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| TRDC | Three Rivers House  Northway  Rickmansworth  Herts WD3 1RL |

**GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Thursday 1 December 2016 from 7.30pm to 9.12pm.

Present: Councillors Phil Brading (Lead Member, Public Services), Roger Seabourne (Lead Member, Community Safety), Rupert Barnes, Martin Brooks, Marilyn Butler, Kemal Butt, Stephen Cox, Debbie Morris, Sarah Nelmes, Alison Scarth (as substitute for Councillor Andrew Scarth) and Ann Shaw OBE.

Officers: Malcolm Clarke, Services Manager, Batchworth Depot

Bryan Collett, Finance Manager

Chris Hope, Head of Community Services

Jennie Probert, Environmental Projects Officer

Andy Stovold, Head of Community Partnerships  
Helen Wailling, Committee Manager

Mike Simpson, Committee & Web Officer

**Councillor Roger Seabourne in the Chair**

**GPS12/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrew Scarth (Councillor Alison Scarth substituted).

**GPS13/16 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the General Public Services and Community Safety Committee meeting held on Thursday 15 September 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairmen.

**GPS14/16 NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

**GPS15/16 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Kemal Butt declared an interest in agenda item 6 as he represented a company which dealt with refuse trucks. Officers advised that he did not need to leave the room for that item.

**GPS16/16 SERVICE PRESENTATION – CPU**

A presentation was made by the Head of Community Partnerships in which he explained the structure of his team and the roles of each officer.

He also explained the funding process for the Partnership, which was dependent on the success of bids submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Hertfordshire County Council. He added that if the current bids were successful it would represent a very successful outcome for the Partnership.

The Chairman commended the Head of Community Partnerships and his team for their achievements to date, and said an immense amount of skill was involved in delivering the services described.

Councillor Ann Shaw asked whether there was a process of monitoring the results achieved by the Partnership, and how value for money was assessed. The Chairman replied that the nature of the issues meant quantifying results was difficult, and the Head of Community Partnerships said that the Community Safety Coordinating Group oversaw the performances of the Partnership, and he was happy to share service delivery information in future.

Councillor Alison Scarth asked whether there was a discernible increase in hate crimes, to which the Chairman replied that in percentage terms there was. The Head of Community Partnerships said it was not known whether actual incidents of hate crime were up, or if numbers reflected increased reporting. He added higher numbers were not always a bad thing if it meant there was victim engagement with the community.

It was said that in a national context the EU referendum was a likely cause of a spike in figures, but the Partnership’s interest was what took place in the local community.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**GPS17/16** **BUDGET MONITORING – MONTH 6 (SEPTEMBER)**

This report sought approval to a change in the Committee’s 2016 - 2019 medium-term financial plan, after the presentation of which questions were invited.

Councillor Martin Brooks questioned why in some cases two sets of values showed against the same cost description, and the Finance Manager explained that it was due to different cost centres being in use. Councillor Brading said that the item in question related to Period 4, and a look at the Period 4 report would clarify matters.

Councillor Sarah Nelmes said it would be helpful not to have to keep referring to previous reports and that the descriptions in the table should be accurate. The Finance Manager noted the comment.

Councillor Ann Shaw, seconded by Councillor Phil Brading, moved the recommendations in the report.

Upon being put to the Committee, the motion was declared CARRIED, the voting being 6 For, 0 Against and 5 Abstentions.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

That the following General Public Services and Community Safety Committee’s revenue budget variations be approved and incorporated into the three-year medium-term financial plan:-

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| **Revenue** | 2016/17  £ | 2017/18  £ | 2018/19  £ |
| Overspend/(Underspend) at Period 6 | (15,530) | (11,530) | (11,710) |

**GPS18/16 STRATEGIC SERVICE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING 2017-2020 (COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS SERVICE PLAN)**

The Head of Community Partnerships presented the report which requested the Committee to recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee on the Strategic Plan, the Committee’s service plans and the growth bids to support them for the three years commencing 1 April 2017.

Councillor Ann Shaw referred to the issue of cars being sold on verges. The Head of Community Partnerships said that the Council was working in partnership to look at what powers were available to address this issue.

Councillor Debbie Morris asked whether the Council was considering further restrictions to the behaviour of dogs in the District, following the introduction of the Public Space Protection Orders in 2016. The Head of Community Partnerships said that this was not being planned, but that they were looking at performance management for the current process, so that data could be provided to Members.

Councillor Rupert Barnes asked about the target to reduce the level of pavement parking. The Chairman replied that at this stage officers were being asked to investigate the issue. A blanket approach to parking on pavements in the District would not be appropriate. The Head of Community Partnerships said that the number of complaints received by the PCC in regard to anti-social driving had increased.

In regard to the Project Initiation Document (PID) relating to Community CCTV, Councillor Sarah Nelmes asked whether CCTV should be used as a last resort rather than the first solution, and the Head of Community Partnerships said that it was necessary to justify its use – not just the cost but also in terms of providing a proportionate response.

In the Trend and Performance report, under item EP09, Members queried the figure of 88 in one of the columns (Annual result 2015/16).

