

**SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008**

**MINUTES**  
**(18.00 – 19.45)**

**PRESENT** Councillor Duncan Smith (in the Chair), Councillors Lydia Bishop, Martin Dunne, Wendy Flynn, David Hall, Paul McLain and Chris Ryder.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Cabinet Member Finance and Culture  
Cabinet Member Sport and Safety  
Cabinet Member Built Environment

1. **APOLOGIES** Councillor Tina Franklin and Sandra Holliday  
Cabinet Member (Community Development and Housing)

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

3. **MINUTES (Agenda item 3)**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

5. **BT's PROPOSAL TO RE-ALIGN PAYPHONE PROVISION TO MEET CUSTOMER DEMAND**

The Chairman introduced Phil Bennett and Jane Milton from BT Payphones who provided some background to the proposals which were in response to the change in the communications culture throughout the UK owing to the increase in mobile phone ownership. There are currently 61,792 public payphones in Great Britain and 60% of these no longer cover their costs. Following the Ofcom review one of the changes introduced is that there is no longer a requirement for BT to consult on the removal of a public payphone which has another payphone within 400 metres. BT's current programme of proposed public payphone removals includes 9 locations in the Cheltenham District, subject to consultation by 6<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

The following responses were provided to members' questions:-

- Part of Ofcom's review in 2005 stated that it is the responsibility of the local authority to initiate its own consultation process to canvas the views of the local community

and that they would normally expect these consultations to involve other public organisations such as the parish councils

- The usage of the payphones proposed for removal was under one call per month
- No emergency calls had been made from these particular payphones in the last year
- Negative revenue in respect of each box ranged between £650 and £1150

Phil Bennett indicated that detailed statistical information was not available at the meeting but he agreed that written responses would be provided from BT in respect of the following:-

- Pco1 Springbank Road
  - number of households with no landlines
  - any information relating to mobile phones with no credit
  - details of any black spots for accidents
- Number of privately owned landlines within 400m of the payphone to be removed
- Information regarding low domestic/high business area in the locations of the payphones proposed for removal – ie accessibility to landlines in the event of an emergency taking place at night

Phil Bennett encouraged the submission of information to support objections to any of the proposed removals – for example relating to social need in the area.

RESOLVED that the Committee will consult with Parish Councils and communities effected and co-ordinate a response on behalf of the Council.

## 6. APPOINTMENT OF NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced this report which had been circulated with the agenda. He explained that due to reasons set out in 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 of the report, it was suggested that the tenant representative and MAD representative be held in abeyance pending future developments and dealt with at a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) appoints Hazel Kitchin (Cheltenham Arts Council) and Jackie Sallis (Disability Forum) as non-voting co-opted members of the Committee
- ii) defers appointment of the tenant representative and MAD representative to a future meeting

## 7. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE

**(a)** By Council – None

**(b)** By Cabinet

### CORPORATE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

The Corporate Policy Manager introduced this report which had been circulated with the agenda. He explained that at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 the Cabinet had approved the policy and agreed to carry out consultation on the six draft equality and diversity statements attached as Appendix B to the report.

In response to Members' questions the Corporate Policy Manager indicated that in his opinion the Council had evidence to support progress to level two of the Equality

Standard. The target for all Gloucestershire local authorities under the LAA is to have achieved level three by 2010.

Councillor Flynn suggested that in order to promote equality on the grounds of religion and belief, the Council should invite representatives of other faiths to address Council meetings, rather than always starting with Christian prayers.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Corporate Policy Manager indicated that the council has a procurement strategy that gives a clear commitment to equality of opportunity which included contractual arrangements with external partners.

It was suggested that the monitoring of the policy would most appropriately be undertaken by Staff and Support Services with regular updates to Cabinet so all Members will have the opportunity to receive the report for information.

**(c) Other Committees – None**

**8 BRIEFING FROM CABINET MEMBERS**

Cabinet Member Finance and Culture reported on the following:-

- Praised the former Cabinet Member Councillor Seacome for the excellent work undertaken during his term of office to promote Arts and Culture in Cheltenham. He promised continuation of current policy in this area and advised that he was making a recommendation to Council in July 2008 which supported the allocation of funding of £2 million from the sale of land (the Midwinter scheme) to the Art Gallery and Museum Development Scheme.
- He was already working with officers to look at ways to reduce the £700k budget gap 2009/10. This included looking at underspends where the savings were sustainable, fees and charges, shared services and the best use of the council's assets.

In response to a question from Councillor Ryder, the Cabinet Member Finance and Culture was unable to clarify the position with regards to the rules regarding the expenditure of the capital receipt from the sale of Midwinter but agreed to find out and get back to her following the meeting.

Cabinet Member Built Environment reported on the following:-

- Acknowledged that whilst housing enabling which was within the Social and Community remit came under his portfolio, he was not clear at this stage what this work would involve and agreed to report back at a future meeting.
- Reported that issues relating to roads and pavements had come up frequently during elections canvassing. He referred to Community aim ref 8A of the Business Plan 'We will have ensured that the council has an effective working relationship with the county council and its contractor Gloucestershire Highways in terms of highway issues within the borough' and indicated that he had already organised a meeting with Gloucestershire Highways to discuss how the council can influence the capital programme in relation to Cheltenham and had agreed regular reporting in relation to the management of street trees in Cheltenham.

