

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE HELD AT THE
COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2017
COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

<u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u>		
Chair - Councillor G A Boulter Vice-Chair - Councillor F S Broadley		
COUNCILLORS (8):		
L A Bentley Miss A R Bond J W Boyce	Mrs L M Broadley D M Carter Mrs S Z Haq	Dr T K Khong K J Loydall
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE (5):		
S J Ball Mrs A E Court	S Glazebrook M Hone	Ms S Lane

Min Ref.	Narrative	Officer Resp.
48.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> An apology for absence was received from Councillors Ms K M Chalk and Mrs L Eaton.	
49.	<u>APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES</u> None.	
50.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> None.	
51.	<u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2017</u> RESOLVED THAT: The minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 17 January 2017 to be taken as read, confirmed and signed.	
52.	<u>ACTION LIST ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2017</u> In respect of the action points marked 'Facilities Services Update' (Minute Ref: 45), Councillor J W Boyce stated that a full viability study ought to be commissioned across all car parks in the Borough, not just restricted to car parks at Kirkdale Road and Countesthorpe Road, South Wigston. The viability study was to fully explore the feasibility and suitability of the options for parking regulations, restrictions and potential for appropriate charging <i>vis-a-vis</i> the costs of management and enforcement and parking requirements between the Borough's three town centres. The Chair made reference to the possible introduction of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems as a means to enforcing parking regulations.	

	<p>Councillor Mrs L M Broadley stated that viability study and accompanying report to be brought to this Committee should not be delayed for too much longer.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The Action List be noted by Members.</p>	
<p>53.</p>	<p><u>PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>54.</p>	<p><u>COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (at pages 13 - 20) as delivered and summarised by the Interim Community Services Manager which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager added that there were two legal avenues available to the Council to address the outstanding cases in respect of gas safety compliance: an application to the courts for an injunction once the Gas Safety Certificate had expired; or enforcement action under alternative legislation, (viz. Environmental Protection Act 1990) to commence action at an earlier date.</p> <p>Councillor D M Carter enquired as to whether there was a possibility of an in-house bid by the Council for the Borough Wide Cleaning Contract (BWCC).</p> <p>The Director of Services / Monitoring Officer and Interim Community Services Manager jointly-advised that there was hopeful of the same and that if any in-house bid was received it would be considered impartially. It was stated that any in-house bid would require extensive review and work to determine whether it was feasible.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs L M Broadley stated that she was concerned at the possibility of no in-house bid being forthcoming given statements made at previous meeting of the Committee by Officers that there would be an in-house bid.</p> <p>Councillor Miss A R Bond enquired as to the costing of the current contract and the numbers of staff involved. In relation to Chartwell House, Oadby she stated that a number of complaints had been raised with standards of cleanliness by residents.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager advised that 90% of the current cleaning contract was already externalised, with the bulk completed by two separate contractors. The current in-house team was said to consist of one caretaker and three part-time cleaners totalling c. £250,000 per year. He stated that there were currently a lot of <i>ad-hoc</i> arrangements in place in terms of cleaning without any detailed specification on what was required on a daily/weekly basis. In relation to the tender process, a detailed specification had been drafted in consultation with all managers responsible for each building. He advised that the new BWCC was to be self-monitoring and monitored by the Council on a periodic basis to ensure the contractor was performing well and in accordance with the specification.</p>	

