

Chairman - Councillor E G R Jones

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

I E Davies	J Hood
R J Draper	R A James
A T A Godfrey	A J Perkins
A S Harp	

Cabinet Member - Councillor F A Finlay - Environment and Health Portfolio
Cabinet Member - Councillor R M Smith - Leisure Portfolio

Also present - Councillors A M Loughran and C V Trowbridge

Officers in attendance:-

Mr B Kean	-	Head of Finance
Mr N Raby	-	Head of Human Resources
Mr A Welch	-	Head of Law and Administration
Mrs T Redpath	-	Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
Mr R Simpson	-	Customer Services Group Manager
Mr M Thornewill	-	Cultural Services Manager
Mrs V Ashcroft	-	Principal Corporate Business and Partnerships Officer
Mr A Bailey	-	Scrutiny Officer

RSC33 **Minutes**

The Chairman highlighted the need for the following amendments to be made to Minute No RSC29/19 from the last meeting held on 15 January 2019:-

- Confirmed the level of funding for the Stone Leisure Projects
- Confirmed that the staffing budget assumed a certain level of vacancy rates

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes from last meeting held on 15 January 2019 subject to the amendments detailed above.

RSC34 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B M Cross, M G Dodson and K S Williamson (Resources Portfolio).

RSC35 Members Items

Councillor R J Draper had submitted the following item under Paragraph 2.8 of the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules:-

“It is for the committee to discuss the long term future of the Stone and District Swimming Club at the Stone Leisure Centre, given their 40 year history within Stone supporting so many Stafford Borough residents in learning to swim, and the uncertain future they may face with Freedom Leisure as managers for the Council of the Leisure Centre.”

In response the Cultural Services Manager made the following comments:-

- An explanation of the Service Specification for the contract with Freedom Leisure in relation to the provision of swimming lessons
- The timing of the swimming lessons currently provided
- Details of an interim agreement between Freedom Leisure and Stone and District Swimming to provide levels 1 to 6 swimming Club lessons until July 2019 and to meet regularly with a view to agreeing a long-term arrangement

The Committee then discussed the following aspects of the Members Item with the Cabinet Member (Leisure Portfolio) and the Cultural Services Manager:-

- Confirmation that the provision of swimming lessons accounted for a significant proportion of the income for a swimming pool
- Clarification of the timings for swimming club lessons for younger children
- Concern that Stone and District Swimming Club had been omitted from original consultations for the Leisure Contract
- Freedom Leisure now provided 400 swimming lessons to the residents of Stone whereas Stone and District Swimming Club provided 100 swimming lessons
- Confirmation that no child would be without a swimming lesson and the ratio between teachers and pupils had improved under the contract
- Confirmation that 6 qualified volunteers had now been employed by Freedom Leisure

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Members Items be noted.

RSC36 Councillor R J Draper had submitted the following item under Paragraph 2.8 of the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules:-

“For the committee to consider the reduction in staffing levels within the provision of Stafford Leisure Centre, managed by Freedom Leisure on behalf of the Council, and specifically its reduction in staffing the therapeutic exercise provision.”

Councillor A M Loughran provided the Committee with the reasons for her concerns over the staffing levels within the provision of Stafford Leisure Centre, managed by Freedom Leisure.

In response the Cultural Services Manager made the following comments:-

- Freedom Leisure were required to provide health and wellbeing schemes under the terms of the Leisure contract, which were subject to change depending upon demand
- Staff were in place in order to effectively provide cover where required
- Staffing provision would be monitored through the specification
- Confirmation of the times when the Health Hub was available
- Clarification that additional resources had been sought and a further post had been advertised
- An explanation that external funding for such schemes had now ceased, there were fewer GP referrals and the NHS were now meeting the specification
- Freedom Leisure had now appointed a new Contracts Manager

The Committee then discussed the following aspects of the Members Item with the Cabinet Member (Leisure Portfolio) and the Cultural Services Manager:-

- It was important for the Committee to be aware of staffing levels at Stafford Leisure Centre
- It was not acceptable to leave the gym unstaffed
- Clarification that the CCG no longer financed GP referrals
- Freedom Leisure had the ability to bring in staff from other areas to cover any gaps in staffing
- Confirmation that there was scope for better staffing management of the gym

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee:-

- (a) the staffing levels at Stafford Leisure Centre to be kept under review at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee;
- (b) the Members Items be noted.

RSC37 **Performance Report**

The Committee considered the performance and financial management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 3 period up to 31 December 2018.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Head of Finance, the Head of Human Resources, the Customer Services Group Manager and the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager:-

- 3.1.6.1 - Shared Services Commissioning - Clarification of the date for the final report for the Environmental Shared Services Review
- 3.2.2.7 - Encourage and support our residents following the introduction of Universal Credits - the need for the Council to liaise with Age Concern Stone.
- 3.4.2 - Comprehensive and accurate contracts register in place - an update of who was currently managing the Council's two major contracts.
- LBV12 - Sickness Rates - An update on the Council's long term sickness absences.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the performance management data relating to areas of activity within this Committee's remit be noted.

RSC38 Work Programme - Resources Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration, which presented the Resources Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme (V1 01/02/19) for the forthcoming meetings up to February 2020.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme (V1 01/02/19) be approved, subject to the amendments made at the meeting.

CHAIRMAN