

Minutes of a meeting of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE on Tuesday 4 July 2017

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Committee members:

Councillor Gant (Chair)

Councillor Altaf-Khan

Councillor Curran

Councillor Henwood

Councillor Lloyd-Shogbesan

Councillor Thomas

Councillor Chapman (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Azad

Councillor Fry

Councillor Ladbrooke

Councillor Pegg

Officers:

Tim Sadler, Executive Director Sustainable City

Vicki Galvin, Sports Development Manager

Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer

Sarah Claridge, Committee Services Officer

Also present:

Mark Munday, Divisional Manager for Fusion Lifestyle

Apologies:

Councillor Smith (Board Member for Leisure, Parks and Sports) sent her apologies

17. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

18. Minutes

The following amendment was made to Local Plan Preferred Option (minute 5):

“Car free residential would only be suitable in areas where a controlled parking zone (CPZ) could be enforced”

The Committee resolved to APPROVE the amended minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2017 as a true and accurate record.

The Committee resolved to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017 as a true and accurate record.

19. Report back on recommendations

The Chair presented the report on recommendations. All recommendations from the meetings in May and June meetings were agreed or agreed in part.

The Committee NOTED the report.

20. Fusion Lifestyle's Performance Report - 2016/17

The Director for Sustainable City presented the Annual report. He highlighted that:

- Participation levels had fallen
- Free swimming sessions for the under 17 had been well attended
- Customer satisfaction levels were high
- Introduction of healthier alternatives were to be offered in the vending machines.

The Divisional Manager for Fusion Lifestyle said that in the last year, participation levels for bonus card holder had reduced. This was due to a combination of leisure centres being renovated and the opening of several low cost gyms in Oxford which are offering cheaper prices for gym users than Fusion. Fusion's business plan is not to match them on price but to focus on value. By providing good quality facilities, continuing to staff the centres and offering a wide range of activities which are attractive to the whole family.

The steeper decline in participation levels of bonus users in deprived areas has led to Fusion offering a cheaper offer for users of the Leys Leisure Centre. There is a higher rate of casual users in deprived areas. This data is not captured by Fusion.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

The Committee requested a breakdown of the participation rate, activity and ethnicity per leisure centre.

Given the market has changed and participation levels are falling, is the current Council contract with Fusion still working? The Director for Sustainable City said that the impact on falling participation rates is more of a financial concern for Fusion than the Council. There are no financial implications for the Council as the Council no longer

pays Fusion an infrastructure grant or user subsidy. If the trend continues, Fusion might get worried about their business model.

The Committee asked to see participation figures for all council funded leisure activities. The Sports Development Manager said that data was available and she will make sure it is sent to the committee.

Both Fusion and the Council will be running marketing campaigns to promote Fusion's range of activities.

GP referrals are still happening and Fusion has trained more staff so that more GP referrals can be accepted. It is a perennial struggle to maintain GP referrals and encourage surgeries to refer people. It was suggested the GP referral form was too cumbersome to fill out. Officer to review this and report feedback to GPs.

Fusion has the same target as the Council to reduce CO₂ emissions each year by 5%. We are getting to a stage where more expensive schemes are needed to meet this target. This year LCD lighting has been installed at Ferry Leisure Centre and a pool cover for Hinksey is being considered.

Concern was raised about BME usage at leisure centres particularly the women's only pool session being staffed by men which has discouraged users. The Divisional Manager for Fusion Lifestyle said that it was Fusion's intention for female staff to run female only sessions however, occasionally it can't be due to sickness etc.

The Committee asked whether Fusion could make the pool private during women only sessions to encourage participation. Fusion would need to look at the participation levels for these specific sessions before committing resources.

The Divisional Manager for Fusion Lifestyle said Fusion needed to do more to promote family membership. He said Fusion could do a postcode analysis targeting BME families' participation in leisure centres.

The Committee asked whether the bonus concession membership include children who are carers. The Divisional Manager for Fusion Lifestyle said he would have to check and would discuss including them if they are not already covered.

The Committee NOTED the report

21. Work Plan and Forward Plan

The Chair presented the report.

Work Plan

The Committee reviewed and noted its work plan for the 2017/18 council year. The Scrutiny Officer said that the Housing Panel will now meet on 5 September to discuss the four CEB housing reports scheduled for September.

Cllr Henwood asked that the Committee add Air Quality to the list of potential review topics. The Committee discussed the merits of each of the 6 suggested review topics.

The Committee agreed to review the topic “Implementing the Oxford Living Wage across Oxford”, Cllr Ladbrook was appointed Chair.

The Scrutiny Officer said he would meet with the chair and a scoped review would come to the Committee in September.

Forward Plan

Members of the Finance Panel requested that Item 16 – Additional funding for feasibility studies for investment property development opportunities be looked at by the Finance Panel in September.

The Committee asked if there was a report on tower blocks and fire safety going to CEB in the near future and stressed the importance of Scrutiny considering this issue. The Scrutiny Officer said that the Housing Panel was expecting a briefing at their meeting on July 27 (which had been moved from 10 July, the date listed in the paperwork).

22. Dates of future meetings

The Committee agreed to cancel the provisional meeting scheduled for 31 July 2017.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 September 2017

The meeting started at 6.03 pm and ended at 7.45 pm

Chair

Date: Thursday 7 September 2017