Board's approval for the undertaking of such a course of action.

It was proposed by Councillor Chambers and seconded by Councillor Gosling by way of amendment:

That recommendations (a) and (b) be replaced by the following:

- a That the Board assesses the full impact of the last two years of the service improvement measures which have been taken and the current state of the leisure market post Covid 19;**
- b That a full evaluation of the risks and benefits of transferring our leisure services to a single authority LATCo with particular reference to economies of scale and costs compared with continuing with an in-house management approach be undertaken; and**
- c That the Board establishes a task and finish group to oversee, scrutinise and report back regularly on the costs and process of setting up an LATCo.**

Upon being put to the meeting the Chairman declared the amendment to be lost.

Resolved:

- a That the establishment and registration of a wholly owned Leisure Facilities Local Authority Trading Company be approved.**

It was then proposed by Councillor Chambers and seconded by Councillor Gosling by way of amendment:

That recommendation (b) be replaced by the following:

- b That the Board establishes a task and finish group to oversee, scrutinise and report back regularly on the costs and process of setting up an LATCo.**

Upon being put to the meeting the Chairman declared the amendment to be lost.

Resolved:

- b That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson of the Board, to set up a Leisure Facilities Local Authority Trading Company.**

38 Climate Change Update

Following the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency, the Corporate Director – Streetscape updated Members on progress and next steps.

Resolved:

- a That the contents of the report be noted, and;**
- b That the collective aim to reach Net Zero by 2050 be endorsed.**

39 Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Working Party

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2022, copies having been previously circulated, were noted.

Margaret Bell
Chairman