

CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PROJECT PLAN

Title: **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN SERVICE DELIVERY**

MEMBERSHIP:

Chairman: Councillor N Hennessy Vice-Chairman: Councillor M Nixon

Councillors: Mrs Blake, Blane, Cotterill, Currie, D Evans, G Hodson, Lockie, C Marshall, Owens, Pryce-Roberts and West.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To undertake a review entitled 'Community Involvement in Service Delivery'
2. To undertake an examination of the potential for community groups (including Parish Councils) to take on certain services, currently provided across the Borough by WLBC, in their locality.
3. To present a report of the Committee's findings to Cabinet and Council, as appropriate.

OBJECTIVES

The present –

- To understand the existing arrangements in Leisure Services, where community centres, the Civic Hall and (more recently) sports fields & facilities have been transferred to appropriate community groups.
- To understand the potential role of Parish Councils in service delivery in the community.
- To understand the financial, legal and procurement barriers that may be encountered.

The future –

- To identify WLBC service areas that could be transferred to the responsibility of local community groups, as appropriate.
- To continue to promote the work of community groups in West Lancashire in projects and initiatives that benefit the local economy and bring significant health & well-being benefits.
- To consider whether to develop a Guidance or Information Pack to help 'sign-post' community groups to help them become involved in service delivery

Comparison

The experiences of the transfer of services by WLBC Leisure Services to a community group.

Resources -

- The Council's Director of Leisure and Environment will provide technical support and guidance, together with Officers from across the Authority, including Legal Services, Street Scene, Development & Regeneration and Financial Services, to be consulted as appropriate.
- External contribution, as appropriate
- Any funding requirements will be included in the final recommendations of the Committee.

INFORMATION

[Web addresses are useful here](#)

Witnesses

Who?	Why?	How?
Representative/s from Leisure Services	To gain an insight into their experience of the transfer of a leisure service to a community group.	Attendance at a meeting and presentation of information.
Representative/s from Street Scene	To gain an insight of the experience of the Street Scene to transfer a street scene service to a community group.	Attendance at a meeting and presentation of information.
Representative/s from Legal Services	To provide information of the legal and procurement barriers that may be encountered.	Attendance at a meeting and presentation of information.
Representative/s from Financial Services	To provide an overview on the financial aspects of local service delivery.	Attendance at a meeting and presentation of information.
Others in the community that may be identified during the course of the review: Council for Voluntary Services (CVS)	To provide information on local activities undertaken in their community.	Attendance at a meeting, if appropriate or presentation of information.

Site Visits

Where?	Why?
Total Reuse, Skelmersdale (invitation to all Members)	Good practice example.

ESTABLISH WAYS OF WORKING

Officer Support

Lead Officer (Corporate and Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee) – Heidi McDougall, Director of Leisure and Environment

Scrutiny Support Officer (SSO) – John Addison, Principal Overview & Scrutiny Officer

Legal Officer (LO) – Tina Sparrow, Principal Solicitor

Officers reporting as and when required –

Heidi McDougall, Director of Leisure and Environment, or Officers on her behalf.

Terry Broderick, Borough Solicitor, or Officers on his behalf.

John Harrison, Director of Development and Regeneration, or Officers on his behalf.

Marc Taylor, Borough Treasurer, or Officers on his behalf.

Reporting Arrangements

The Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee to submit its final report and recommendations to Cabinet and Council November/December 2018.

TIME SCALES

Meeting 1 – 12 October 2017

- Introduction of the theme of the topic from the Director of Leisure and Wellbeing
- Review confirmed to commence.
- To agree the Project Plan

Meeting 2 – 4 January 2018

- To consider a presentation, on behalf of the Director of Leisure and Wellbeing on the experience of transferring a community service to a local community group.
- To consider a presentation, on behalf of the Director of Street Scene, on the Service's experience in relation to the transfer of service delivery.
- To agree and review the Project Plan

Meeting 3 – 1 March 2018

- To consider a presentation, on behalf of the Borough Solicitor, on the legal and procurement barriers that may be encountered in relation to delivery of services in the local community.
- To consider the revised Project Plan

Meeting 4 – July 2018

Attendance from Parish Council and Council for Voluntary Services (TBC)

Meeting 5 – October 2018

- To consider any final aspects of the review, including a Guidance and Information Pack, as appropriate.
- To agree the draft final report and final recommendations for submission to Cabinet and Council, if applicable in November/December 2018.

Cabinet – November 2018

- Submission of final report

Council - December 2018

- To receive the final report, if applicable.

INFORMATION GATHERED

OTHER	
6 December 2017	Article – ‘Bid to get community involved in council services’ (<i>Champion 6 December 2017</i>)

CONCLUSION**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the following recommendations be considered for inclusion in the Committee's final review report:

- (i) "That in relation to the transfer of assets to community groups, consideration should be given to a formal in-house support mechanism being established as part of the process, for groups to access support following the transfer of facilities, with bi-annual or quarterly monitoring meetings put in place for this purpose."
- (ii) "That in the interest of prudent financial management, the £15k revenue funding given to Abbey Lakes each year be reviewed in the context of the overall programme of grants given to voluntary organisations."
- (iii) "That the option of offering groups insurance under a bulk insurance scheme be investigated."

REVIEW DATE – If completed in the timescales indicated, July 2019.