

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 July 2024 at Shire Hall, Warwick at 6.00pm.

**Present:** Councillors Adkins, Armstrong, Collins, Day, D Harrison, R Dickson, Luckhurst, Milton, Payne, Redford, Russell, and C Wightman.

**Also Present:** Councillor Chilvers – Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Davison – Leader of the Council, Councillor Roberts – Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood, Councillor Sinnott – Portfolio Holder for Communities & Leisure and Councillor Williams- Portfolio Holder for Climate change.

## 16. Apologies and Substitutes

- (a) Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Barton; and
- (b) Councillor R Dickson substituted for Councillor Milton.

## 17. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dickson and D Harrison declared they were a member of Everyone Active.

## 18. Minutes

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 4 June 2024 was taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 19. Appointments to the Budget Review Group

The Chair explained that the Committee was required to select five of its membership to sit on the Budget Review Group. This Group had been set up last year to alleviate some of the workload from the Committee. The five appointees had to come from different political groups so that each political group that made up the membership of the Council was represented.

Four of the five Members were decided at the 4 June 2024 meeting to be: Councillors Barton (WRA), Day (Conservative Group), Armstrong (Green Group), and Councillor Milton (Liberal Democrat Group).

**Resolved** that for the municipal year 2024/25, the Labour Group Member from Overview & Scrutiny Committee to sit on the Budget Review Group is Councillor Collins.

## 20. Appointment of Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Champion

Each new municipal year, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee appointed the second Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Champion from its membership. No nominations were made this year; so, it was agreed the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer would raise this with Group Leaders.

## 21. Leisure Services Provider 2017

The Committee considered a report from Safer Communities, Leisure and Environment which outlined the current contract, delivery arrangements, and performance of the Everyone Active contract over its duration to date.

The Chair welcomed the Portfolio Holder, the WDC Sports and Leisure Manager, the Head of Safer Communities, Leisure and Environment along with representatives of Everyone Active, who were the current contract provider for the service.

The report to the Committee provided the background to the Council's decision to move away from the Council providing the service directly to a contractor providing the service. This outsourced approach started in 2017 and the provided the details of the delivery of the service since that date including the challenges the provided (and Council faced) with this service through the redevelopment of Council owned assets at St Nicholas Park, Newbold Comyn, Castle Farm and Abbey Fields, along with the impact of Pandemic and the end of the user agreement by Kenilworth School at short notice.

The report set out the service delivery post pandemic and how it was recovering well, along with the details of contract management that was in place.

Representatives from Everyone Active (EA) provided a short presentation to the Committee explaining their business model as a company along with some their services delivered in Warwick District.

In response to questions from the Committee it was explained that:

- They were not familiar with the 3T level programme coming into effect to replace the b-tech level programme but would investigate this.
- Warwick was one of the strongest partnerships they had. They wanted to ensure that the broader health and well-being objectives were shared and fulfilled. It was important to keep dialogue channels open and plan ahead wherever possible.
- The one key aspect the Everyone Active looked for was the extension to the contract as that would provide assurance for them to further invest in the area.
- There were a few projects in the pipeline and meetings with the Community Respiratory Physio were ongoing to help children with asthma to swim.
- Everyone Active were meeting with the Lillington Health Hub with a view to extra sessions in the community.
- There was a need to review the KPI, as these were in agreed in 2017 and they did not allow for the loss of Kenilworth School site and changes to other services.
- Everyone Active had engaged with the Council to create free courses for young people to learn first aid and potentially gain employment following this.
- Around 40% of people who attended gyms cancelled their membership during the Covid-19 pandemic. There was then a rush to get back into gyms and Everyone Active was fortunate that the centres that had been refurbished came back strongly, for example, there was a surge of swimming lessons.

- Warwickshire was in the top 25% of recoveries compared to the rest of the groups, this could be due to the investments which had gone into the centres.
- Everyone Active would look into offering concessions on membership rates within the District for veterans.
- During Covid Everyone Active negotiated with 70 different authorities in a short period of time, this meant the team were knowledgeable quickly and a variety of responses were given across the authorities.
- Warwick's commitment to the service remained strong during the Covid pandemic.
- Covid brought a better understanding of contracts and highlighted the need for a strong working relationship and understanding the aspirations the Council had.
- Third party usage of Everyone Active Managed sites was taken on a balance for each case because they needed to be complimentary to ethos of the company and the space available.

## 9. **Public and Press**

**Resolved** that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below:

Minute Number	Paragraph Number	Reason
13	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

## 10. **Confidential Appendix to Item 9 – Leisure Services Provider 2017**

The Committee considered a confidential Appendix from Safer Communities, Leisure and Environment.

In response to questions from the Committee it was explained that:

- The true operational costs of any new centre would only be known after a full year of operation, before this they could only be estimated based upon the design work.
- The current contract was in year eight of an initial 10 years which had an allowance for an extension of a further five years.
- It was expected that each site would reach maturity in usage year three of operation.
- Work was underway to review the facilities to further improve sustainability at each site, for example the introduction of solar panels at Newbold Comyn.

- It was recognised by EA that car parking charges at sites had a negative impact on attendance, as on a practical level it increased costs of a visit (especially if regular users).
- EA welcomed the practical discussion on car parking charges that were due to take place with the Council.

## 22. **Work Programme, Forward Plan & Comments from Cabinet**

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2024/25 as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee were reminded to submit their individual priorities from the project list provided to them.

The Committee noted the report, and it was **resolved** that

- (1) The report on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, including budget setting timeline be brought to the Committee in September; and
- (2) Provisionally the first two projects to consider were Covent Garden Car Park and Tachbrook Country Park; and officers were asked to bring back timescales for these to be considered by the Committee.

## 11. **Cabinet Agenda – (Non-Confidential Items and Reports) –Wednesday, 10 July 2024**

### Item 4 -Low Cost, Low Carbon Energy Programme

The Committee noted the report and thanked the Cabinet members for attendance and their response to the questions.

### Item 8 – Parking Services Development – Strategy and NPP

The Committee noted the report and asked the Portfolio Holder to be mindful of the potential impact on users by passing on the convenience charge to them; and how this can be communicated clearly to all parties. They also asked that card payment at machine continues to remain available so that there are alternative ways to pay rather than online. The Committee asked that the proposed Parking Strategy also looks at the potential to provide high quality secure cycle parking storage as a way of encouraging modal shift.

(The meeting ended at 7.56pm)

CHAIR  
30 July 2024