

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held virtually via MS Teams on 19 January 2021 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Diana Rodgers (Vice-Chairman) and
Councillor Mrs Angela White (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Liz Clews
Councillor Jane Ellis
Councillor Mrs Caralyne Grimble
Councillor Cherie Hill
Councillor Mrs Angela Lawrence
Councillor Keith Panter
Councillor Roger Patterson

Also Present: Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee
Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance:
Alan Robinson Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer
Ele Snow Democratic and Civic Officer

Also In Attendance: Emma Tatlow, CEO, Active Lincolnshire

8 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE

The Chairman undertook the register of attendance for Members and each Councillor confirmed their attendance individually.

The Democratic Services Officer completed the register of attendance for Officers and, as with Members, each Officer confirmed their attendance.

9 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

10 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this stage of the meeting.

11 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE

The Democratic and Civic Officer confirmed there were no outstanding matters arising.

12 PRESENTATION ITEM - FOCUS ON LEISURE

The Chairman introduced Emma Tatlow, CEO of Active Lincolnshire, and explained the focus of the Committee was to understand leisure provision across the district, including outreach programmes and how the council may be able to support local efforts.

Emma thanked the Committee for inviting her and explained that she had joined the company in May 2020, during the pandemic. The company had previously been known as Lincolnshire Sports Partnership and had primarily been focussed on provision of sports activities for people who were already involved in sports. The priority was now aiming at working with people as much as possible whether they were already active or to engage currently inactive people in new activities. She explained that there was a new management structure in place as well as new Board members and they were currently involved in business planning and assessing the key areas of greatest need across the county. Primary funding was provided by Sports England and that was for activities across Lincolnshire.

The commitment to driving forward was based on a whole system approach, to include working with health providers, transport links and support agencies in order to ensure people would be able to access activities across the board. This also included the planned launch of a new activity finder, with activities ranging from organised sports events to accessible walking or cycle routes.

Members saw details of the activity statistics across the county, which highlighted that the majority of Lincolnshire residents had a lower rate of activity in comparison with the national average. They also heard that West Lindsey was the third most inactive district in Lincolnshire. Emma noted that the statistics had not taken into account the impact of the pandemic however, initial reports showed that, whilst there had been an initial increase in activity levels at the start of the pandemic, this appeared to be petering off.

A Member of Committee enquired how levels of activity were measured and it was explained that the statistics came from a national survey run by Sports England. With regard to the accuracy of the data, it was explained that the figures could only be used if there was a sufficient number of responses in order to run data analysis.

There was discussion regarding rates of obesity and related illnesses and Emma confirmed that this was the focus behind the whole system approach, in order to engage with people who would otherwise not access traditional methods of exercise. She gave the example of promoting safe and accessible walking routes rather than focusing on trying to encourage people to go to a gym. If an inactive individual was supported to become more active through easily accessible options in their home area, it would be more beneficial than expecting that same individual to start attending a gym three times a week. It also helped alleviate transport related issues if an individual was able to increase activity without needing to go far.

The Chairman highlighted county-wide issues with speeding traffic on country roads and suggested this could be a factor that discouraged people to walk or cycle on their local roads. She noted a road safety scheme titled '20s Plenty' and enquired whether campaigns such as this would be a part of the planning for Active Lincolnshire. Emma agreed that road safety could be a considerable barrier to people being active in their local areas and explained there were a series of active conversations ongoing regarding how to improve access to local routes. A campaign such as '20s Plenty' would be the type of campaign that Active Lincolnshire would look to support in line with the whole system approach. Emma also highlighted that they were working with local organisations, such as the Gainsborough Trinity Foundation, in order to maximise access and opportunities for everyone, whether that be in the form of an organised sports group or to better communicate other options according to the local area.

A Member of Committee enquired as to the age range covered and it was explained that the category of 'older people' was considered to be those aged 50 or over. Statistics showed that activity levels dropped off significantly after this age and the focus was to build positive habits from an early stage, with a view to those habits lasting a lifetime. With this in mind, Emma detailed some of the work they were involved in with local schools, although she conceded that the circumstances of the pandemic had made it increasingly difficult, especially given the second school closures from January 2021.

It was highlighted to the Committee that West Lindsey District Council Officers were already working with Emma and Active Lincolnshire in order to improve activity levels across the district and this would be an ongoing partnership. Emma reiterated the company focus of the whole system approach and the importance of working with organisations and communities outside of the traditional sporting settings.

The Chairman thanked Emma for her time and the detailed information provided and restated the importance of engaging local communities. This was agreed with across the board and the Committee repeated words of thanks to Emma for her time and efforts, with a positive view to the future.

13 FORWARD PLAN

The contents of the Forward Plan were **NOTED**.

14 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Democratic and Civic Officer introduced the workplan for the Committee and noted there would be an additional item of work regarding the West Lindsey District Council process for Disabled Facilities Grants, as referred by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee. It was also noted that, pending approval of the 2021/22 Committee Timetable by that same Committee, the first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the new Civic Year was likely to take place in June.

With no further comment, the Committee Workplan was **NOTED**.

The meeting concluded at 7.56 pm.

Chairman