	<p>Councillor K J Loydall commended Officers' work undertaken to reduce current and former tenant arrears and the progress made on empty/void properties. He further asked if any former tenant debts written-off could be written back-on in the future.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager advised that the write-off criterion had been agreed with the Finance and Accountancy Manager. Any debts over 6 years old were to be submitted for write-off: however, if a former tenant came back to live in the Borough or if it was found out where the tenant was currently residing, the debt could be re-instated.</p> <p>Councillor L A Bentley asked how many empty/void properties there were within the Borough and how this interlinked with levying of Council Tax. The Member further enquired as to if any in-house bid for the BWCC had been hitherto received, how impartiality was to be maintained in the tendering process and, if the in-house bid was successful, how impartial the Council ought to be in the self-monitoring of quality standards. He also queried the legalities of an in-house bid <i>vis-a-vis</i> external bids.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager stated that the Officer responsible for empty/void properties had regular contact with the Revenues and Benefits department responsible for Council Tax. He stated that the Council was reliant, in-part, on owners providing information concerning voids however Officers did periodically chase up and, or, re-visit properties currently paying the 150% levy.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager further advised that tender bids would be submitted via an online portal and could only be opened by himself in the presence of the Senior Democratic Services / Legal Officer. If an in-house bid was successful, a member of Communities Services would monitor the quality of work. An open day for bidders to show all sites and what work was involved was recently held.</p> <p>The Director of Services / Monitoring Officer advised the Committee that the procurement exercise had a prescribed scoring matrix and could be challenged by any unsuccessful tenderer. This was to ensure full openness and transparency.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs S Z Haq congratulated Officers in exceeding targets in terms of void performance. She commended the way forward in relation to 114 Uplands Road, Oadby and was hopeful to see the property brought back into use. She requested to be kept up to date on the progress made as Ward Councillor. She further asked how many properties had been brought back into use since this scheme's inception.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager stated that the requested information was not immediately available at the meeting but would be provided to the Member in due course.</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce commended the report overall. He requested that: a further update was required at the next meeting of the Committee to detail what had been monetarily achieve in terms of former tenant arrears; and a policy be devised in terms of timeframes, systems and enforcement options for gas safety compliance.</p> <p>The Chair moved the recommendations <i>en bloc</i> set out at paragraphs 2.1 to 2.2 of the report (at page 13).</p>	<p>SG TA</p> <p>SG SN</p> <p>SG JS</p>
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	<p>The Vice-Chair seconded the recommendations.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>(i) The contents of the report be noted by Members; and</p> <p>(ii) Delegated authority to approve the award of the Borough Wide Cleaning Contract be granted to the Community Services Manager in consultation with the Chair of the Service Delivery Committee and the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer).</p>	
55.	<p><u>DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS AND THE LIGHTBULB PROJECT</u></p> <p>The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (at pages 21 - 27) as delivered and summarised by the Interim Community Services Manager which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs L M Broadley stated that there were no specified timeframes contained within the report in view of concerns that most adaptations, due to their very nature, applied for under Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) were required soon as possible. She further enquired as to what written assurances had been received from Leicestershire County Council (LCC) confirming that the full amount allocated by the Government for 2017/18 for DFG's would be received by this Council.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager advised that Lightbulb Project (LbP) had run several pilot schemes and the results, compared against other Borough and District Councils, were completed in a shorter timescales primarily due to the LbP having direct access to Occupational Therapists (OT's). He stated that not all delays in commencing and, or, completing DFG's were solely attributable to the Council but involved other factors, most notably awaiting receipts of details from the applicant. He advised that adaptation turnaround times were to be monitored monthly as a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) and reported back to this Committee every six months. He advised that assurances, albeit not in writing, had been provided by LCC but this could not account for subsequent policy changes in the changing political landscape.</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce stated that the LbP and OT's ought to have a close, working relationship to commission adaptations that are both affordable and appropriate. He opined that turnaround times for adaptations were also affected by the comparative age of the applicant, insofar as the requirements of older applicants were generally more easily and quickly met <i>vis-a-vis</i> younger applicants. He emphasised the importance of a bespoke model of service-delivery in respect of each applicant.</p> <p>Councillor L A Bentley sought assurances that this Council's initial contribution (of £25,640) was ring-fenced and that no subsequent contributions would be sought during the first full year of operation if, for instance, another Leicestershire Borough or District withdrew from the LbP. He said he was uneasy about this uncertainty.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager advised that the withdrawal of a constituent authority could entertain the possibility of an increased figure-share contribution from this Council towards the administration costs of the LbP.</p>	

