COMMUNITIES & HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 2 March 2020
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Helen Foster-Grime (Chair) in the chair; Councillor John McGahan (Vice-Chair); Councillors Dean Fitzpatrick, Adrian Nottingham, Mark Roberts, Andy Sorton, Kerry Waters, Mark Weldon and Matt Wynne.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2020 (copies of which had been circulated) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests which they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

The following declaration was made:-

Personal Interest

Councillor	Interest
Matt Wynne	Agenda Item 4 - 'Developing and procuring a new delivery partnership for Active Communities post April 2022' as the holder of a membership of Life Leisure.

3. CALL-IN

There were no call-in items to consider.

4. DEVELOPING AND PROCURING A NEW DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTIVE COMMUNITIES POST APRIL 2022

The Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the implementation of the Active Communities Strategy which had previously been approved by Cabinet in June 2019. The report also detailed a proposed new approach to a delivery partnership within the Active Communities Strategy following the end of current arrangements with Life Leisure in March 2022 and requests authorisation to commence the pre-procurement process.

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) attended the meeting to respond to councillors' questions.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- It was stated that the report identified that there was a funding gap with respect to the development of a new leisure facility in Marple, and it was queried what was being done to address that. In response it was stated that the site of the existing facility would be disposed of which would generate a capital receipt and work was taking place to explore the potential for grant funding from Sport England in addition to the additional forecast revenue that might be generated from operating a new facility.
- It was noted that while there had been improvements in levels of inactivity across most age ranges, a problem remained within the over 75 demographic.
- It was important to remember that there was a significant level of work that was taking place in communities outside of Life Leisure's activity.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

5. LIVING WELL AT HOME AND HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2019

The Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing a summary of the progress made against the Living Well at Home work stream of the Happy, Healthy Homes to Age Well Prospectus that was launched in February 2019. The report outlined what head been learnt so far with a particular focus around the findings of the Housing Needs Assessment which was completed in December 2019 and the mapping exercises that were undertaken to identify existing and future housing need for Older People in the Borough.

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) attended the meeting to respond to councillors' questions.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- It was important that new homes were built in places that had ready access to local amenities and facilities in order that they remained sustainable for future occupants into older age.
- The pricing of new units was a key consideration to ensure that quality homes were available for all regardless of income.
- It was noted that there were a large number of over-65s who struggled to afford to downsize their property. It was suggested that consideration should be given by the government to removing the requirement to pay stamp duty for those in such circumstances.
- The proposed development of 53 self-contained apartments providing a mixture of high quality affordable/ social rent and shared ownership units that would be designed to meet the needs of older people, and in accordance with extra care principles at Edinburgh Close, Cheadle was welcomed.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. STOCKPORT CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY

The Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an overview of a proposed strategy for Stockport to meet its climate obligations, covering all aspects of the Council and Borough, as well as making it clear that tackling climate change will require every stakeholder in Stockport to play their part, including the Council, residents, businesses and communities.

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) attended the meeting to respond to councillors' questions.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- Concern was expressed in relation to a perceived lack of ambition within the report.
- It was commented that the report did not provide an existing baseline against which progress and objectives could be measured.
- The Council had been working to reduce its CO2 emissions for some time through initiatives such as the transition to LED street lighting, the provision of biomass boilers and the installation of photovoltaic panels across the corporate estate.
- It was commented that some strategic aims of the Council, such as the progression of the M60 to A6 section of bypass through the Borough, conflicted with the ambition in the proposed Strategy document.
- Work was taking place to make carbon literacy training a mandatory requirement for all members of staff.
- There was a scheme being operated on behalf of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority that allowed people to purchase photovoltaic panels at a reduced cost though collective purchasing.
- The ongoing impact of Manchester Airport needed to be given greater focus and further challenge needed to be provided to its model of operation.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. OVERVIEW OF EMPTY PROPERTIES IN THE BOROUGH AND THE INTERVENTIONS IN PLACE TO BRING PROPERTIES BACK TO USE

The Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an overview of issues regarding empty properties and outlining the work being undertaken and the interventions being put in place by the Housing Standards Team to reduce numbers of empty properties that are having a negative effect on the borough.

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) attended the meeting to respond to councillors' questions.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the ongoing work of the Housing Standards Team to reduce the number of empty properties be acknowledged.

8. AGENDA PLANNING

A representative of the Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the planned agenda items for the Scrutiny Committee's next meeting and any relevant Forward Plan items.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.51 pm