
**MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 7.35 P.M. AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY**

- Present:** Councillors Miles (Chairman), Broderick (except items 20 – 22 (part)), Patten, I J Henderson, Pugh and Tracey.
- In Attendance:** Head of Life Opportunities (Paul Price), Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney) and Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice).
- Also In Attendance:** Geraint Hughes (Partnerships Manager for Greater Anglia).

20. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Geraint Hughes, the Partnerships Manager for Greater Anglia and Paul Price, the Head of Life Opportunities to the meeting and announced that she would take the agenda items in a different order so that Geraint Hughes could make his presentation at the start of the meeting.

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor C Callender.

22. REVIEW OF THE POOR STATE OF REPAIR OF THE DISTRICT'S RAILWAY STATION INFRASTRUCTURE (Agenda Item No. 5)

Geraint Hughes informed the Committee that Greater Anglia (Abellio) had taken over the franchising for station infrastructure in February 2012, for a period of 29 months until July 2014, when it would have a longer term franchise of 15 years.

He gave an overview of the stations in the Tendring District with the varying opening times based on customer use. Greater Anglia had a 99 year lease on station buildings and was responsible for the maintenance of all structures on stations. Network Rail, he said, was responsible for track, overhead lines, bridges, lineside land and also certain commercial tenancies.

Mr Hughes said that community involvement had been undertaken at various railway stations by way of the Greater Anglia Station Adoption Scheme, which involved litter picking, looking after flower gardens and school projects. He said that Alresford Primary School had designed a railway safety poster which had been displayed at a number of railway stations.

Mr Hughes advised Members that Greater Anglia was seeking to maximise commercial lease opportunities during the 15 year franchise which could allow more favourable terms for commercial tenants. Suggestions had included investment in stations by way of S.106 agreements, community tenancies by identifying non-profit making tenants with peppercorn rents. It had been identified that demolishing redundant buildings would allow stations to look better, save money and provide better facilities of a higher quality for customers.

During questions from Members, areas of interest included:

- Tourism was key to the Tendring District with many stations very important to tourism;
- Bathside Bay development could have a major impact;
- Greater Anglia would like to be consulted on Local Plan issues that affected it, as, until now, it had no official contact at Tendring District Council;

- Concern over station closures and reduction of staffing levels;
- Access to platforms at Manningtree station for the disabled was a major issue with wheelchair users having to be carried over the railway tracks.

The Chairman thanked Geraint Hughes for his interesting and informative presentation.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

- (a) that Greater Anglia have a named Tendring District Council officer, to liaise with, particularly in relation to Local Plan issues;
- (b) that a copy of the draft Local Plan be sent to Geraint Hughes to assist Greater Anglia in its work;
- (c) that the Committee have sight of the growth and pressure point forecast from Greater Anglia;
- (d) that Cabinet understand and be involved in the Department for Transport consultation process;
- (e) that Greater Anglia be lobbied for proper access for the disabled at Manningtree Station; and
- (f) that a link be made with the Tendring Tidy Campaign and a possible special prize for the tidiest stations.

23. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Agenda Item No. 2)

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 August 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE-MENTIONED MINUTES

1. Minute 15 – Review of the Future Plans for Providing a Health Service in Tendring that meets the needs of the Community

Members reminded Officers that they had not received the Key Performance Indicators that had been sent by Mike Gogarty, Essex County Council to Tendring District Council and agreed would be circulated to Members of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee.

2. Minute 18 – Items for Future Meetings

Members reminded Officers that it was agreed a report on the Community Assets Rents Offsetting Scheme (CAROS) would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee on 29 October 2012 by the Assets Manager (Andy White).

25. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 15.3

There were none.

26. FOYER SCHEME TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE

The Head of Life Opportunities (Paul Price) presented a report on the Foyer Scheme to support young people and gave background information on the problems of funding a Foyer Scheme in the Tendring District. An important issue was the need to have a Foyer filled consistently, if not, then people would have to be brought in from outside of the District, which had happened at Harlow Council.

During the ensuing discussion it was pointed out that consultation with other local authorities had been omitted from the report. The Head of Life Opportunities confirmed that other local authorities had been concerned about the viability of Foyer Schemes and the future was not looking good for Foyers.

Concern was raised over an antisocial behaviour problem in Holland and it was suggested that Manningtree Town Council be contacted to see how it had dealt with a similar problem there.

Families with complex needs was given as an example as an emerging issue. There was also concern over a lack of social care for youngsters leaving care homes after attaining the age of 18. Members recognised that it was important that help was given to those youngsters to be able to participate in learning and training.

After further discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that Cabinet be informed:

- (a) That the issue of homelessness and young people not in work or training be put on the forward work programme of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee;
- (b) A Worklessness Working Party be set up and a Cabinet Member be asked to report back to this Committee with any progress at the Committee's meeting on 10 December 2012; and
- (c) That the Foyer project be kept under review and a report be brought back to this Committee in April 2013.

27. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee noted the new item relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee contained in the Forward Plan Number 131.

28. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

29. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the items to be discussed at the next three formal meetings of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee and asked that a Cabinet Portfolio Holder be invited to the meeting of the Committee on 10 December 2012 to discuss any progress made in respect of the homelessness issue.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.40 p.m.

Chairman