

## **Minutes of: PARTNER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014

**PRESENT:** Councillor McInnes (Chair)  
Councillors Knowles, Fletcher, Kenyon, Morris, and Shipley

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Phil Seddon, Head of Finance and Property Services  
Martin Kay, General Manager, Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT)  
Christine Ashcroft, Community Leisure Association Whitworth (CLAW)  
Brian Juffs, Managing Director, Rossendale Transport  
Matthew Parkes, Finance Director, Rossendale Transport  
Brendan O'Reilly, Commercial Marketing Manager, Rossendale Transport  
Councillor Barnes, Leader of the Council  
Councillor MacNae, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure  
Councillor Hughes  
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer

2 Members of the public

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### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Irene Divine, Co-opted Member and Chris Rowan (CLAW).

### **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

A question was asked in relation to item 7 (Presentation by the Police), seeking confirmation that a letter had been sent to Chief Superintendent Bithell with the Committee's concerns about Rossendale Police Officers having to start and finish their shifts at Burnley.

It was confirmed that the Chair and the Leader had met with Chief Superintendent Bithell who indicated that front line services would not be affected by the changes, but agreed to attend a future meeting of the Committee to report on progress of the new systems.

The Leader indicated that the Police had to make £80m of savings and they would be reducing both Sergeants and higher ranking officers.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Morris declared an interest as a member of the Rossendale Leisure Trust Board.

Councillor Knowles declared an interest as a Director of Rossendale Transport.

### **4. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items for discussion.

### **5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public asked if the Council was in anyway promoting the building of 1 bedroom accommodation in the Borough.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that they were in the process of building 12 one bedroomed flats in Waterfoot.

Members agreed that there were a lot of people in the Borough suffering because of the welfare reforms.

### **6. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair provided Members with the following update.

- Information on the Minor Injuries Unit at Rawtenstall
- The retirement of Dr Williams as a Rossendale GP and that Dr Tom McKenzie would take over as Rossendale representative on the CCG.
- Dementia Friendly Rossendale
- Concern about ambulance response times in Rossendale. The Chair confirmed that an invite had been sent asking them to attend a future meeting.

#### **Resolved:**

That a letter of thanks be sent to Dr Williams from the Committee for his work and contribution for the people of Rossendale.

### **7. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE WELFARE REFORMS TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Chair of the Welfare Reforms Task and Finish Group provided members with information on the work of the Task and Finish Group and highlighted the Cabinet's response to the reports (Phase 1 and Phase 2),

which indicated that Cabinet was very supportive of the recommendations.

All the recommendations had been accepted and the response provided up to date information on how the recommendation would be implemented and actions already taken.

The Scrutiny Support Officer indicated that there were 2 recommendations relating to Lancashire County Council and the report would now be sent to them for comments.

### **Resolved:**

That Members note and accept the Cabinet's response to the recommendations of the Welfare Reforms Task and Finish Group.

## **8. LEISURE UPDATE**

### **a) Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT)**

Martin Kay, General Manager of the Leisure Trust gave an overview of the performance and highlighted some key achievements as follows.

- Membership at Marl Pits gym continues to grow steadily
- New activities for children at Marl Pits include Ballet and Tap, street dance, teen boot camp and 1 to1 swim lessons
- Work on Marl Pits pavilion commences in March 2014
- The 2014 Marl Pits triathlon has closed its entry with 250 competitors and now has its own website
- The school coaching and competition calendar is very strong in terms of number of hours delivery
- The health co-ordinator continues to deliver strongly against the agreed commission. GP referral and weight management numbers stand at circa 600
- Pavigym flooring with no cost to the Trust as it is used as 'show-site'
- Cardiac rehabilitation has risen since 2013, this in part is due to the concerns raised by Members at the last meeting attended by the Leisure Trust and the issue was then raised with the CCG by the Chair and Scrutiny Support Officer at their regular joint meetings
- Annual football tournament at Haslingden Sports Centre with over 100 teams from all over the North West competing
- Continued support to the Parkwood Tennis Club grant application, who operate on the Sports Centre site
- Continuation of the 'out of hours' delivery at both Alder Grange and Whitworth Leisure Centre operating a varied

programme of activity to the communities which the schools serve

- Looking at a new 'income line' for Haslingden Sports Centre, with a bid from Sports England for Innovation Fund, supported by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure

Throughout 2013/14, Rossendale Leisure Trust has continued on the development and delivery of affordable and accessible programmes, strengthening relationships with health practitioners, sports clubs and the wider community.

The Trust continues to work with the Borough Council to realise efficiencies, with a unified RBC/RLT IT systems and payroll to achieve savings. The Trust meets regularly with the Council to discuss finances.

The General Manager indicated that there is a lot of work around the public health agenda.

A number of questions were raised by members, which the General Manager responded.

**Resolved:** That the Committee note the work undertaken by Rossendale Leisure Trust.

#### **b) Community Leisure Association Whitworth (CLAW)**

The Secretary and Trustee of CLAW presented the quarterly report, indicating that they have 2 facilities in Whitworth – the Sports Centre and the Riverside. She provided the Committee with an overview of their key achievements as follows.

- Increase in wedding bookings for 2014/15 and the introduction of an increased deposit system
- New website for both facilities which has led to an increase in enquiries
- Low staff turnover
- Increase in swimming lesson bookings
- Introduction of social media at the Riverside which has led to an increase in customer network
- Increase in footfall at both facilities
- New corporate image across all marketing material at the Riverside
- Working in partnership with Whitworth Town Council on joint events

There were a number of actions being taken by CLAW which included the continuation of Prom nights with the possible introduction of 'Prom Week'.

They are now also producing their own catering (buffets and hot suppers), with no external caterers other than Lords allowed on future bookings.

To reduce operational costs they are reducing overhead costs such as utility costs and they have also introduced a paperless system with, where possible, invoices, receipts, marketing material and price lists being sent via email, cutting down on paper, printing and postage costs.

In June 2014 they are holding a Sports Festival with 9 days of sport in Whitworth organised by Whitworth Sports Council.

CLAW has seen a drop in gym membership due to the opening of a big new leisure centre in Rochdale, although numbers have begun to increase again.

Members indicated that it was a very positive report.

**Resolved:**

That Christine Ashcroft be thanked for the informative report.

**9. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.**

**10. ROSSENDALE TRANSPORT LIMITED**

Brian Juffs, Managing Director of Rossendale Transport presented an update on the future plans for the bus company.

Members raised questions to which the Directors of Rossendale Transport present responded.

**Resolved:**

That the Committee note the information presented by the Directors of Rossendale Transport.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.55pm.

Signed .....

(Chair)

Date .....