

Minutes of the meeting of the **SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION) COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday, 18 January 2017 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor L A Keen

Councillors: P J Hawkins
T A Bond
P M Brivio
P I Carter
N Dixon
R J Frost
S Hill
M J Ovenden
G Rapley

Also present: Councillor M Hill – Cabinet Member for Community Services (Kent County Council)
Mr N Baker – Head of Integrated Youth Services (Kent County Council)

Officers: Team Leader – Democratic Support
Democratic Support Officer

70 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received from Members.

71 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute Members appointed.

72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

73 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 December 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

74 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Team Leader – Democratic Support advised that no members of the public had registered to speak on items on the agenda to which the public speaking protocol applied.

75 ISSUES REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY COUNCIL, CABINET, SCRUTINY (POLICY AND PERFORMANCE) COMMITTEE OR ANOTHER COMMITTEE

There were no items of business to consider.

76 ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY OR PLACED ON THE AGENDA BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, ANY INDIVIDUAL NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OR PUBLIC PETITION

There were no items of business to consider.

77 NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING KEY DECISIONS

The Team Leader – Democratic Support presented the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions to the Committee for its consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions be noted.

78 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Team Leader – Democratic Support presented the Scrutiny Work Programme to the Committee for its consideration.

Members agreed to move the Crime and Disorder update scheduled for March to April to allow Southern Water to attend and answer questions from Members in respect of flooding in Deal. Southern Water would be asked to provide written answers to Members questions in advance of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted subject to the Crime and Disorder update being re-scheduled to April to allow for Southern Water to attend the meeting of the Committee in March.

79 YOUTH SERVICES IN THE DOVER DISTRICT

The Chairman welcomed Councillor M Hill, the Kent County Council Cabinet member for Community Services and Mr N Baker, Head of Integrated Youth Services to the meeting who had accepted the invitation from the Committee to answer questions in respect of Youth Services in the Dover District.

Budget

Q1. WHAT IS TOTAL KCC YOUTH SERVICES BUDGET FOR DDC DISTRICT UNDER THE NEW CONTRACTS FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR FOR KCC DIRECTLY PROVIDED YOUTH SERVICES AND THE COMMISSIONED ONES?

The budget for the in-house youth service offer in Dover for 2017/18 had not yet been set although the 2016/17 budget for Dover was £219,800.

In partnership with Kent County Council (KCC) and Dover District Council (DDC), Pie Factory were appointed as the new commissioned youth work provider for the district in December 2016 and as a result there was no comparable 2016/17 figure. However, Members were advised that the full year budget for Dover from 2017/18 would be £99,980.40.

Whilst the majority of local authorities in the country no longer operated a youth service, Kent had maintained the youth service provision. The commission providers had been awarded a 5 year contract.

Members requested that the total countywide figure for youth service funding and how this funding was allocated by district, including Dover, be provided to the committee for comparison.

Q2. WHAT CHANGE IS THIS ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR?

The 2015/16 budget for the in-house youth services in Dover was £214,400.

The 2015/16 budget for commissioned youth services in Dover was £98,724.

The committee was advised that only one provider had tendered for the youth services contract in Dover and were unsuccessful. As a result, other successful providers in neighbouring authorities were invited to bid for the tender and Pie Factory were awarded the contract.

Q3. HOW IS THIS BUDGET SPLIT BETWEEN DOVER, DEAL, SANDWICH, AYLESHAM, AND OTHER RURAL LOCATIONS?

The budget was not split on a geographical basis. The Youth Hub Delivery Manager was responsible for determining how the resources were allocated across the district based on the need identified through sources such as: KCC, DDC and the Police. The Youth Hub Delivery Manager was also responsible for ensuring resources were not duplicated across the district.

It was recognised that youth service was a vital service for all youths from all different backgrounds and should be open access to all. To ensure the service delivered was right, service users were consulted and the Youth Forum would also help to provide input into the delivery of the service.

It was suggested by some Members that there was an unfair distribution of the service and argued that there was more provision in Deal than some other areas in more need, such as Dover and rural areas. Members were advised that other youth services were offered within schools and churches and were not funded by KCC. KCC youth services could not be available within every community and priorities had to be made.

Q4. HOW CAN KENT COUNTY COUNCIL JUSTIFY A CUT OF ABOUT A THIRD IN AYLESHAM WHEN THE POPULATION IS SET TO INCREASE BY AROUND 2400 PEOPLE WITH THE NEW 1200 HOUSES DEVELOPMENT?

The Committee agreed that this question had been covered in a previous answer.

Youth Services

Q5. WHAT YOUTH SERVICES ARE BEING PROVIDED IN THE DOVER DISTRICT?
AS PART OF ANSWERING THE QUESTION, PLEASE COULD THE PROGRAMME OF WEEKLY YOUTH ACTIVITIES (BOTH KENT COUNTY COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONED SERVICES) IN THE DOVER AREA BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMITTEE.

