

# WEST DEVON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



West Devon  
Borough  
Council

## Minutes of a meeting of the **West Devon Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held on **Tuesday, 2nd April, 2019** at **2.00 pm** at the **Chamber - Kilworthy Park**

Present: **Councillors:**

**Chairman** Cllr Yelland  
**Vice Chairman** Cllr Cheadle

Cllr Cloke  
Cllr Moyse  
Cllr Pearce  
Cllr Parker

Cllr Kimber  
Cllr Musgrave  
Cllr Sheldon

### **In attendance:**

Councillors:  
Cllr Cann OBE  
Cllr Jory  
Cllr Leech  
Cllr Sampson

Cllr Edmonds  
Cllr Lamb  
Cllr Mott  
Cllr Sanders

Officers:  
Chief Executive  
Group Manager – Customer First & Support Services  
Section 151 Officer  
Commissioning Manager  
Head of Place Making Practice  
Assets – Specialist  
Fusion Leisure Representatives

### 109. **Apologies for Absence**

\* O&S 109

Apologies for absence for this meeting were received from Cllrs R E Baldwin, J Evans, J R McInnes, J B Moody, P J Ridgers and D K A Sellis

### 110. **Confirmation of Minutes**

\* O&S 110

The minutes of the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26 March 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

111. **Declarations of Interest**

\* O&S 111

Members and officers were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of this meeting, but there were none made.

112. **Public Forum**

\* O&S 112

There were no issues raised during the Public Forum session.

113. **Hub Committee Forward Plan**

\* O&S 113

Members considered the latest version of the Hub Committee Forward Plan and noted its contents without any further comment.

114. **Leisure Contract -Fusion Annual Report 2018**

\* O&S 114

The Committee considered a report that provided Members with a performance review summary for last year from Fusion Lifestyle in the management of all six leisure centres across West Devon and South Hams.

As part of the presentation that was delivered to the Committee, reference was made to the following future priorities:

- The aim for Parklands Intencity studio to attract new clientele from a wider catchment area;
- To Improve links with existing clubs and organisations via Partnership Working with Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA), particularly in Tavistock;
- To Introduce a GP referral scheme at Meadowlands;
- To improve links with schools to provide sporting facilities for their needs (including sports days, swimming galas and one-off events); and
- That, in accordance with their Key Performance Indicators:
  - o To increase total participation, membership and swim school figures by 10-15%;
  - o To increase target group participation by 10-15% for: Under 16s, those aged over 60, disabled users and females;
  - o To increase the customer satisfaction score by 3-5%; and
  - o To maintain the Quest Accreditation at each Leisure Centre.

During the ensuing debate, reference was made to:-

(a) the partnership working with OCRA. When questioned, the

representatives confirmed that they were wholly committed to continuing to work with OCRA and proceeded to pay tribute to the work undertaken by that organisation;

- (b) the future focus for Fusion. In addition to increasing participation levels, the representatives informed that the future focus for Leisure was on rebuilding confidence and trust within the local communities within West Devon;
- (c) use of apprenticeships. Having been informed that Fusion was particularly keen on the employment of apprentices, a number of Members welcomed the initiatives that were being used by the organisation;
- (d) the potential conflict between increasing outreach services and increasing leisure centre participation. Whilst acknowledging the potential conflict, the representatives advised that the overriding mantra of Fusion was: *'more people, more active, more often'*. In response to a specific query, the representatives confirmed that they were very happy to engage and develop an improved outreach service in Chagford;
- (e) the competitive nature of the leisure industry. The representatives confirmed that they welcomed non-aggressive competition, as it led to a lack of complacency and an improvement in service standards;
- (f) the moveable floor at Parklands Leisure Centre. The Committee received an update on the moveable floor and was assured that the organisation remained committed to developing the centre (and swimming pool) at Parklands Leisure Centre. The representatives also acknowledged that it was now timely to re-open dialogue with Swim England.

In conclusion, the Committee thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and responses to Member questions and looked forward to seeing how the contract evolved in the next few years.

It was then:

### **RESOLVED**

That the content of the Annual Report for 2018 and the proposals for 2019 be noted.

115.

### **Customer Satisfaction Action Progress**

O&S 115

The Committee considered a report that detailed the progress that had been made to date in improving customer satisfaction.

In discussion, the following points were raised:-

- (a) The Committee welcomed the ongoing downward trend of call volume numbers that were being received by the Contact Centre;
- (b) Members cited some examples of difficulties that they had experienced in accessing the Member direct dial hotline. In response, the Committee was reminded that the localities email inbox was a very useful tool to use as a first point of contact, but the issue of the hotline number would be looked into outside of this meeting;
- (c) With regard to reference in the presented agenda report to: 'addressing avoidable customer contact', the Committee felt that this was an unfortunate phrase and should be changed for future progress reports;
- (d) Officers confirmed that discussions were currently taking place with both Design colleagues and the Council's external website provider in an attempt to improve the format and layout of the website to ensure that it was more reader and user friendly.

In conclusion, the Committee welcomed both the progress that was being made (and the corporate emphasis that was being given) to improving customer satisfaction and wished to thank the Commissioning Manager for her hard work in this regard.

It was then:

### **RESOLVED**

That the Hub Committee be **RECOMMENDED** to:

1. note and comment on the progress made to date in improving customer satisfaction (as detailed in section 3 of the presented agenda report); and
2. endorse the next steps (as outlined in section 5 of the presented agenda report).

116.

### **Joint Local Plan: Standing Agenda Item**

\* O&S 116

In discussion, the Committee recognised that the Joint Local Plan (JLP) had now been adopted by the three partner local authorities: Plymouth City Council; South Hams District Council; and West Devon Borough Council. As a result, a debate ensued as to how frequently the Committee should receive updates in the future. Whilst some Members were of the view that it would now be more appropriate for the Committee to receive updates on a quarterly basis, the majority view was that, at least for the foreseeable future, updates should be retained as a standing agenda item.

Following the adoption of the JLP, officers also highlighted that great focus was now being given to the creation of a Development Plan

Document on Settlement Boundaries and a Supplementary Planning Document that included formal guidance on Conservation and Design.

117. **Financial Stability Review Group Update: Standing Agenda Item**  
\* O&S 117

The Committee received a report arising from the Group meeting held on 5 March 2019 that summarised that:

- progress was being made;
- there was no room for complacency;
- there were no surpluses available; and
- the financial environment continued to be challenging.

In discussion, reference was made to:-

- (a) the estimated figures. By way of caution, the Committee noted that the figures that were referred to in the Group report were only projections at this time;
- (b) the importance of the Review Group. In support of the work that had been undertaken to date, a number of Members emphasised the importance of the Review Group being retained following the local elections in May 2019. In addition, the Committee paid tribute to the Group Members, who it was recognised had been instrumental in making strides to improve the financial position of the Council.

118. **Task & Finish Group Updates (if any)**

\* O&S 118

Since there were no active Task and Finish Groups at this time, there were no updates given to this Panel meeting.

119. **Member Learning and Development Opportunities Arising from this Meeting**

\* O&S 119

The Committee recognised that the key focus for Member Learning and Development in the short-term would be the Induction Programme following the upcoming local elections.

120. **Chairman's Concluding Comments**

\* O&S 120

As this was anticipated to be the last Committee meeting of the 2018/19 Municipal Year, the Chairman thanked all Members and the lead officers for their commitment and diligence during the last four years.

In reply, other Members wished to thank the Chairman for her hard work and commitment that had helped to improve the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function.

The Meeting concluded at 3.30 pm

**Signed by:**

**Chairman**

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