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Minutes of the meeting of the **SCRUTINY (POLICY AND PERFORMANCE) COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Tuesday, 12 July 2016 at 6.03 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor K Mills

Councillors: T A Bond  
P M Brivio (as substitute for Councillor M I Cosin)  
B J Glayzer  
S C Manion  
M J Ovenden (as substitute for Councillor M J Holloway)  
D A Sargent

Officers: Chief Executive  
Director of Environment and Corporate Assets  
Public Protection Manager  
Team Leader – Democratic Support

## 20 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M I Cosin, R J Frost, J M Heron, M J Holloway and M Rose.

## 21 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Councillors P M Brivio and M J Ovenden had been appointed as substitute members for Councillors M I Cosin and M J Holloway respectively.

## 22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T A Bond declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 34 by reason of his wife's employment by Your Leisure and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of the matter.

## 23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 24 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.

## 25 DECISIONS OF THE CABINET RELATING TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCRUTINY (POLICY AND PERFORMANCE) COMMITTEE

There were no decisions taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 4 July 2016 in respect of recommendations from the Scrutiny (Policy and Performance) Committee.

26 ISSUES REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY COUNCIL, CABINET, SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION) COMMITTEE OR ANOTHER COMMITTEE

There were no items of business for consideration.

27 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 for consideration.

28 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.

29 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

Members were advised that the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 13 September 2016 had been moved to Deal Town Hall at the Chairman's request to enable the Committee to receive a petition relating to the Regent Cinema, Deal.

In addition, a second meeting would be held in September 2016 to consider the proposals for the Dover Leisure Centre.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted.

30 REVISED HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

The Public Protection Manager presented the report on the Revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

Members were advised that the key changes to the policy were:

- Removal of mileage limits on vehicles, though age limits on the vehicle would be retained;
- Change to the duration of driver's licences from 1 year to 3 years, although the authority retained the option to grant licences for a lesser period if deemed appropriate;
- The introduction of mandatory training for all new and existing drivers in Child Sex Exploitation Awareness; and
- Changes to payment refunds.

The policy had been subject to a 12 week consultation in early 2016 and letters were sent to key stakeholders as part of it. However, no written responses had been received in response.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to the Cabinet that decision CAB17 be approved as follows:

- (a) That the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy be approved.
- (b) That the Licensing Team Leader be authorised to make any minor or typographical amendments to the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

### 31 SET UP OF THE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE

The Director of Environment and Corporate Assets updated the Committee on the progress in setting up a Grounds Maintenance Service. The service would be a hybrid of in-house and outsourced provision.

The key areas of work being undertaken in preparation were:

- The development of contracts for the outsourced provision;
- HR were working on the TUPE arrangements for staff from the existing Grounds Maintenance provider;
- Recruitment of senior management;
- Discussions with the existing contractor in preparation for the service transfer;
- Examination of the service management structure;
- Consultation on leaseholder costs;
- Procurement of equipment (lease or purchase); and
- Statutory consents from the Environment Agency in respect of green waste;

The benefit of an in-house run service was that it provided flexibility to the Council that an outsourced service did not allow for and the potential for greater engagement with local town and parish councils and the wider community. There was also the opportunity for local town and parish council's to fund local improvements.

The Council was working with Thanet District Council, which operated an in-house Grounds Maintenance Service, to see what lessons could be learnt with the intention of exploring opportunities for service enhancement after transfer. Members were assured that the budget for the service had been set and the Council would stay within it.

The Committee was advised that if in the future market conditions changed to favour an outsourced service once again it would be relatively straight forward to transfer by TUPE the staff to the new contractor.

The possibility of a member advisory group to monitor the performance of the Grounds Maintenance Service was raised and the Director of Environment and Corporate Assets advised that this would be examined.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to the Cabinet that a Member representative be appointed to the Selection Panel for the senior manager of the Grounds Maintenance Service.

### 32 INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY

The Director of Environment and Corporate Assets presented the report on the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy.

The Strategy examined the current and future supply and demand for eight indoor sports facilities across the district. This was in addition to previous studies which had examined the supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities across the district.

The provision of the following eight indoor sporting facilities was considered:

- Indoor swimming pools;
- Sports halls;
- Health and Fitness Suites;
- Indoor bowls;
- Squash courts;
- Indoor tennis;
- Dance/Aerobic Studios; and
- Gymnastics

The strategy would be used to inform future decisions in respect of rationalisation and investment, community use and determining strategic objectives for the district.

The Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Public Protection, Councillor T J Bartlett, informed Members that consultation had already been undertaken with clubs, organisations and the public.

There was concern raised as to whether the range of consultation options had been meaningful in light of the proposals for the new Dover Leisure Centre but Members were advised that the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy while underpinning the proposed new Dover Leisure Centre formed a separate piece of consultation. The importance of accessible public transport links to sports facilities was also raised.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to Cabinet

- (i) That the proposed responses to the representations received, as shown in Appendix 1, be approved.
- (ii) That the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy as amended and attached at Appendix 2 be approved and adopted.

(Councillor T A Bond declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in this matter by reason of his wife's employment by Your Leisure and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of the matter.)

### 33 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor P M Brivio, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the business on the grounds that the items to be considered involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR DOVER LEISURE CENTRE

The Chief Executive presented the report on the Acquisition of Land for Dover Leisure Centre.

Members raised the importance of meaningful public consultation in respect of the facilities and discussed land acquisition options.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to the Cabinet:

- (a) That the Director of Environment and Corporate Assets be authorised to negotiate:
  - (i) The Heads of Terms with the owner of the land at White Cliffs Business Park (WCBP) for the purchase of the land at WCBP to facilitate the possible relocation of Dover Leisure Centre.
  - (ii) An option agreement for the sale of the existing leisure centre site at Woolcomber Street, Dover.
- (b) That the Director of Environment and Corporate Assets be authorised to enter into such agreements as he considers appropriate to give effect to the above on terms to be settled in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Public Protection and the Solicitor to the Council.

The meeting ended at 7.24 pm.