

MINUTES

Tourism and Leisure Committee

Date:	Thursday, 12 January 2023
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Michael Sayward (Chairman) Councillor Gavin Harrison (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Peter Anthony, Tim Armit, Sue Fazackerley MBE, Shirley Green, Matthew Lee, Cheryl Little, Vince Settle, Elaine Silverwood.
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Mark Wilde, Lisa Foden, Charlie Richards, Tim Dixon, Nick Skiba, Sharon Wadsworth.
Councillors Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley
Members of the Public:	2 members of the public were in attendance

Public Platform

There were no speakers on this occasion.

Procedural Items

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 Peter Anthony declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 6 – Budget Setting – Prioritisation of Capital Bids 2023/24 and left the room during the discussion on the item.

Councillor Sue Fazackerley MBE declared a personal interest in Item 6 – Budget Setting – Prioritisation of Capital Bids 2023/24 insofar as she was a volunteer at Lytham Hall.

Councillor Shirley Green declared a personal interest in Item 6 – Budget Setting – Prioritisation of Capital Bids 2023/24 insofar as she was Council representative on Lytham Hall Partnership.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting held on 3 November 2022 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

Decision Items

4. Splash Park Fee Introduction

Councillor Sayward introduced the report that outlined the proposal to introduce a nominal charge of £1 per child per hour for the use of the SPLASH facility on St Annes promenade. The report detailed the reasons for the introduction of a fee and the contribution that the income would make towards the cost-of-service provision and activities on the primary beach and promenade garden area.

The debate considered the data considered to estimate the number of visits / potential income, the staffing budget and increased risk from handling cash. Mark Wilde, Head of Parks, Leisure and Cultural Services, confirmed that the potential number of visits and subsequent income was based on the data from the booking system that had been in place for the last couple of years. It was envisaged that payment for the service would be through the booking system with an option of payment by card or phone available on site. The facility has two existing members of staff available to ensure that the water quality is monitored throughout the day. It was reiterated that the proposal was an introduction to charging and would be reviewed following the season, including the option for discount offers.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED to recommend to Council the introduction of a fee of £1 per child per hour for the use of the SPLASH facility in St Annes as part of the budget setting fees and charges from the Tourism & Leisure Committee.

5. Budget Setting – Fees and Charges 2023/24

Councillor Sayward introduced the report. In doing so he advised that each year, as part of the budget-setting process, the schedule of fees and charges for the coming year (for each of the services that the Council provides) are reviewed by budget-holders prior to the schedule being considered by the Committee before being approved at the March Budget Council meeting.

The proposed schedule of fees and charges, as detailed in the report, for those services within the remit of the Tourism and Leisure committee was considered by members.

Members were invited to comment on the various fees and charges. The increase in charges for motorboat hire, and canoe hire was discussed. Nike Skiba, Fairhaven Duty Manager, explained that the increase for the motorboats would bring the charges in line with the cost of the running the boats and the canoe hire in line with the other services available referencing the increased cost of fuel, labour and materials related to the service.

The Committee unanimously RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to Council the proposed schedule of fees and charges applicable for 2023/24; and
2. To note that the final fees and charges for 2023/24 would be approved by the Budget Council in March 2023.

6. Budget Setting – Prioritisation of Capital Bids 2023/24

Councillor Anthony left the meeting having declared a personal and prejudicial interest at the start of the meeting. Councillor Green joined the meeting during the item and declared a personal interest in the Lytham Hall bid.

The Chairman presented a report regarding the capital bids to be considered and prioritised for inclusion in the Capital Programme for 2023/24. The capital bids under consideration all fell within the Terms of Reference of the Committee and related to the following areas: Improvements to Children’s Play Areas; Lytham Hall Drainage and Green Car Parking and St Annes Beach Hub Facility.

Lisa Foden, Parks and Coastal Services Manager, Allan Oldfield, Chief Executive and Mark Wilde, Head of Parks, Leisure and Cultural Services, provided an outline on each of the capital bids respectively and in doing so, provided details of the costings and work associated with each bid and responded to members comments. Members discussed each of the schemes seeking clarification on rationale and purpose.

Following consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED to support the three capital bids relevant to the Committee’s Terms of Reference for consideration by the Budget Working Group in the following order of priority:

- 1) Children’s Play Areas

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2) St Annes Beach Hub Facility

3) Lytham Hall Drainage and Green Car Parking.

Councillor Anthony returned to the meeting.

7. Budget Setting – Consideration of Revenue Bid

The Chairman invited Lisa Foden, Parks, and Coastal Services Manager, to present the proposed revenue growth bid for 2023/24 on the continuation of the Coast and Conservation Ranger Post.

The post had been a five-year fixed contract that had been funded by Section 106 monies. The funding for the post would end on 31st March 2023. Ms Foden highlighted the work done by the ranger team and the services that could be retained if future funding was made available.

Following consideration on the matter, the committee unanimously RESOLVED to support the continuation of the Coast and Conservation Ranger Post revenue growth bid to be considered during the budget setting process.

8. In Year Budget Increase – St Annes Paddling Pool: Water Quality Improvements Scheme

Charlie Richards, Head of Regeneration and Projects, presented the report on the proposed the scheme for the installation of recirculatory plant and equipment, designed to improve water quality, for the Paddling Pool facility in St Annes. The plant and equipment would contain a dosing element to maintain sufficient chemical levels within the water body to meet paddling pool water quality standards.

The scheme would be in two parts; a specialist leisure pool maintenance company to install the recirculatory equipment, and a groundworks package to facilitate the required electrical connections to power the equipment. The works would be delivered out of season to ensure the facility was operational ahead of the main visitor season in April 2023.

Following questions from members it was confirmed that the previous work undertaken during 2022 included the resurfacing of the pool to reduce the risk of falls and improved accessibility, including wheelchair access. The proposed works for 2023 would modernise the system and bring the water quality up to national standards, the requirement for chlorination of the water is unrelated to the safety and accessibility work.

It was unanimously RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to Council approval of a fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2022/23 in the sum of £53,400 to the 'St Annes Paddling Pool: Water Quality Improvements' scheme, to be met from the Capital Investment Reserve.
2. To recommend to Council the approval of an ongoing unfunded addition to the base revenue budget in the sum of £13,700 from 2023/24 onwards as set out in the report.
3. Subject to approval by Council as above, the Tourism and Leisure noted that a retrospective drawdown expenditure report would be brought to a future committee to detail the actual project spend as detailed within the report.

Information Items

9. Mid-Year Performance 2022/23

The report provides details of the key performance outcomes for the first half of the financial year 2022/23. Performance is reported against the targets set for the year and commentary is provided by performance exception.

10. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2022/23 – Position as at 30th November 2022

The information report provided an update on the approved Capital Programme of the Council as at 30th November 2022 with specific reference to those schemes under the remit of the Committee.

11. General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2022/23 - Position as at 30th November 2022

The information report provided an update on the General Fund Revenue Budget of the Council as at 30th November 2022 with specific reference to those areas under the remit of the Committee.

12. Budget Setting – Revenue Budget 2023/24 - First Draft

The information report provided an update on the first draft of the revenue budget for 2023/24 (made available via a link).

13. Fairhaven Lake and Gardens – Project Evaluation

The information report provided details of the evaluation report of the restoration of the Fairhaven Lake and Gardens.

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