

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 5 JULY, 2018

Present: Councillors A Stirling (Chair), I Walker (Vice Chair), A Allan, N Baillie (as substitute for Councillor D Robertson), P Gibb, J Gifford (as substitute for Councillor A Ross), V Harper (as substitute for Councillor S Calder), D Mair, I Mollison (as substitute for Councillor A Kille), G Owen (as substitute for Councillor D Beagrie), G Petrie, G Reynolds, H Smith (as substitute for Councillor A Hassan), and S Wallace.

Apologies: Councillors D Beagrie, S Calder, A Hassan, A Kille, D Robertson and A Ross.

Officers: Director of Infrastructure Services, Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure, Accountancy Finance Manager, Legal Services Manager, Service Manager (Facilities and Funding), Service Manager (Sport and Physical Activity), Service Manager (Cultural Services), Co-ordinating Team Leader (Community Leisure, Sport and Leisure), Service Manger (Business Development) and Committee Officers (A McLeod and A Ziarkowska).

1. SEDERUNT AND DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were declared.

2. RESOLUTIONS

A. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality and opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and

B. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 50A (2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Item 5 of the business below on account of the likely disclosure of confidential information in breach of the obligation of confidence.

3. CULTURE AND SPORT – DELIVERING THE STRATEGIES

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 31 May 2018 (Item 17), when the Committee had agreed (1) the establishment of a Sub-Committee to support the development of the Culture and Sport Business Unit (CSBU), (2) the Terms of Reference and recruitment process for the External Members of the Sub-Committee, and (3) that a Special Meeting of the Communities Committee would be convened following the conclusion of the recruitment process to agree the appointment of Members and External Members to the Sub-Committee and to consider the implementation arrangements and timetable for the CSBU, there had been circulated a report dated 28 June 2018 by the Interim Director of Education and Children's Services which provided an update on progress towards the establishment of the Sub-Committee.

The Committee heard from the Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure, who introduced the report, which highlighted a range of proposals for the development of policies designed to drive forward new strategies with the objective of providing guidance and direction to the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee. Reference was made to the best way to support the development of the Libraries Service to bring maximum positive impact to communities for the next decade, with support to schools and school libraries being a key part of the mission for the Libraries and Information Service. In addition, the focus to take forward the new strategic outcomes of the Sport and Physical Activity Service to encourage people to become more active was discussed. It was further reported that work had started on mapping the provision of outdoor sports pitches and facilities, noting that there was an inconsistency in the current letting arrangements for different categories of pitches and the aim to integrate the letting and administration of outdoor pitches and sports facilities under the banner of the Culture and Sports Business Unit (CSBU). Further development of the Arts and Heritage service in line with the objectives of the Cultural Strategy were also proposed. It was also noted the intention to transfer the management of community and town halls within the CSBU.

Members discussed the need for meaningful engagement with Elected Members in their localities, with communities and community groups, as well as clubs and partner agencies, in order to ensure positive outcomes and timely delivery of change and positive benefits.

After discussion, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to consider the development areas outlined within the report;
- (2) in relation to paragraph 2.10 of the report, to amend line 4 to read "this will include, but is not exhaustive";
- (3) with regard to buildings with shared catering facilities, that regular reports should be submitted, as required, to the Education and Children's Services Committee and Communities Committee by the Culture & Sport Sub-Committee.

4. DEVELOPING THE CULTURE AND SPORT BUSINESS UNIT – UPDATE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 31 May 2018 (Item 17), when the Committee had considered the implementation arrangements and timetable for the establishment of the Culture and Sport Business Unit (CSBU) and a proposed pilot period and proposals for reviewing its operation, there had been circulated a report dated 27 June 2018 by the Interim Director of Education and Children's Services providing an update on work to date and the next steps in establishing the CSBU.

The Committee heard from the Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure, that following the appointment of the Sub-Committee membership, an initial programme of meetings would be scheduled in the run up to the 'Go Live' date, and having outlined a proposed timescale of

induction and training activities and a draft schedule of items to be considered during the period from July 2018, up until the establishment of the CSBU, after discussion, the Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) In relation to paragraph 2.5 of the report to move the timescale for the Draft Pitch Strategy to November 2018;
- (2) In relation to paragraph 2.7 of the report, that Members of the Committee should consider and feed back to the Chair and/or Councillor Allan any comments or suggestions regarding the content of the induction package; and
- (3) To commend the work of the Senior Management Team and other members of staff who had been involved in the development of the new strategy for Culture and Sport.

5. APPOINTMENTS TO THE ABERDEENSHIRE CULTURE AND SPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 31 May 2018 (Item 17), when the Committee had agreed the establishment of a Sub-Committee to support the development of the Culture and Sport Business Unit (CSBU), there had been circulated a report dated 28 June 2018 by the Director of Business Services seeking the appointment of four External Members, four Elected Members, substitutes for the four Elected Members, a Chair and Vice-Chair to the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee and note that the Members of the Sub-Committee shall be appointed for the remainder of the full Council term, subject to review after one year.

After discussion, the Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) to appoint the following candidates to the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee as External Members –
David Cook;
James Knowles;
Kim Penman; and
Clark Sutherland.
- (2) to appoint the following Elected Members to the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee –
Councillor Lesley Berry;
Councillor Alastair Forsyth;
Councillor Colin Pike; and
Councillor Anne Simpson.
- (3) Not to appoint substitute Members to the Sub-Committee in the first instance, in order to allow the Sub-Committee to mesh, and to keep the matter under review;
- (4) to appoint David Cook as the Chair of the Sub-Committee;
- (5) in principle that the Vice-Chair should be a Council Member and that the Recruitment Panel reconvenes as soon as possible and interviews the four Council Members already appointed to the Sub-Committee. The Committee agreed to delegate the appointment of the Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee to the Director of Infrastructure Services following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokesperson of the Communities Committee;
- (6) to note that the Members of the Sub-Committee shall be appointed for the remainder of the full council term and that this will be reviewed as part of the Review of the operation of the Business Unit after one year;

- (7) to note that the Sub-Committee will set the dates, times and locations for their meetings;
- (8) to amend the Terms of Reference to reflect that Elected Members appointed to the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee should not be members of the Communities Committee, in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest;
- (9) to amend the wording in Appendix 2, 4.1.1 to reflect a request for a quarterly performance report from the Aberdeenshire Culture and Sport Business Unit on strategic outcomes achieved; and
- (10) to thank all members of staff from the Lifelong Learning and Leisure Service for their work in the delivery of the service and the Management Team for delivering, at pace, and to note that the Members of the Communities Committee appreciate all the work that has been done to date and in the Sub-Committee going forward.