

**Medway Council**  
**Meeting of Regeneration, Culture and Environment**  
**Overview And Scrutiny Committee**

**Thursday, 15 June 2017**

**6.30pm to 7.35pm**

**Record of the meeting**

**Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee**

**Present:** Councillors: Clarke (Chairman), Bhutia (Vice-Chairman), Carr, Etheridge, Gilry, Griffin, Hicks, Mrs Josie Iles, Khan, Osborne, Saroy, Stamp and Tejan

**In Attendance:** Richard Hicks, Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation  
Bob Dimond, Head of Sport Leisure and Tourism  
Ruth Du-Lieu, Assistant Director, Front Line Services  
Tomasz Kozlowski, Assistant Director, Physical and Cultural Regeneration  
Anna Marie Lawrence-Lovell, Head of Performance and Intelligence  
Vicky Nutley, Planning and Licensing Lawyer  
Ellen Wright, Democratic Services Officer

**63 Apologies for absence**

There were none.

**64 Record of Meeting and Joint Meeting of Committees**

The record of the meeting held on 28 March 2017 and the record of the Joint Meeting of Committees held on 17 May 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

**65 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances**

There were none.

**66 Declaration of interest and whipping**

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

**Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview And Scrutiny Committee, 15  
June 2017**

Other interests

There were none.

**67 Member's Item - Splashes Leisure Pool**

**Discussion:**

The Committee received a report setting out a further response to issues relating to Splashes Leisure Pool raised as a Member's item by Councillor Stamp.

All other issues had been covered in a report considered by the Committee on 17 January 2017 and the current report set out a response to that element of the original Member's item concerning the chlorine doses in the pool when the pool water had been dyed for an event on 28 October 2016. This element of the Member's item had been delayed pending a report from Public Health England (PHE) following its investigation.

The Committee noted that arising from its investigation, PHE had established that two members of staff and one survey respondent had reported being unwell but had not entered the pool. The PHE had therefore concluded that it was not possible to identify how or where norovirus had been introduced or spread during the affected period.

The PHE had suggested that a review of scientific evidence may be needed to determine how much chlorine was necessary to prevent the spread of norovirus in water. PHE would therefore take this up with the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) as the body responsible for publishing national guidance on pool water safety.

The Head of Sport, Leisure, Tourism and Heritage confirmed that the service had taken on board lessons learnt from the incident and, in the light of the comment from PHE that chlorine levels of 1ppm or above might be necessary to prevent transmission of norovirus in water, as a precaution, the Council would no longer use dye in its pools.

The Head of Sport, Leisure, Tourism and Heritage confirmed that the service had taken on board lessons learnt from the incident and, in the light of the comment from PHE that chlorine levels of 1ppm or above might be necessary to prevent transmission of norovirus in water, as a precaution, the Council would no longer use dye in its pools.

A Member commented that it was unfortunate that a copy of the PHE report had not been appended to the agenda and he therefore circulated a copy of the PHE report to each Member of the Committee. He expressed concern that he considered the Council report to be misleading, as the PHE report had demonstrated that the Council could not evidence that it had followed some of its normal operating procedures and guidelines of the Pool Water Treatment

## Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview And Scrutiny Committee, 15 June 2017

Advisory Group. In particular, he drew attention that no recording of chlorine levels had taken place after 14:00 hrs on Friday 28 October 2016.

In response, the Head of Sport, Leisure, Tourism and Heritage advised that following his internal investigation, he was satisfied that the chlorine levels had been tested after 14.00 hrs, but acknowledged that they had not been recorded. This was unfortunate, and a lesson learnt that all testing of chlorine levels must be recorded. In response to a question, he confirmed that chlorine levels in pool water could fluctuate in either direction as a result of a number of factors.

The Committee discussed the PHE investigation report and noted the recommendations contained within it. The Committee also acknowledged that PHE had recognised that the prompt and robust actions undertaken by Leisure Management and the Council's Environmental Team in response to the outbreak had mitigated further risk to users of the facility.

### **Decision:**

- a) The Committee noted the report and recommended that the Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation take on board the following recommendations from Public Health England:
1. Medway Council is advised to investigate the lessons to be learnt in terms of pool management procedures and to implement appropriate remedial actions.
  2. Medway Council is advised to consider the need for additional training on the need to maintain legible, contemporaneous records of pool water safety including chlorine levels and actions undertaken.
  3. Medway Council is advised to consider the need for reviewing business continuity plans and any potential impact on pool water safety/monitoring procedures in the event of service disruption due to ICT failure or similar events.
  4. Medway Council is advised to consider measures to improve the use of showers before and after use of the pool by customers.
  5. Strict compliance with Medway Council's swimming pool Normal Operating Procedure should minimise the risk of further outbreaks occurring in the future. Enhanced vigilance and oversight should be considered when deviating from normal pool procedures e.g. when reducing chlorine levels or when the auto-doser is switched off.
  6. Medway Council is advised to share the summary of this outbreak with the manufacturer of the colouring dye and PWTAG to inform their recommendations for the future
  7. It be noted that PHE intends to publish the findings of this outbreak in a peer-reviewed journal to inform future research and practice recommendations in maintaining pool water safety.
- b) Whilst it be noted that Public Health England also recommended that the Council review the risk assessment for dyeing pool water, a decision has already been taken that the Council will no longer use dye in its pools.

