

Community Focus Scrutiny Committee



Date:	Thursday, 13 June 2013
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members:	Councillor Kiran Mulholland (Chairman) Councillor Christine Akeroyd (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Tim Armit, Julie Brickles, Fabian Craig-Wilson, Tony Ford JP, Gail Goodman JP, Kathleen Harper, Paul Hodgson, Angela Jacques, Linda Nulty, Barbara Nash, Edward Nash, Elizabeth Oades, Dawn Prestwich
Other Councillors:	Councillor Susan Fazackerley (Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture) Councillor Charlie Duffy
Officers:	Clare Platt, Ian Curtis, Andrew Dickson, Savile Sykes, Lyndsey Lacey
Other Attendees:	One member of the public was present at the meeting

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and that any other interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 April 2013 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 25:

Councillor Angela Jacques for Councillor Vivienne M Willder

Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson for Councillor John Singleton

Councillor Edward Nash for Councillor Susanne Cunningham

Councillor Elizabeth Oades for Councillor Peter Hardy

4. Fylde Coast Bathing Waters

Further to the request at the last meeting, the Chairman reported on progress made in pursuing a joint scrutiny approach with neighboring authorities on the topic of Fylde Coast Bathing Waters. In doing so, he made reference to previous reports on the matter.

Councillor Mulholland made reference to a response he had received from Blackpool Council which confirmed that their Bathing Water Water Scrutiny Panel had essentially completed its review and was in the process of producing its final report. Blackpool Council felt that there would be little value added in conducting further scrutiny on the issue at this stage.

It was further reported that the Panel had recommended continued monitoring of the progress of key partner organisations in their endeavours to improve bathing water quality in the North West. As such, the Panel had identified that it would like to meet again in November, following the publication of the 2013 bathing water season water quality results, in order to review the progress being made in improving standards. As such, there was potential for this meeting to involve members from both authorities and become a structured body with the responsibility for monitoring bathing waters.

Mr Andrew Dixon (Head of Technical Services) further reported that subsequent to the publication of the agenda, the Council had been approached by Blackpool Council inviting member representation on the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Group. He added that this would be the subject of a further report in due course.

Following consideration of this matter the committee RESOLVED:

1. To note the position of Blackpool Council on its scrutiny activity and to make arrangements for representation at the November meeting following the publication of the 2013 bathing season water quality results.
2. To ask the Director of Development Services to progress the multi agency approach with a view to presenting periodic reports to the scrutiny committee on the monitoring of key organisations in their endeavours to improve bathing water quality in the North West.

5. Interim Report - Club Day Support Task and Finish Group

The Chairman reported that at the previous meeting of the Committee, a Task and Finish Group was appointed to undertake an urgent scrutiny review on Club Day Support.

Members were reminded that the purpose of the review was to consider two issues: the policing aspects in liaison with the Lancashire Constabulary and a review of the Council's own Club Day provision and support. The first meeting of the Group was held on 17 April 2013 whereby representatives of the Police and Lancashire County Council were invited to attend. At that meeting, the Scoping Document was approved and an overview of the position was given.

In summary, the Task and Finish group were advised that due to recent changes in the legislation and resources, the Police had indicated to local Club Day organisers that they were unable to support/marshal future Club Day events. In view of this, there was perceived to be a sustainability issue. However, the Police had confirmed that they would continue to resource Freckleton Club Day because this is the only event where the procession goes across a dual carriageway. In addition, as a goodwill gesture the Police had agreed to support this year's other events across the borough.

In conclusion, the Group felt that the urgency had somewhat been removed but acknowledged that further work was needed for future events. Committee was advised that the Group would continue with its work which would also include a review of the Council's own Club Day provision and support, with a view to presenting a full and final report to Committee and Cabinet in due course.

Following consideration of this the committee RESOLVED to note the interim findings of the Task and Finish Group and await the full and final report in due course.

6. Lowther Gardens Trust - Governance Arrangements

Further to members request to undertake a review of the governance arrangements of Lowther Gardens Trust, Clare Platt (Director of Community Services) and Savile Sykes (Chief Internal Auditor) presented a joint report on the matter.

Members were reminded that Lowther Gardens Trust is supported by the Council in accordance with the Service Level Agreement for the sustainable management of the Pavilion.

It was reported that during discussions, the trustees had asked the Council to transfer title to the gardens to the Official Custodian for Charities. In this regard, the report also identified the current arrangements for grounds maintenance, and sought members support for the formalisation of these arrangements through the development of a further Service Level Agreement.

A copy of the Governance Review report together with a copy of the Scheme to Govern Lowther Gardens and the Service Level Agreement were attached as appendices to the report.

During the course of the presentation, members sought further information on various areas in particular: the proposed transfer of title, existing and proposed shared arrangements including staffing and specific costings/accounting arrangements. In addition, further information was sought on the role of the borough council as trustee. These were addressed in turn by Mr Sykes and Ms Platt.

Following detailed consideration of this matter the Committee RESOLVED:

1. To recognise the commitment of the Trust in developing governance processes further.
2. To invite a representative of the Trust to a subsequent meeting to discuss progress and present the annual report.
3. To endorse the transfer of title to Lowther Gardens (including the Pavilion) to the Official Custodian for Charities.
4. To endorse execution of any other documents which are necessary or expeditious to facilitate the transfer to the Official Custodian.
5. To endorse the arrangements by which the council maintains the grounds and manages the associated leisure activities through the development of a further Service Level Agreement between and the Council and the Lowther Gardens Trust.
6. To ask the Trust to consider accepting the recommendations contained in the Governance Review Report.

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