

Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee

Meeting held 12 June 2023

**PRESENT:** Councillors Richard Williams (Chair), Janet Ridler (Deputy Chair), Marieanne Elliot (Group Spokesperson), Tony Downing, Alan Hooper, Bernard Little, Karen McGowan, Robert Reiss and Abtisam Mohamed (Substitute Member)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies of absence were received from Cllr Denise Fox.

**2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 Cllr Karen McGowan declared that in relation to a question on Birley Golf Course that she knew the petitioner.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 The minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 were approved as a correct record.

**5. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - MONTH 12**

5.1 The Director of Finance and Commercial Services introduced the report which brought the Committee up to date with the Council's final outturn position for 2022/23 including General Fund revenue position.

5.2 **RESOLVED:** That the **Communities, Parks and Leisure** Policy Committee:-

1. Note the updated information and management actions provided by this report on the 2022/23 Revenue Budget Outturn.

5.3 **Reasons for Decision**

5.3.1 To record formal changes to the Revenue Budget

5.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

5.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balance budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced. No other alternatives were considered.

## **6. APPOINTMENTS TO URGENCY SUB COMMITTEE**

### **6.1 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:-

(a) agrees to appoint Cllr Tony Downing to serve on the Communities, Parks and Leisure Urgency Sub-Committee

(b) as respects the appointment of Members to serve on the Urgency Sub-Committee or other Sub-Committees of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee, where vacancies exist or in cases of urgency to ensure quoracy or representation, the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the relevant political group whip, be authorised to appoint Members to serve on such Sub-Committees, as necessary, on the understanding that details of such appointments will be reported to the next or subsequent meetings of the Policy Committee.

## **7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

### **7.1** A question was received from David Cronshaw which was read out by the Chair due to the questioner not being in attendance.

The Chair briefly summarised the question from David Cronshaw which was in relation to the high prices of playing golf under the age of 18 on public courses in comparison to other courses in and outside of the city and if this can be looked at in the leisure review.

The Chair responded with:

A1. As part of the tender exercise the Council will require bidders to submit detailed information about their approach to pricing. This information will be reviewed, and the Council will discuss pricing proposals with bidders during the dialogue phase of the procurement. Bidders will be made aware that the Council require bids that encourage participation by young people and that their proposed pricing structures should support this.

Members of the Council's Sport and Leisure Team will arrange to meet with Mr Cronshaw and will ensure that any feedback provided is considered and fed into the dialogue process with bidders.

## **8. WORK PROGRAMME**

### **8.1** The Principal Democratic Services Officer presented the Work Programme. It was pointed out that a specific item was being suggested to be added to the work programme regarding the Cohesion Strategy. The Chair summarised what this strategy would entail. It was agreed that this would be added to the work programme moving forwards.

### **8.2 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** that:-

1. the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, including any additions and amendments identified in Part 1;
2. consideration be given to the further additions or adjustments to the work programme presented at Part 2 of Appendix 1;
3. Members give consideration to any further issues to be explored by officers for inclusion in Part 2 of Appendix 1 of the next work programme report, for potential addition to the work programme.

8.3 Cllr McGowan enquired about a future item surrounding cremations and what the likely timescale of it being added to a future meeting would be. It was suggested to be added to the September 2023 meeting.

## **9. TREE DISEASES AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPACT**

9.1 The Head of Parks and Countryside and the Tree Manager introduced this item which gave information to the Committee on Tree Diseases and their potential impact.

9.2 A presentation was given on the benefits of the tree and woodland estate, tree and woodland work across the city, Tree related pests and diseases, Ash Dieback, costs, other impacts, anticipated pests and diseases, Ramorum disease affects and action plan.

9.3 Members gave comments and asked questions surrounding diseases, intervention, watering, processing of timber, replanting programme, Tree and Woodlands Strategy Review, costings, mitigation of budget impact, funding and government assistance. The Chair agreed to write about potential funding and assistance on behalf of the Committee.

## **10. PLAYZONES UPDATE**

10.1 The Service Manager withing the Sports and Leisure Events Team introduces this item which gave an update to the Committee on Playzones Programme.

10.2 Members gave comments and asked questions. Reponses were provided surrounding free usage for disadvantaged and young people, funding, floodlighting, upgrading of facilities, infrastructure, testing and learning, work with stakeholders, application to football foundation, identifying a range of partners, improving access for disabilities, surveys, consultation process, challenges over the last 6 months, usable spaces and resurfacing.

10.3 The Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:

- Noted the work undertaken since November and difficulties implementing the previously agreed approach to site selection.
- Endorsed the approach now being proposed including the phased application and the new methodology for site selection.
- Noted Phase 1 will be a 'Test and Learn' process implemented at sites in Ecclesfield Park and Sheffield Wednesday Community Programme facility in Jubilee Sports Ground.
- Noted the findings from the 'Test and Learn' process will be reported to the Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee.

**11. UPDATE OF TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

- 11.1 The Head of Parks and Countryside introduced this item which brought the Committee up to date on the intentions for the Task and Finish Group.
- 11.2 The Terms of Reference of the Committee were discussed. Cllr Bernard Little formally proposed a 2:2:2 formation, this was seconded by Cllr Marieanne Elliot. The 2:2:2 formation was agreed by the Committee.
- 11.3 It was agreed that the Head of Parks and Countryside would give out timescales following the meeting. It was also agreed that the T&F group would be reported back on at the September 2023 meeting.