**68 Report on the possible introduction of a 20sPlenty scheme in Medway**

**Discussion:**

The Committee was reminded that at its meeting on 10 December 2015, in response to a petition, the former Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee had requested a report upon the possible introduction of a 20's plenty scheme for residential roads in Medway either as a pilot or Medway-wide. Such report was to include information as to the operation of 20's plenty schemes within other local authority areas and the estimated costs involved should the Committee wish to recommend to Cabinet the implementation of a pilot scheme in Medway.

The Assistant Director Front Line Services presented a report which outlined:

- the difference between 20pmh 'limits' and 'zones'
- national policy
- local policy
- case studies
- implementation issues
- options available and financial implications

The following issues were discussed:

- It was noted that it was not permissible for a time limit to be placed upon a 20mph zone.
- Enforcement of vehicle speeds in 20mph zones was the responsibility of the Police.
- It was possible to consider the provision of a 20mph zone in an area where traffic calming measures were already in place e.g. outside a school.
- A Ward Councillor for Rainham North observed that the safety record in Lower Rainham Road had improved following the introduction of a 20mph zone but recognised that the installation of speed humps as traffic calming measures was not popular with residents.
- It was suggested that when monitoring blanket 20mph zones in London and other Boroughs, account also be taken of CO2 emissions and the effect upon the environment and those schemes in neighbouring local authorities
- The importance of noting the length of time 20mph zones have been in place when using a zone as a case study.
- It was suggested that Councillors be involved in the scoping report for any areas suggested to be the subject of a pilot 20mph zone.
- It was suggested that the Committee receive a briefing note in 6 months' time setting out the methodology to be used by officers in monitoring blanket 20mph zones in other areas.

**Decision:**

The Committee requested:

**Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview And Scrutiny Committee, 15  
June 2017**

- a) that the Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation monitor the current blanket 20mph zones that have been implemented in London and other Boroughs, including neighbouring local authority areas, to determine their cost effectiveness, their ability to reduce casualties and impact on air quality, also giving consideration to how long the schemes have been in place.
- b) that the Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation establish a baseline for the 8 existing schemes in Medway and review the speed of vehicles and the casualty figures over the coming 12 - 18 months to assess the effectiveness of each scheme.
- c) that no action be taken at this stage in recommending to Cabinet that a blanket 20mph zone is implemented or piloted.
- d) that Councillors be involved in any scoping report for any areas suggested to be the subject of a pilot 20mph zone.
- e) that a briefing note be provided to Members of the Committee in 6 months setting out the methodology to be used by officers in monitoring blanket 20mph zones in other areas.

**69 Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report End of Year: Quarter 4  
2016/17**

**Discussion:**

The Committee received a report setting out performance at the end of year Quarter 4 for 2016/17 for the key measures of success and projects relevant to this Committee.

In response to a question concerning the measurement of performance indicators, it was confirmed that the Council Plan 2016/17 – 2020/21 had been agreed by the Council on 25 February 2016 and that the performance monitoring reports regularly reported to the Committee set out the performance summary against the Council's priorities relevant to this Committee.

**Decision:**

The Committee agreed that the end of year Quarter 4 2016/17 performance against key measures of success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2016/17 be noted.

**70 Petitions**

**Discussion:**

The Committee received a report advising of those petitions received by the Council which fell within the remit of the Committee, including a summary of the response sent to the petition organisers by officers. No petitions had been referred to the Committee for consideration by the lead petitioners.

**Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview And Scrutiny Committee, 15  
June 2017**

**Decision:**

The Committee noted the report.

**71 Work programme**

**Discussion:**

The Committee received a report setting out the Committee's work programme for 2017/18 along with suggested changes from the Committee's pre-agenda meeting on 1 June 2017.

The Democratic Services Officer provided an update arising from the latest Forward Plan published on 12 June 2017.

The Committee was also advised of the process for the selection of the next round of Scrutiny Task Groups and was invited to submit any ideas for topics based on the criteria set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

**Decision:**

The Committee:

- a) noted the current work programme.
- b) agreed the following changes to the work programme:
  - The report on information on the levels of finance needed to be invested in the highways network in order to maintain current levels of performance be rescheduled to March 2018 on the basis that the new contract is due to go live in August.
  - The report on the pilot scheme for Street Licensing – Placing Objects on the Highway be rescheduled to January 2018 to enable an extension of the pilot scheme.
  - The report providing a 6 month update on the recommendations from the Dementia Task Group be scheduled for January 2018.
  - The update from the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority be provided by a briefing note rather than a report to Committee.
  - The report on the associated benefits and the costs involved in the possible provision of a mini roundabout at the junction of Palmerston Road with Magpie Hall Road be provisionally scheduled for August 2017.
  - A report on the outcome of consultation on the Declaration of Four Elms Hill Air Quality Management Plan be submitted to the Committee in August 2017 subject to the consultation process having ended.
- c) noted that the process for selection of topics for the next round of Scrutiny Task Groups in 2018/19 and invited all Members of the Committee to submit ideas based on the criteria set out in paragraph 5 of the report to the

**Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview And Scrutiny Committee, 15  
June 2017**

Democratic Services Officer ahead of the next agenda planning meeting for this Committee.

**Chairman**

**Date:**

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