Councillor K J Loydall raised concerns in respect of: the holding and ownership of the LbP contract(s), the responsibility of the client-facing function; the restricted access to information to properly carry out governance checks; and the potential liabilities arising from the termination of the existing contract. He noted that no answer had been received to his question put at an earlier meeting of the Committee (held on 05 July 2016) in respect of whether the £1m start-up grant awarded to the LbP was still current. The Member further enquired as to: whether the discretionary top-up funding provided year-on-year by this Council was permissible; who was to be responsible for reporting back and the associated-costs thereof; and the potential for hidden costs.

The Interim Community Services Manager stated that LbP was said to be a single-access point service that sought to provide an assessment of service-users' needs from the outset so to transform and maximise the delivery of housing support to targeted groups whilst providing a scope for savings. It was reported that Leicestershire County Council (LCC) was to make a contribution to the central LbP fund. It was said that the central LbP hub was to be based at Blaby District Council but a local presence in the Oadby and Wigston area would maintain a level of administrative control. The termination date of the existing contract (31 March 2017) was reported to be finite and engendered no liability implications. He stated that no additional or hidden costs were envisaged by the rolling-out of the first LbP phase.

Councillor Mrs S Z Haq enquired as to whether priority would be given to hospital outpatients over other applicants, and if so, how this would be determined.

The Interim Community Services Manager advised that Housing Support Workers were to liaise with various the healthcare institutions to ensure that the appropriate care packages were in place upon outpatients' discharge based upon a needs-assessment. He stated that every applicant was to be treated on an equal basis.

Councillor J W Boyce moved that:

- (i) The contents of the report be considered by Members;
- (ii) Approval to be given for the Council to formally enter into the Lightbulb Project for the delivery of Disabled Facility Grants and associated works with effect from 1 October 2017; and
- (iii) Delegated authority be granted to the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Service Delivery Committee, to approve the Council entering into an earlier pilot scheme before 1 October 2017 subject to written assurances being provided by Leicestershire County Council and, or, the Lightbulb Project in respect of a model contract, reporting procedures and all other costs associated therewith in accordance with its business plan.

The Chair seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The contents of the report be considered by Members;
- (ii) Approval to be given for the Council to formally enter into the Lightbulb Project for the delivery of Disabled Facility Grants and associated works with effect from 1 October 2017; and
- (iii) Delegated authority be granted to the Community Services Manager,

	<p>in consultation with the Chair of the Service Delivery Committee, to approve the Council entering into an earlier pilot scheme before 1 October 2017 subject to written assurances being provided by Leicestershire County Council and, or, the Lightbulb Project in respect of a model contract, reporting procedures and all other costs associated therewith in accordance with its business plan.</p>	
<p>56.</p>	<p><u>REVIEW OF PEST CONTROL SERVICE</u></p> <p>The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (at pages 28 - 35) and the supplementary agenda update (at pages 1 - 8) as delivered and summarised by the Interim Community Services Manager which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>Councillor L A Bentley opined that report was based on too many ill-defined assumptions and that an exact, fully-itemised specification of services and costs was required so that Members could make a fully-informed and evidence-based decision.</p> <p>Councillors D M Carter and Mrs L M Broadley stated that the Council should approach the matter as private-sector based business opportunity insofar as to capitalise on the existing and widely appraised in-house expertise to provide a Council-ran competitively-price and high-quality service(s) to residents in this and neighbouring Boroughs and Districts. Councillor L M Broadley added that a 12-month review period ought to be considered to provide a sufficient-enough evidence base.</p> <p>Councillor Dr T K Khong stated that a 12-month review period was more advantageous so to account for the seasonal variation in demand for services. He further enquired as to whether the review and the provision of services were predicated upon the existing Scale of Fees and Charges or a proposed, revised Scale.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager stated that comparative study of the public and private-sector charging structure(s) was first required to be able to respond.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs S Z Haq enquired as to whether any local assessment had hitherto been undertaken to ascertain market-driven demand for additional services.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager reported that no local assessment had been undertaken apart from those case studies obtained from other local authorities.</p> <p>Councillor K J Loydall recommended a 12-month review period together with incremental reports being brought back to this Committee to ascertain whether a sufficient enough evidence base has been accumulated to justify a continued review.</p> <p>The Chair and Councillor G A Boulter advocated that an six-month review period was adequately indicative to provide a sufficient-enough evidence base in order to ascertain whether a private-sector based business opportunity was achievable. A six-month timeframe was said to allow the Council to gauge the local, market-driven demand, to assess all the options available and implement any changes that may be necessary ahead of the end of the financial year 2017/18.</p>	

