

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 21st June 2017

Present: Councillor Duncan Bain (Chair)

Councillors Cedwien Brown, Ash Davies, Ruth Groome, Jim Hakewill, Mick Scrimshaw and Greg Titcombe

Also Present: Martin Hammond (Executive Director)
Beth Gordon (Head of Environmental Care Services)
Shirley Plenderleith (Head of Public Services)
David Pope (Committee Administrator)

17.RD.01 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Cedwien Brown nominated and Councillor Greg Titcombe seconded Councillor Duncan Bain as Chair.

RESOLVED that Councillor Duncan Bain be duly elected as Chair of the Research and Development Committee for the municipal year 2017/18.

17.RD.02 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Councillor Jim Hakewill nominated and Councillor Cedwien Brown seconded Councillor Greg Titcombe as Deputy Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Greg Titcombe be duly elected as Deputy Chair of the Research and Development Committee for the municipal year 2017/18.

17.RD.03 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Jenny Henson and Mike Brown. It was noted that Cllr Ash Davies was acting as substitute for Cllr Henson and Cllr Ruth Groome was acting as substitute for Cllr M Brown.

17.RD.04 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Research and Development Committee held on 4th April 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

17.RD.05 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

17.RD.06 **SWIMMING POOL TASK AND FINISH GROUP (A1)**

The Head of Public Services advised the committee that Kettering Swimming Pool had been closed on a temporary basis due to a small piece of ceiling panelling falling into the swimming pool area. The pool would remain closed until the nature, extent and potential cause of the issue could be identified and further action to rectify the situation had been decided.

It was noted that at the last meeting of the committee, it had been agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to examine the case for a replacement swimming pool in Kettering.

The Head of Public Services presented a report to the committee which outlined proposed Terms of Reference and a potential timetable for the Task and Finish Group. It was noted that the timetable was flexible dependent on the nature and extent of work taken on by the group.

Members were generally happy with the timetable as suggested, although consultation with schools and young people would take longer than set out. There was an acceptance that the timetable might need to be lengthened to do a thorough piece of work. It was considered that the initial visit as part of the process should be to Kettering Swimming Pool itself. In addition, visiting pools in the immediate area should be considered to better understand the local offer.

It was also suggested that consideration be given to residents of the Borough residing outside the town of Kettering, with details sought of all swimming facilities available in the borough, both private and public.

Members also stated that the project should also at least consider the practicality of identifying where a new pool should go, although this was outside the remit of the task and finish group.

RESOLVED

That the committee approved the establishment of a Task and Finish Group from 1st July 2017, to conduct, in line with the timetable and terms of reference proposed in the officer report, as amended during the discussion.

17.RD.07 COMMUNITY TOILET SCHEME (A2)

A report was submitted to the committee, as requested by Full Council at its April meeting, requesting the evaluation of the effectiveness of the current Community Toilet Scheme across the borough. The report submitted as part of the agenda sought to bring members up to date on the scheme, outlining which facilities formed part of the scheme and the benefits available to businesses taking part.

Cllr Maggie Don attended the meeting and addressed the committee, stating that there was a lack of knowledge of the scheme amongst Kettering residents, alongside a lack of clear external signage advertising the scheme outside participating businesses. In addition, the toilet located within the Cornmarket Hall had a security code on the toilet door which was only obtainable from the reception desk inside Kettering Swimming Pool.

It was acknowledged that publicity and awareness of the scheme did require improvement. It was heard that there was an aim to expand the scheme to Desborough and potentially Burton Latimer. Rothwell Town Council had a long-standing arrangement to operate its own public toilets.

It was noted that the Cornmarket Hall no longer had a resident caretaker and its toilet facilities had been misused, hence the addition of a coded lock on the doors. It was acknowledged that this situation was not ideal and consideration could be given as to whether the toilets at this location remained part of the scheme in future.

Concerns were raised at the lack of disabled facilities that formed part of the scheme, including more specialised facilities that allowed for changing of clothes. It was requested that a short report on this topic be brought back to a future meeting of the committee.

It was

RESOLVED

that:-

- i) the council would undertake improved marketing and promotion of the Community Toilet Scheme; and
- ii) An item on disabled toilet facilities in the town would be brought to a future meeting of the committee.

17.RD.08 WORK PROGRAMME (A3)

Members considered a report setting out a number of suggested items for the Research and Development Committee work programme for 2017/18.

It was noted that the Swimming Pool Task and Finish Group would be undertaking the work as set out in minute 17.RD.06.

An item on disabled toilet facilities in the town would be brought to a future meeting of the committee as set out in minute 17.RD.07.

The September meeting would see a report submitted in relation to the Leisure Facilities Strategy as the existing strategy required reviewing.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 7.49pm)

Signed:

(Chair)

DJP