

Policy & Service Review Scrutiny Committee



Date	28 March 2007
Venue	Reception Room, Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	Raymond Norsworthy (Chairman) Martin Taylor (Vice-Chairman) Maxine Chew, Elizabeth Clarkson, John Longstaff, Elizabeth Oades, Dawn Prestwich, Fabian Wilson.
Other Councillors	Simon Renwick
Officers	Paul Norris, Andrew Shore, Paul Walker, Tracy Scholes, Annie Womack, Hazel Wood.
Others	Members of the Public

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Policy & Service Review Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15 February 2007 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

There were no substitute members.

4. Condition Survey - St Annes and Kirkham Pools

Following their visit to St Annes Pool and Kirkham Baths to examine the details of condition surveys carried out at both facilities Paul Norris (Executive Manager) presented a report on their findings and recommended course of action to the Cabinet, including a forecast of ongoing maintenance costs for both pools.

The Chairman asked if necessary work had been carried out at St Annes Pool to enable it to reopen, and was advised that this had been completed, along with some essential boiler replacement work at Kirkham Baths.

Mr Norris advised that the tender process, as authorised by Cabinet, was under way and should be completed in the next month. The outcome of this exercise will be reported to a subsequent Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee, probably in July 2007.

Following a full debate the Committee RESOLVED to recommend that the Portfolio Holder and Paul Norris report back to the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee in July 2007.

5. Car Park Strategy Review

Andrew Shore (Technical Services Manager) presented a report updating Members of the Committee on the findings of the scrutiny Task and Finish Group which was established to review the Council's off street car park strategy. The report recommends to the Committee the adoption of a revised strategy and a revised tariff and operating hour structure for the Council's car parks.

He explained that the Task and Finish group have reviewed the strategy with particular emphasis on the following –

- Tariff structure
- Evening charges
- Car Park income
- Enforcement activity
- Disabled parking provision
- Customer friendly approach

The committee approved the recommended change to the evening tariff (that it should be discontinued) and that the charging hours should revert to a 9am to 6pm arrangement.

The committee considered the representations from the Lytham Chamber of Trade regarding the short stay town centre car park in Pleasant Street, Lytham. They had suggested that a long stay option could be offered within this car park and the Task and Finish Group had incorporated that request into the schedules. The committee voted and decided to recommend that the tariff as detailed in the schedule should be adopted, on a year-long trial basis.

There is an undertaking from the Group to promote more customer-friendly enforcement procedures, and also to undertake an audit of disabled parking provision. The Chairman requested feedback to a future Committee meeting.

Andrew Shore advised that he had spoken to the Highways department regarding the issue of clear signage to the car parks and will be making arrangements to implement the necessary improvements.

Following full discussion it was RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee recommends the adoption of the revised car park strategy and the associated changes to the tariff and operating hours.
2. That the Committee refers the recommendations as agreed to the Leader of the Council for approval.
3. That Mr Shore will report back to the Committee in one year regarding the effect of the changes to the Pleasant Street tariff

6. Review of Council Assets

Paul Walker (Executive Manager) presented a report on the progress of the working group. The aim of the working group is to accelerate the on-going review of council assets to ensure that they are delivering the aims and priorities of the council. Each asset to be reviewed and considered for one of the following approaches:-

- 1) an asset that could or should be disposed of to achieve income
- 2) an asset that could potentially raise increased revenue
- 3) an asset that could or should be disposed of to others to continue to provide the council's objectives, e.g. the Town or Parish Council
- 4) an asset that should be retained and if necessary improved/adapted

Mr Walker advised that the report from the surveyor who has been commissioned to undertake necessary valuation work will be available soon, and a summary of that report will be brought to the next meeting of the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Chew asked that the work which is needed on Kirkham Memorial Gardens should to be classed as an urgent priority.

Following full discussion it was RESOLVED:

- 1 That the committee should note the report
- 2 That the surveyor's report will be brought to the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee as soon as possible
- 3 That the committee recommends that the Portfolio Holder should act urgently on the report regarding the works needed for Kirkham Memorial Gardens

7. Vice-Chairman's report on previous recommendations

No further changes to report since the last Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee.

Special Thanks

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Committee for their hard work during his Chairmanship, and a special thanks to the Vice Chairman Martin Taylor for all his help and support.