Councillor Roger Seabourne, seconded by Councillor Phil Brading, moved the recommendations in the report.

Upon being put to the Committee, the motion was declared CARRIED, the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

* That the Committee considers the draft Strategic Plan attached as Appendix 1 and coveys any comments to the Policy and Resources Committee.
* That the Committee considers its service plans and growth bids attached at Appendices 2, 3 and 4 and recommends their content to the Policy and Resources Committee.

**PUBLIC SERVICES**

**Councillor Phil Brading in the Chair**

**GPS19/16 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FEES AND CHARGES**

This report asked Members to consider the proposed Environmental Protection fees and charges for 2017/18.

In response to questions about the charge for clearing contaminated bins in flats, the Environmental Projects Officer replied that the charge was for the cost of emptying the bin and going back. Some Housing Associations (HAs) were educating their residents about this, but some problems were ongoing. Officers were very keen to work with HAs on this.

Contamination generally occurred in the larger blocks of flats in the District. It could not usually be non-residents causing the contamination, as evidenced by the fact that security codes were often required to access the bins.

Special Collections

Councillors Debbie Morris and Ann Shaw expressed concern that vulnerable residents would be disadvantaged if refuse crews were no longer able to enter residents’ houses to collect larger items. Councillor Sarah Nelmes suggested that this type of special collection be rephased as a house clearance to clarify the Council’s position, and it was accepted that this was a sensible solution.

Third Brown Bins

Councillor Sarah Nelmes suggested that instead of considering communicating proposed costs to residents at this time, the Council waited until next year when sign-up was required. The Environmental Projects Officer confirmed that was now the intention.

Animal Control

Members of the Committee sought clarification on the charges imposed for kennelling and repatriation of dogs, which was provided by the Environmental Projects Officer, and Councillor Martin Brooks asked for, and duly received confirmation that owners would be encouraged to collect their dogs themselves.

Removal of dead animals

The question of who should pay for the removal of dead domestic animals was raised. The Services Manager said that identification by way of the animal’s implanted chip was performed free of charge, and if the animal wore an identification tag on its collar the owner would be contacted.

Schools recycling

The Committee noted that state schools were currently exempt from recycling charges, and there was no mood to introduce charges for them.

Councillor Martin Brooks proposed, seconded by Councillor Kemal Butt, the following amended recommendations:

1. That this Committee recommends the fees and charges detailed within the report are approved by the Policy and Resources Committee and that indoor collections be rephrased as house clearances in future, subject to quotation. The tables in the appendices to be amended as necessary.

2. That direct debits are offered to trade customers with payments being one month in advance.

3. That the Terms and Conditions for the garden waste service are updated to reflect the third brown bin option.

4.That the managing agents and housing associations affected by this increase are written to as soon as budgets are finalised in February to advise them and to offer our continuing support in helping to educate residents.

5. That the Council continues its policy of not charging state-funded schools for recycling collections, but that schools be advised of the Council’s expectation that they promote recycling as much as possible.

6. That a report on Glis Glis is brought to the March Committee.

Upon being put to the Committee, the motion was declared CARRIED, the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

1. That this Committee recommends the fees and charges detailed within the report are approved by the Policy and Resources Committee and that indoor collections be rephrased as house clearances in future, subject to quotation. The tables in the appendices to be amended as necessary.

2. That direct debits are offered to trade customers with payments being one month in advance.

3. That the Terms and Conditions for the garden waste service are updated to reflect the third brown bin option.

4.That the managing agents and housing associations affected by this increase are written to as soon as budgets are finalised in February to advise them and to offer our continuing support in helping to educate residents.

5. That the Council continues its policy of not charging state-funded schools for recycling collections, but that schools be advised of the Council’s expectation that they promote recycling as much as possible.

6. That a report on Glis Glis is brought to the March Committee.

**GPS20/16 STRATEGIC SERVICE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING 2017-2020 –**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES SERVICE PLAN (ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION)**

This report enabled the Committee to comment to the Policy and Resources Committee on the Strategic Plan, the Committee’s service plans and the growth bids to support them for the three years commencing 1 April 2017.

The Chairman drew the Committee’s attention to the deletion of item EP02 in Appendix 2, and explained that it was largely a duplication of EP01 but monitored in a different way. The Council wished to encourage residence to compost more at home.

Councillor Phil Brading, duly seconded, proposed the following amended recommendations:

* That the Committee considers the draft Strategic Plan attached as Appendix 1 and conveys any comments to the Policy and Resources Committee.
* That the Committee considers its service plan at Appendix 2 and recommends its content to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Upon being put to the Committee, the motion was declared CARRIED, the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

* That the Committee considers the draft Strategic Plan attached as Appendix 1 and conveys any comments to the Policy and Resources Committee.
* That the Committee considers its service plan at Appendix 2 and recommends its content to the Policy and Resources Committee.

**GPS21/16 WORK PROGRAMME**

It was noted that a report on Glis Glis should be added for March 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee agrees the items included in the work programme.

**CHAIRMAN**