

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on 16 January 2024 commencing at 6.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan (Chairman)  
Councillor Jacob Flear (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Jeanette McGhee (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Trevor Bridgwood  
Councillor Lynda Mullally  
Councillor Maureen Palmer  
Councillor Roger Pilgrim  
Councillor Moira Westley  
Councillor Christopher Darcel

**Also Present:** Councillor Stephen Bunney

**In Attendance:**

Nova Roberts	Director of Change Management, ICT & Regulatory Services
Ady Selby	Director - Operational & Commercial Services
Cara Markham	Commercial Development Manager
Darren Mellors	Performance & Programme Manager
Ele Snow	Senior Democratic and Civic Officer
Chris Duncan	Everyone Active
Martin Miles	Everyone Active
Peter Smith	Everyone Active

**Apologies:** Councillor Paul Key  
Councillor Mrs Diana Rodgers

**Membership:** Councillor Chirstopher Darcel was appointed as substitute for Councillor Paul Key

### 25 WELCOME AND THANKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed all present, including the presenters from Everyone Active and Visiting Members. He also thanked those who had attended the Overview and Scrutiny training session held virtually the previous evening, and requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the trainer. The Chairman went on to express how valuable the training had been and expressed a hope that it be repeated in due course.

## 26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 7 November 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

## 27 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

## 28 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE

With no comments or questions, the Matters Arising Schedule was **DULY NOTED**.

## 29 PRESENTATION ITEM - EVERYONE ACTIVE

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Chris Duncan, Martin Miles and Peter Smith from Everyone Active. The Committee heard that their presentation would follow on from a previous meeting of the Committee in November 2022, when they had attended to provide details of works undertaken at the Gainsborough Leisure Centre, outreach programmes across the district and ongoing improvement plans.

On opening their presentation, it was explained that Members would hear details regarding the facilities in Gainsborough and Market Rasen, ongoing work for local communities and programmes upcoming in 2024. Specific attendance data was shared, with Members hearing that West Lindsey Leisure Centre (Gainsborough site) had a recorded attendance of 301,076 for the full previous year 2022 / 23, and attendances at West Lindsey Leisure Centre after nine months 23/24 (up to Q3) was 242,503 compared to 218,032 to the same period last year (22/23), meaning West Lindsey was on track to end the year with an increase of 8% on the previous year. Market Rasen was at 32,479 compared to 29,937 in the same period last year, and was on track to end the year with an increase of 6% on the previous year. Additionally, West Lindsey Leisure Centre had an independent Quest Plus assessment in July 2023, with an overall result achieving 'Very Good'. Of note, the centre had received ratings of 'excellent' in the areas of 'Partnership and Collaboration', 'Financial Management and Performance', and 'Swimming Lessons'.

In relation to facility maintenance at the Gainsborough site, it was explained that 2023 had been a challenging year, with the failure of a heating pump, floor lifting in the squash courts and a lift being out of action as new hydraulics were awaited. Alongside these unexpected repairs, all actions from the Condition Survey had been completed, and a new fire alarm system had been installed.

In relation to the local community impact, Members were handed a copy each of the Everyone Active newsletter, which detailed, among other things, the Cancer Rehab Fighting fit programme, the Healthy Aging Programme, Healthy Workplaces pilot, Kids Dynamo Cricket programme and dementia support and care home visits. Members heard a brief overview of these programmes alongside the other agencies involved, such as the Co-op Community Trust, NHS community services and local mental health charities. Further details

of programmes based out of the Market Rasen centre were also provided, including a national lottery funded women and girls group fitness class.

At the conclusion of their presentation, Members were invited to ask questions, with all understanding that detailed answers or specific data sets may need to be shared outside of the meeting, if information was not immediately to hand.

In response to a series of questions regarding the Fit Village scheme, it was explained that whilst several Parish Councils had made contact, there had not been the take up that had been anticipated initially. It was recognised by all that rising costs such as utility bills could be a barrier to opening up some village halls. It was also recognised that since the initial approaches had been made, there may have been changed circumstances and parish Councils were invited to make contact with the Everyone Active Team if this was now something they could be involved in. In relation to social media contact, it was suggested that Everyone Active could make use of community Facebook pages, rather than just sharing posts on their own page which might not reach the same audience.

With regard to the independent Quest Plus assessment, it was confirmed this had taken place at just the one site, West Lindsey Leisure Centre, however the next assessment would cover both centres.

A Member of the Committee requested that further attention be given to the timings of young people's gym sessions, as the current timings tended to clash with transport times from school, and after school revision sessions, meaning young people were missing out on the opportunity to attend. It was acknowledged that staff were required to have the necessary training to supervise a young people's session, which could prove challenging if trained staff members left the centres, however there was a concerted effort to extend the training amongst staff and also to increase the sessions offered to young people across both sites.