A timetable and list setting out the district offer was distributed to the Committee.

Q6. WHAT SERVICES ARE BEING PROVIDED IN ELVINGTON, EYTHORNE AND SHEPHERDSWELL?

A street based bespoke vehicle was used to support young people in Elvington every week. Whilst it was not always possible to find a suitable and willing facility to run youth centres out of, Councillor P M Brivio suggested that Pie Factory should approach the Elvington Community Centre to demonstrate the good work they do. It was noted that an Ofsted inspection that took place 5 years ago was very complimentary of the street based work.

With regard to the youth service provision in Sandwich, Councillor P I Carter advised that youth work ran out of 2 locations – Sandwich Technology School and the Phoenix Centre in Sandwich. Mr Baker advised that Sandwich had a jointly funded youth worker and would ask Pie Factory to look at the options available for the delivery of youth services in Sandwich, including non-financial support options for the Phoenix Centre.

Q7. PLEASE COULD YOU PROVIDE DETAILS ON THE "OUTREACH SERVICES" PROVIDED?

The Committee agreed that this question had been covered in a previous answer.

Q8. CAN INFORMATION BE PROVIDED ON THE YOUTH FORUM.

The Youth Forum was facilitated by adults and led by young people to scrutinise the youth service provision. Members of the Youth Forum were not elected although many were users of the youth services. Representatives from the Youth Forum made representations to the Youth Advisory Group (YAG). The YAG brought interested agencies together to discuss issues within the district and worked with KCC on how best to distribute the service.

Members requested that the contact details for the YAG and Youth Forums be provided to Members. The officer contact for the Dover Youth Hub in Deal was Erin Bell.

Q9. WHAT IS THE STAFFING SITUATION OF COMMISSIONED SERVICE PIE FACTORY NOW THEY HAVE TAKEN ON THE DOVER SERVICES?

Pie Factory had been delivering in Dover with 8 staff; 4 of whom were part of their core team and 4 were sessional youth workers. They had also taken on a volunteer from Footprints.

Pie Factory was also recruiting a team of creative youth workers with a focus on the Dover district.

Service Performance Monitoring

Q10. WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA USED TO MEASURE EFFECTIVENESS OF CONTRACTOR SERVICES?

Key Performance Indicators for the service were set out in Schedule 14 of the contract document and would be forwarded to Members.

Regular contract meetings for the Dover district would be led by Commissioning Officers and the outcomes of those meetings would be reported to KCCs Education and Young People Cabinet Committee twice a year.

Q11. ARE THESE CRITERIA AND THE PERFORMANCE RESULTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC?

Schedule 14 was part of the contract documentation that was sent to those who tendered for the service and was available to the public.

It was suggested that Pie Factory should be invited to a meeting of the Committee to discuss the service they provide. Councillor L A Keen asked that the Minutes of the YAG, which was an informal meeting and as a result the minutes of the meetings were not published on KCCs website, be circulated to the Committee by DDCs Community Engagement Officer.

Q12. HAVE THERE BEEN MEASURABLE EFFECTS ON YOUNG PEOPLES' WELL-BEING, QUALIFICATIONS ATTAINMENT, CRIME/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR FIGURES OF THE CUTS IN YOUTH PROVISION OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS?

There were no tangible measures relating to the general effects on young people although some work had been done on changes in young people's personalities and this information would be forwarded to Members.

Q13. DO THE YOUTH WORKERS HAVE PROPER FORMS OF CONTRACT, OR ARE THEY ON ZERO HOURS?

In-house and commissioned service staff were on annualised hours which were either permanent or fixed term contracts.

RESOLVED: For Kent County Council:

- (a) That Councillor M Hill and Mr N Baker be thanked for attending the meeting.
- (b) That a written copy of the answers to the questions be provided by Mr N Baker and distributed to the Committee.
- (c) That the total countrywide figure for youth service funding and how this is allocated by district (including Dover) for comparison, be provided to the Committee.
- (d) That KCC officers be asked to liaise with Pie Factory to look at the delivery of youth services in Sandwich and the feasibility of the Phoenix Centre, Sandwich being part of that delivery or whether non-financial support options could be provided to the Phoenix Centre.
- (e) That the contact details for KCC youth hub officers be provided and circulated to Members.
- (f) That a copy of Schedule 14 be provided to the Team Leader – Democratic Support and circulated to Members.
- (g) That Members would be provided with details on how youth service performance was measured.

For Dover District Council:

- (h) That it be recommended to the Cabinet that the Portfolio Holder for Skills, Training, Tourism, Voluntary Services and Community Safety engage with the Kent County Council commissioned provider, Pie Factory, in respect of the delivery of youth services in the Dover District.

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm.