

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD

21 June 2010

Present: Councillor May in the Chair

Councillors L Dirveiks, Fox, Freer, Lewis, Payne, Phillips, Pickard, Sherratt, Smitten and Wykes

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gordon, M Moss and Y Stanley.

1 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests**

Any personal interests arising from the membership of Warwickshire County Council of Councillors Fox and May and membership of the various Town/Parish Councils of Councillors Fox (Shustoke), Freer (Atherstone), Lewis and Phillips (Kingsbury), Sherratt (Coleshill), and Smitten (Polesworth) were deemed to be declared at the meeting.

2 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2010, copies having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 **Budgetary Control Report 2010/11 Period Ended 31 May 2010**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the expenditure and income from the period 1 April to 31 May 2010.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

4 **Review of Cesspool Emptying Charges**

The Assistant Director (Streetscape) sought approval to introduce an administration charge for cesspool emptying customers who had unscheduled emptying.

Resolved:

- a That a surcharge be introduced for customers who do not pay for the cesspool emptying service by direct debit; and**
- b That an update report be brought back to the Community and Environment Board in six months time.**

5 Funding Agreement with WRCC

The Director of Community and Environment sought approval for an interim Service Level Agreement to be negotiated with WRCC should the Board agree to award grant funding to this organisation in 2010/11.

Resolved:

- a That no grant funding be provided to WRCC in 2010/11 for work on Parish Planning, but that the relevant budget be retained to support this aspect of work, subject to determination of its use by the Board;**
- b That NWBC officers participate in a review being conducted by Warwickshire County Council during 2010 concerning commissioning Support Services for Rural Communities and Local Councils and a report be brought back to the Board on the implications for future services and funding support for WRCC.**

6 Play Area Development Programme – Evaluation of Phase One

The Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) reported on the background to Phase One of the Play Area Development Programme, the purpose of the evaluation requested by the Scrutiny Board, and detailed a summary of its findings and the lessons learnt.

Resolved:

That the draft Play Area Development Programme Phase One Evaluation Report be approved, circulated to partners and reported to the Scrutiny Board at its meeting to be held on 20 September 2010.

7 Draft North Warwickshire Playing Pitch Strategy

The Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) summarised

the findings of an Outdoor Sports Assessment carried out by consultants and set out

the objectives of the resultant draft Playing Pitch Strategy.

Resolved:

That the draft Playing Pitch Strategy be accepted, subject, where relevant, to the need to consider the provisions of the supporting Action and Funding Plan within the context provided by the Council's overall capital and revenue budget requirements, that the document be circulated to partners for further consultation and that it be brought back to the Board for adoption in October 2010.

8 Parks, Open Spaces and Horticultural Performance and Grounds Maintenance Service Review

The Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) updated the Board with regard to the annual benchmarking exercise for parks, open spaces and horticultural services and advised on the progress of the Grounds Maintenance Service Review.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April 2009 – March 2010

The Chief Executive and Director of Resources informed Members of the progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Board from April 2009 to March 2010.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 Atherstone Leisure Complex – Replacement of Fitness Equipment

The Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) informed the Board of the action taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, in respect of the procurement of replacement fitness equipment at Atherstone Leisure Complex.

Resolved:

That the action taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, in respect of the procurement of replacement fitness equipment at Atherstone Leisure Complex, as identified in Section 4 of the report of the Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development), be endorsed.

11 North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy

The Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) provided an update on the revised role of the Environment Group following the restructure of the Community Partnership and how this new role would direct partnership working in order to help meet the aims and objectives of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy.

Resolved:

That the involvement of the Environment Theme Group in advancing the provisions of the Green Space Strategy be noted.

12 Free Swimming Programme

The Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) updated the Board on the first year of the Borough Council's involvement in the national two-year Free Swimming Programme, which commenced at Atherstone Swimming Pool on 1 April 2009, and reported on the Government's decision to withdraw grant support for the Programme with effect from 31 July 2010.

Resolved:

That, consequent upon the Government's decision to withdraw grant support for the Programme, charges be re-introduced with effect from 1 August 2010 for those people currently in receipt of free swimming through the national Free Swimming Programme, at the 2010/11 rates (£1.85 for those people aged 60 years and over, the same standard price (£1.85) for juniors (0 to 15 years) and £1.45 for junior @ctive card holders).

13 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Resolved:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.

14 **Recycling**

The Assistant Director (Streetscape) set out a number of initiatives and schemes which had been introduced over the last twelve months as part of the Council's ongoing commitment to improve its recycling services. Approval was also sought for proposed changes to the Council's Kerbside Recycling Contract.

Resolved:

- a That the schemes and initiatives introduced over the last twelve months be noted; and**
- b That the changes to the current Kerbside Recycling Contract, as set out in Paragraph 3.2 of the report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape) be endorsed and adopted.**

15 **Atherstone Leisure Complex Crèche**

The Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) detailed the additional promotional work that had been undertaken in order to encourage enhanced levels of awareness and use of the crèche at Atherstone Leisure Complex. The Board was asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Resolved:

- a That, given the continued declining use being made of the facility, the crèche at Atherstone Leisure Complex be closed at the end of December 2010, commensurate with the need to negotiate appropriate arrangements with the staff thus affected; and**

- b That officers present costed proposals for potential alternative uses of the space released through closure of the crèche to the next meeting of the Board.**

M MAY
Chairman