There was significant discussion regarding outreach to care homes, with Members acutely aware of the pressures faced by care homes to provide both health and social care, whilst also facing budget difficulties and needing to manage/avoid the spread of illnesses. It was highlighted that Everyone Active were working with those care homes who had requested their involvement, and there were others who had expressed an interest in being able to deliver programmes themselves, without the need for Everyone Active to be in the home environment. A Member of the Committee suggested that engagement could start with over 55's supported living facilities to give people the confidence to move at that stage, rather than in care homes where residents were perhaps less able to engage in the first place. This suggestion was welcomed and it was acknowledged that there could be further outreach undertaken in this area.

Further discussion covered the provision of in-person fitness classes rather than virtual classes, with a Member of the Committee enquiring as to the safety of users in a virtual class, especially if they were taking the class alone, as well as options for extended use of the centres, for example for children's parties, 'drop-in sessions', or community groups to run active sessions. It was emphasised that the aim was for the two sites to be seen as 'community hub centres' rather than the more traditional 'leisure centre', and there was already evidence of this change of approach being embraced. There was ongoing work with the Recovery College, with two courses having been run from the centre already, and a third one due soon.

As a concluding question, it was enquired as to whether there were any plans in the offing for a replacement pool at the Gainsborough site, in recognition of the fact it had recently achieved 50 years of existence. Officers confirmed that consideration of possible options were already underway.

With no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Chris, Peter and Martin for their time, thorough presentation and engaging discussion. He extended an open invitation for them to return to the Committee at a future date, and expressed his, and the Committee's, appreciation and best wishes for their work and further development of community engagement.

**Note:** The meeting adjourned at 7.20pm in order for the presenters to leave the Chamber, and reconvened at 7.25pm.

### **30 SCRUTINY OF PROGRESS AND DELIVERY REPORTING THROUGH THE POLICY COMMITTEES**

The Committee gave consideration to a report presented by the Change, Programme and Performance Manager, regarding the scrutiny of Progress and Delivery (P&D) reporting through the two policy committees, Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources Committees.

Members also heard an update on the activity undertaken to review Progress and Delivery measures since the Committee had resolved for a working group to be created at their meeting on 3 October 2023. At that meeting, there was a request for the proposed measures to be circulated to all Members prior to the working group meeting to allow for greater visibility and engagement. As per this request, all Members were emailed the proposed measure set and were asked to give feedback prior to the group meeting.

The Working Group met on 6 November 2023 and reviewed all measures. This led to the creation of a supporting report detailing the proposed measures, was scheduled to be discussed and formally signed off at Corporate Policy and Resources on 17 January 2024. The Change, Programme and Performance Manager extended his thanks to all Members for their engagement during this process.

With regard to the report presented at this meeting, it was explained that the Progress & Delivery report for Quarter 2 2023/24 had been presented to both the Prosperous Communities Committee on 26 October 2023 and the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee on 9 November 2023. Minutes of both Committees were attached to the report and Members were asked to examine the responses given by those two committees and assure themselves that the appropriate level of challenge was being made to the information contained in the performance report.

The Chairman reiterated the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when addressing the P&D reports, and Members thanked Officers for the quality of the report, including the detail of the Performance Improvement Plans. A Member of the Committee enquired as to whether there had been any discussion at the policy committees regarding enforcement and business rates collection figures.

There was agreement amongst Committee Members that there were common areas of challenge in both policy meetings, and, having been proposed, seconded and voted upon, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Committee had examined the responses given to the report by the Prosperous Communities and the Corporate Policy and Resources Committees and had assured themselves that the appropriate level of challenge is being made by those committees to the information contained in the report.

The Chairman thanked the Officers involved in the work and reiterated his thanks to the Working Group and those Members who had provided input into the review of the P&D measures.

### **31 FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee gave consideration to the Forward Plan, detailing workstreams of the Council across all Committees. A Member of the Committee enquired as to the progress of the Cultural Strategy, as there was no scheduled date for it to be presented to a Committee. It was requested whether it could be added to the work plan for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members were advised that it would be possible to provide an update presentation to inform the Committee of the background to the strategy and how it had come into being, however it would need to be a decision of the Committee to add it to the work plan.

Members indicated their agreement with this approach, with a further request that such a presentation addressed possible timescales for completion of the strategy, with a Member of the Committee also enquiring whether there were any drawbacks to the strategy not being implemented.

With the Committee in unanimous agreement that the update presentation be arranged, there were no further comments or questions, and the Forward Plan was **NOTED**.

### **32 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN**

With no comments or questions, the Workplan was **DULY NOTED**.

The meeting concluded at 7.38 pm.

Chairman