

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
19TH JANUARY 2005

PRESENT	Councillor Kingston (Chair) Councillors Mrs Brown, Ferguson, Grogan, Harrison, Hayton, Mrs Hilditch, Nevins, Perkins and Stonehouse.
APOLOGIES	Councillors Dobinson, Gale and Mrs Pinkney.
ADVISERS	M. Coleby, Acting Director of Community Services; B. Graham, Head of Service Contracts and Mrs H Wilson, Committee Administrator.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2004 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

341. CHOOSING HEALTH, MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES EASIER – PUBLIC HEALTH WHITE PAPER

Consideration was given to the government White Paper which set out the strategy for improving the public's health.

Councillor Stonehouse was of the opinion that the current good working relationship between the Council and the Primary Care Trust was vital to ensure that the proposals were successful.

In response to Councillor Grogan the Acting Director advised that it was premature to discuss funding matters.

The Leader of the Council believed the document was encouraging, however, she was also of the opinion that it conflicted with other documents

RECOMMENDED that the objectives of the government's "health" White Paper be noted and the Councils intention to contribute, in partnership with others, to the achievement of the objectives of the document be endorsed.

342. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Consideration was given to the key Best Value Performance Indicators which are the responsibility of the Community Services Department.

In response to Councillor Nevins the Acting Director advised the size of the recycling boxes may be reviewed in the near future. He also confirmed that he could provide recycling rates for specific areas.

RECOMMENDED that the information provided on the Best Value Performance Indicators for which the Community Services Department is responsible, be noted.

343. WHEELED BIN IMPLEMENTATION

Members considered progress in respect of the implementation of wheeled bins and a green waste collection service and the intended timetables for the process.

The Acting Director anticipated that 2% of properties throughout the district would generate queries and problems, he confirmed the department would endeavour to solve all of these as soon as possible. This would be done by visiting each property to assess the circumstances.

The Head of Service Contracts confirmed the public would be notified at each stage in the process by varying means to ensure that implementation runs smoothly.

RECOMMENDED that the proposed implementation timetable and promotional activities regarding wheeled bin and green waste services, be endorsed.

344. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES SECTION – EXTERNALLY FUNDED POSTS

Councillor Ferguson declared a personal and prejudicial interest by way of previously supplying services to Sport England. He left the meeting while the item was considered.

Consideration was given to the submission of an application to Sport England for funding to enable the continuation of work currently delivered by externally funded posts.

The Leader of the Council believed the application was an excellent idea and congratulated the Department.

RECOMMENDED that an application for external funding to continue work of a number of posts in the Community and Cultural Services Section of the Community Services Department, be prepared and submitted.

345. OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Members considered the appointment of Groundwork West Durham to undertake work directed at the production of an Open Space Strategy for Wear Valley.

RECOMMENDED that due to the specialist nature of the work, the Council's standing order 8.1 be suspended, in order to enable the appointment of Groundwork West Durham to assist with the production of an Open Space Strategy for the District of Wear Valley.

RESOLVED that under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under paragraphs 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

346. PROPOSED RESTRUCTURE OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SECTION

Members considered revised arrangements within the Finance and Administration Section of the Community Services Department.

RECOMMENDED that the proposals to restructure the Finance and Administration Section of the Community Services Department be endorsed.

347. STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS – PUBLIC PROTECTION

Members were advised the item had been withdrawn at this stage.

RESOLVED that the item be withdrawn.

The meeting concluded at 7.15 p.m.

CHAIR