	<p>Councillor J W Boyce moved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A review of the Council's pest control services be undertaken over a period of six-months, with an update report to be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for June 2017; and (ii) The Community Services Manager be granted delegated authority do anything necessary to give effect to the above at (i) including, but not limited to, undertaking all the necessary steps and actions required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) deal with any and all residual matters to otherwise promote and deliver a private-sector based business model in relation to pest control services; (b) determine the appropriate benchmarking and setting of any revised Scale of Fees and Charges; and (c) to set a date from which any revised Scale of Fees and Charges is to be effective from. <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A review of the Council's pest control services be undertaken over a period of six-months, with an update report to be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for June 2017; and (ii) The Community Services Manager be granted delegated authority do anything necessary to give effect to the above at (i) including, but not limited to, undertaking all the necessary steps and actions required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) deal with any and all residual matters to otherwise promote and deliver a private-sector based business model in relation to pest control services; (b) determine the appropriate benchmarking and setting of any revised Scale of Fees and Charges; and (c) to set a date from which any revised Scale of Fees and Charges is to be effective from. 	<p>SG PS</p>
<p>57.</p>	<p><u>OADBY AND WIGSTON ADVISORY SERVICES</u></p> <p>The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (at pages 36 - 42) as delivered and summarised by the Interim Community Services Manager which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>Councillor D M Carter enquired as to: whether both Helping Hands and Citizens Advice Leicestershire were jointly-involved in the provision of advisory services (i.e. immigration advice) to asylum seekers (at page 38); and if there was any identifiable reason to explain the sudden decrease and increase in employment and immigration-related issues in quarter three, respectively (at page 39).</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager stated that the provision of basic advice was jointly-delivered by both organisations and asylum seekers signposted between the two. The decrease in employment-related issues was possibly due to fewer appointments during seasonal period and the increase in immigration-related issues due to the establishment of Kennedy House, South Wigston as an asylum centre.</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce enquired as to whether the two organisations were duly-licensed to provide immigration advice in light of the recent changes in</p>	

	<p>legislation: if they were not licensed, their role was to direct and signpost advisees accordingly.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager stated that he would revert back.</p> <p>Councillor D M Carter moved the recommendation as set out at paragraph 2 of the report (at page 36).</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce seconded the recommendation.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted by Members.</p>	
58.	<p><u>CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Committee gave consideration to the report (at pages 43 - 47) as delivered and summarised by the Interim Community Services Manager which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>Councillor L A Bentley commended the important and efficient work undertaken by the Clean and Green Team.</p> <p>The Member further requested that the Council make better use of its full prosecutorial powers towards irresponsible dog-owners and flight-tippers and to publicise successful prosecutions using the appropriate communication channels (viz. Letterbox, the Council's website, social media etc.) to widely-instil a deterrent to others.</p> <p>The Director of Services informed Members that a letter had been sent to Leicestershire County Council (LCC) outlining the Council's concerns</p> <p>Councillor Mrs S Z Haq enquired as to whether the itemised price-tariff for the disposal of non-household items at the Oadby Recycling and Household Waste Site (from April 2016) had increased occurrences of fly-tipping within the Borough.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager stated that the requested information was not immediately available to draw a conclusion on the matter at the present time. He advised that a record was being kept of fly-tipping occurrences within the Borough and the associated clean-up costs incurred to the Council and that that the situation would continue to be monitored closely and Members informed periodically.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs L M Broadley welcomed the 'fly-tipping' and 'accumulations' definitions provided at paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8 of the report (at page 45). She further enquired as to whether the definition(s) and enforcement action(s) applied to occurrences to the rear of privately-owned commercial premises (viz. refuse areas).</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager stated that he would seek clarification on the legal position in relation to occurrences on commercial premises.</p> <p>Councillor Miss A R Bond expressed concern regarding the accumulation of rubbish in the wooded area/copse adjacent to ASDA on Leicester Road,</p>	JH

