

Community Focus Scrutiny Committee



Date:	Thursday, 12 September 2013
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members:	Councillor Christine Akeroyd (Chairman) Councillors Tim Armit, Susanne Cunningham, Gail Goodman JP, Nigel Goodrich, Paul Hodgson, Dawn Prestwich, John Singleton JP, Karen Henshaw JP, Alan Clayton, Fabian Craig-Wilson, David Chedd
Other Councillors:	Councillor Cheryl Little (Portfolio Holder for Social Wellbeing)
Officers:	Allan Oldfield, Vivien Wood, John Cottam, Chris Hambly, Annie Womack, Sharon Wadsworth
Other Attendees:	Michele Scott (Care & Repair Manager)

Chairman

In the absence of Councillor Mulholland, Councillor Christine Akeroyd acted as Chairman for the purposes of 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 any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

Councillor Armit declared a personal interest in Item 5, as an organiser of one of the events.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 July 2013 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 25:

Councillor Karen Henshaw JP for Councillor Tony Ford

Councillor David Chedd for Councillor Kathleen Harper

Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson for Councillor Barbara Nash

Councillor Alan Clayton for the Mayor, Councillor Linda Nulty

4. Annual Report – Care and Repair (Wyre & Fylde)

John Cottam (Principal Housing Officer) introduced the sixth Annual Report of the Care and Repair Service to the committee, pointing out to members that the service is funded by Fylde Borough Council only on a year by year basis.

Michele Scott (Care & Repair Manager) presented the item in more detail, summarising the performance of the service and the survey results.

Ms Scott highlighted a number of areas in the report. She advised members that they are still able to provide grab rails at cost, which can be fitted at a small charge through the Handyperson Service. The working relationship with Millercare was successful with the guarantee that minor aids are fitted correctly and promptly through the Handyperson Service. The completion of Attendance Allowance claims had a high rate of success and had resulted in additional annual income for applicants. The service was also on hand to advise clients on the best way to use the additional funds awarded by Attendance Allowance.

It was mentioned that charity funding was getting more difficult to obtain and in some cases as many as eighteen different charities may need to be approached for some clients.

The Handyperson Service charging policy that was introduced in April 2012 had enabled them to retain a third member of staff for this service.

Funding was in place from Fylde until March 2014 but Lancashire County Council had only provided funding until October 2013, although this was expected to be extended to March 2014.

Councillor Hodgson complimented Michele Scott on the very good survey results and wanted to pass on his thanks to the staff and crew involved. Councillor Armit and Councillor Goodrich also added their congratulations, and made suggestions regarding other venues where the service could be promoted to encourage take-up.

Ms Scott gave details relating to staffing numbers and partnership working in response to queries raised by Councillor Henshaw and Councillor Chedd.

Councillor Singleton requested a further breakdown of visits made, which had been listed in Appendix 4 as taking place within three broad areas of the Fylde. Ms Scott said that she would endeavour to give a more detailed analysis in future.

Councillor Armit noted that Fylde's contribution to funding of the service had not increased since it was launched in 2003/04, and proposed that a review of the level of funding, with a view to an increase, should be included in the next budget round. Councillor Hodgson seconded this proposal.

Following consideration of the matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To note the report and to thank Michele Scott for her presentation and attendance at the meeting.
2. To pass on the Committee's thanks and appreciation to the staff for the work undertaken during the year.
3. To recommend that the level of funding be reviewed, with a view to an increase.

5. Report of the Supported Events Task and Finish Group

This report was introduced by Vivien Wood (Tourism Officer) on behalf of the Task and Finish Group. Ms Wood invited questions from committee members.

In response to a query, Ms Wood was able to confirm that the only events on the list at Appendix C were events that had been notified through the Events Notification Group. If events had taken place which were not supported or funded by Fylde Borough Council in any way then they would not appear on the list.

Councillor Armit raised a question about funding received from the Lytham Proms Festival. Viv Wood was able to confirm that a fee of £20,000 was paid and that additional funds were received to pay for the cost of reinstating the Lytham Green.

An issue was raised by Councillor Clayton about the criteria for applications for funding of events, in particular the point which stated that applicants must demonstrate "Provision of additional employment opportunities". He felt that this may discourage organisers of small events from applying and questioned whether or not there was a need for it to be included.

Other members expressed the opinion that as no changes had been recommended by the Task and Finish group to the criteria for funding applications, which had been in place for a number of years and had already proved to be successful, then the criteria relating to employment opportunities should remain.

Following detailed discussion of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To recommend the findings of the Task and Finish Group to Cabinet.

6. Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013

Chris Hambly (Principal Licensing Team Officer) was invited to present his report on the new Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.

The report detailed changes to the legislation creating a new Act to replace the existing registration system for scrap metal dealers.

He confirmed that the proposed fee was to be £119.00 per license, which will last for three years. This figure had been calculated based on the time and cost involved in producing licenses last year. It was not possible to provide a precise measurement of the length of officer time which would be required to process these new licenses. However, if it was shown after a few months that there was an undercharge for our resources, then the fee could be increased. Members were advised that all licensing fees were currently being reviewed.

Mr Hambly reported that currently there were five scrap metal dealers and five motor salvage operators registered with Fylde Borough Council. Any collectors of scrap metal would now require a license for each borough in which they collect. It was noted that Wyre Borough Council had forty-four scrap metal collectors, but if any wanted to collect in Fylde then they would also require a license from Fylde Borough Council.

Councillor Goodrich asked what enforcement would be undertaken. Chris Hambly confirmed that enforcement already takes place in partnership with the Environmental Health Service and the Police. This new act will provide greater powers and will make it easier to identify persons operating without a license. It was also noted that costs of enforcement cannot be included in the fee structure.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To recommend that Council sets a fee per license of £119.00.
2. To delegate to the appropriate Director for the Licensing Team, the authority to approve applications where there are no objections.
3. To delegate to the Portfolio Holder for Social Wellbeing, those applications where there have been objections and the applicant wishes to make representation.

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