
**MINUTES OF THE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.35 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WEELEY**

Present: Councillors Page (Chairman), R Callender (Vice-Chairman), Aldis, Colbourne, Griffiths, Talbot and Wood

Also Present: Councillors Platt and Turner

In Attendance: Corporate Director (Public Experience) (June Clare), Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney) and Democratic Services Officer (Michael Pingram)

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Simons (with Councillor Griffiths substituting).

24. APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee was aware that, due to a recent change in its membership the office of the Vice-Chairman of the Committee was currently vacant.

It was moved by Councillor Talbot, seconded by Councillor Colbourne and:

RESOLVED that Councillor R Callender be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.

25. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on 24 October 2013, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

27. CONDUCT OF THE MEETING – REVISED AGENDA

The Chairman explained to the Committee that the agenda had been changed and said that it was necessary as items previously on the agenda had recently been discussed at Corporate Management Committee.

The Chairman then asked if Officers would ensure that each Committee was aware of what it had been responsible for in order to avoid items overlapping between different Committee's in the future.

28. SCRUTINY - ENVIRONMENT AND COAST PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

The Chairman invited Councillor Turner (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coast Protection) to give an overview of his portfolio, his vision for its future and how he felt the Committee could assist him in that role.

Councillor Turner begun by giving a brief overview of the different services for which he was responsible. He then explained that the main priority currently was the Sea Defence

Scheme from Clacton through to Holland Haven due to its importance to the District. He also said that a major initiative was the £1.2 million improvements to the Weeley Crematorium with two replacement cremators being installed. A further scheme within this, he said, was that any metal that was left in the cremators was sold for scrap with the money raised then being donated to fund a newly formed Bereavement Counselling Service.

Councillor Turner said that the Clacton Town Centre was also a current issue. There were, he said, regular alcohol-related problems that it was felt was taking away from the experience of shopping in the area and would deter customers from returning. He explained that although this had been brought to the attention of the Police, they felt it was a health issue and therefore Councillor Turner was looking to the Committee for suggestions as to how to tackle this. During discussions, it was suggested to look into a by-law, put more pressure on the Police and ask the local MP to write a letter to the Home Secretary to intervene.

Councillor Turner then said that with regards to Health and Well-being, a pilot scheme had been set up with Essex County Council and it was felt that the main priority was mental health but explained that with the ongoing restructuring of the health service, it was difficult to make decisions and move forward. He also stated that an emergency meeting with Colchester General Hospital to discuss their recent problems had been arranged.

The Council's Corporate Director of Public Experience then gave an overview of her service and explained that Public Experience was about getting things done and how services impacted on residents in numerous ways. She said that despite staff cutbacks and diminishing resources, expectations were increasing all the time and she explained the numerous successes of her service in the past year, including the extension of the free parking scheme, new beach huts, improvements to changing facilities on the seafront to accommodate the disabled, the £36 million funded coast defence scheme and the new waste and recycling arrangements which had saved the Council £450,000 per year.

Following discussion by the Committee, it was **RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet that:

After receiving a report from the Portfolio Holder referring to drunken behaviour in Clacton Town Centre, the Cabinet consider a new by-law be taken up to abate the obvious nuisance and;

It was **COMMENTED** to Cabinet that:

Councillor Turner, the Corporate Director of Public Experience and her staff be thanked for delivering these services on behalf of the authority despite the financial cutbacks.

29. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT – SCRUTINY TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION BY A WORKING PARTY – UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

Following discussions at the last scheduled meeting of the Committee, held on 7 October 2013, a number of Members offered to look into developing suggestions put forward at that time. The Chairman asked Members if they were able to update the Committee as to any progress made.

Development of Pet Cemetery or Crematorium Service and Eco-Burial Facility

Councillor Talbot submitted a report on the potential development of a Pet Cemetery/Crematorium Service and an Eco-Burial facility. He began by explaining the various different Eco Burial methods that could be used, including two forms of natural burials, promession and cryonics. He then said that if Eco-Burials were a route the Council would wish to take that there were land and facilities in close proximity to the

Weeley Crematorium that could be used. With regards to pet cemeteries and crematoriums, Councillor Talbot explained that he had searched for those who provided this and felt it was mainly private family businesses. He further stated that, having spoken with the Council's Open Space and Bereavement Services Manager, the Council didn't currently own land that would be suitable for a pet cemetery, although the Council would have the option to buy the land. Councillor Talbot also explained how he had put an advert in the local paper asking residents for their views on the above issues but had received a disappointing return with mixed views.

In conclusion, Councillor Talbot felt that the Committee would not be able to recommend to Cabinet that it undertake the introduction of either Eco-Burials or Pet Cemeteries in Tendring as a way of generating income but that this could be looked at in the future.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Talbot for what was an excellent report and asked if any other Members of the Committee had any updates.

Accessibility of Council Services for those with Disabilities

Councillor Colbourne provided an update on accessibility of Council Services for those with disabilities. He told the Committee that he had spoken with several disabled people who felt that there was a lack of bus shelter access for them. He also stated that many shops in Dovercourt were without disabled access but highlighted that this was currently being looked into. He then said that there were not enough dropped curbs in Dovercourt and finally mentioned that the biggest problems were with the hospital but due to constant restructuring of the Health Service it was proving difficult to resolve issues.

Committee Representative in Tourism-Related Matters

Councillor Callander reported that he had made contact with the Portfolio Holder for Tourism but had not yet received a response. Accordingly it was **AGREED** that the Council's Democratic Services Manager contact the Portfolio Holder for Tourism with the view to setting up a meeting with Councillor Callander.

Out-of-hours Service Provision by the Council – What is it, how does it work and does it meet the needs of the Community?

Councillor Wood agreed to look into this matter and report his initial findings back to the next meeting of the Committee.

Following discussion by the Committee, it was **AGREED** that the Council's Democratic Services Manager speak to the Councillors who had not attended to see if they could provide an interim report on the items they were tasked with, which would be circulated to the Committee.

30. PROPOSED MINOR REVIEW OF CALL-IN PROCEDURES

The Committee was presented with a report prepared by the Council's Democratic Services Manager that sought a potential change to the Council's Call-in Procedures, as considered at the request of the Chairman at the Service, Development and Delivery Committee on 7 October 2013.

The Chairman then updated the Committee by explaining that Cabinet had agreed with the proposals, in principle and the Council's Monitoring Officer had been asked to take account of it when reviewing the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure.

Following discussion by the Committee, it was **RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet that the wording of the report be put forward for inclusion within the Council's Constitution as part of its ongoing review.

31. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.28 p.m.

Chairman