Cabinet Member Sport and Safety reported on the following:-

- The target for re-opening Leisure@ is the beginning of September 2008 and the immediate focus will be to regain customers and to meet its financial targets. The Cabinet were due to consider proposed pricing structure (fees & charges) year 2008/9 and the outline business plan in July 2008.
- Referred to the Tackling Health Inequalities and Promoting Healthy Lifestyles report due to be considered next on the agenda and advised that the deadline for applications for funding outlined in para 3.2 is 11<sup>th</sup> July 2008. He also referred to additional funding from the Gloucestershire Integrated Youth Offer 'Places to go – things to do' available through Cheltenham Children and Young People's Partnership and indicated that the closing date for applications is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008. He asked Members to encourage all eligible organisations to apply.

In response to a question, the Cabinet Member Sport and Safety indicated that he currently had no view about the use of facilities at Christ Church however this was to be discussed in future and could be reported back.

The Chairman was pleased with progress at Leisure@ and asked if any discussions were taking place with regard to exploring options for widening sporting provision possibly through the use of external partners. He suggested that the Committee would be interested in setting up a small working group to assist the Cabinet in taking this forward. The Cabinet Member Sport and Safety advised that developments were at a very early stage however a working group could be useful at a later date.

#### 9. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND PROMOTING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES (Agenda item 9)

The Healthy Communities Partnership Manager and the Healthy Lifestyles Development Officer gave a presentation on progress in delivering Healthy Lifestyles initiatives across the Borough and plans for the coming year.

Comments were made that a number of the initiatives were female orientated which did not appear to support the Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy considered earlier in the evening. The council needed to encourage inclusivity and integrated groups where possible. In response the Healthy Lifestyles Development Officer indicated that a need had been identified previously but there were other projects in the pipeline which would address the balance.

The following responses were provided to Members' questions:-

- It was anticipated that the Community Outreach Project for Older People would be up and running by July 2008, with activities offered on a weekly basis in the priority areas. The funding was one-off until March 2009.
- Publicity of initiatives will be through local community groups, interest groups and Ward Councillors. It was suggested that a programme of events be emailed to all Members as soon as available.
- The Allotment Project/Community Garden will identify good practice from existing schemes under the Environment portfolio and add value to the current programme

The Chairman commented that future reports needed to tie into the Local Area Agreement to ensure that the council was meeting its targets as a delivery partner.

RESOLVED that Committee:-

- i) notes the progress in delivering Healthy Lifestyles initiatives across the Borough, with particular focus on areas of greatest health inequality
- ii) notes the progress made in establishing the Cheltenham Community Sport and Physical Activity Plan.

10. GLOUCESTERSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (HOSC)  
(Agenda item 10)

As the Council's representative on HOSC Councillor Penny Hall introduced this report which had been circulated with the agenda. She provided an update on the work of HOSC since the briefing note she had produced in November 2007 and also referred to Gloucestershire Health News which had been circulated to the Committee for information. She explained that she would welcome the opportunity to form closer links with Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee and act as a conduit for information between the two Committees. In order to facilitate this she asked to bring a report back to the next committee meeting following HOSC.

Councillor D Hall indicated that he had found the update very useful. He welcomed the development of the Carers Strategy outlined in para 2.3 as he had been concerned that throughout Gloucestershire Health News there had been no mention of carers who needed support in respect of their own health and wellbeing. In response to his question it was confirmed by Councillor Bishop that in her experience GPs are required to have a carers register which provides access to care plans and other support available.

Councillor Penny Hall indicated that she is keen to get on as many of the task groups as possible in order to be able to make a difference and any feedback from the Committee in respect of any topic under consideration would be useful.

The Chairman suggested that it would be better if the Committee could feed into the process prior to HOSC meetings rather than receiving reports back. He supported the concept of closer links with HOSC and indicated that he would discuss the best way to manage the process with Councillor P Hall and the Deputy Chief Executive outside of the meeting.

11. COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2008/09 AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Agenda item 11)

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced this report which had been circulated with the agenda. He explained that the Committee needed to agree a workplan for 2008-09 which reflects the relevant priorities of the business plan.

The following suggestions were made for future inclusion in the work plan:-

- Feedback from representatives on Outside Bodies relating to Social and Community Group
- Progressing Care Villages
- Community Safety issues and how CBC is contributing
- Children and Young People - review of facilities in Cheltenham
- Review of Library service (possibly July 2008 to link in with cultural theme of meeting)
- Leisure@ business development – Councillors Smith, Ryder and Dunne agreed to assist Cabinet Member Sport and Safety and Assistant Director Wellbeing and Culture in any future working group.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008.

The Chairman pointed out that the date had been changed to accommodate a themed meeting around culture following the close of the Music Festivals.

Councillor D Smith  
Chair