	<p>Oadby (A6) and the perceived lack of responsibility taken by the legal proprietor(s). She requested that enquires be made to identify the responsible legal proprietors of the land in question.</p> <p>The Chair moved the recommendation as set out at paragraph 2 of the report (at page 43).</p> <p>The Vice-Chair seconded the recommendation.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted by Members.</p>	<p>SJB</p>
<p>59.</p>	<p><u>LEISURE SERVICES UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Committee gave consideration to the report (at pages 48 - 54) as delivered and summarised by the Director of Services / Monitoring Officer which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs L M Broadley enquired as whether the requirement of a further, composite report and capital scheme in relation to car parking at Brocks Hill Country Park / Parklands Leisure Centre (at paragraph 3.7) was to present a further delay on the urgent realisation of a footpath to the site from Wigston Road, Oadby.</p> <p>The Interim Chief Finance Officer stated that a c. £40k provision within the capital programme was earmarked for the footpath which was best combined into a single, capital scheme to make better financial and logistical sense. He advised that no delay was envisaged by the bringing forward of a composite report and scheme.</p> <p>Councillor D M Carter moved the recommendation(s) as set out at paragraph 2 of the report (at page 59).</p> <p>The Chair seconded the recommendation(s).</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>(i) The information provided within the report be noted by Members; (ii) The endorsement and promotion of the range of opportunities to the wider audience, including volunteering, be furthered by Members.</p>	
<p>60.</p>	<p><u>FACILITIES SERVICES UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Committee gave consideration to the report (at pages 55 - 56) as delivered and summarised by the Director of Services / Monitoring Officer which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs S Z Haq requested that the periodic failing of street lights on Sandhurst Street, Oadby, and the long elapses of time between the reporting and fixing of the same, be investigated and the Highways Authority informed.</p> <p>The Chair moved the recommendation as set out at paragraph 2 of the report (at page 55).</p>	<p>MS BK</p>

	<p>The Vice-Chair seconded the recommendation.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The information provided within the report be noted by Members.</p>	
61.	<p><u>OPERATIONS SERVICES UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Committee gave consideration to the report (at pages 57 - 58) as delivered and summarised by the Director of Services / Monitoring Officer which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>The Chair moved the recommendation as set out at paragraph 2 of the report (at page 57).</p> <p>Councillor D M Carter seconded the recommendation.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The information provided within the report be noted by Members.</p>	
62.	<p><u>CUSTOMER SERVICES TRANSFORMATION UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Committee gave consideration to the report (at pages 59 - 60) as delivered and summarised by the Director of Services / Monitoring Officer which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>Councillor K J Loydall moved the recommendation as set out at paragraph 2 of the report (at page 59).</p> <p>The Vice-Chair seconded the recommendation.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The information provided within the report be noted by Members.</p> <p>The Chair expressed his gratitude to Members of the Committee for their assistance and contributions to debates throughout the municipal year.</p>	

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.03 PM



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CHAIR

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TUESDAY, 27 JUNE 2017
