

MINUTES

Tourism and Leisure Committee

Date:	Thursday, 6 January 2022
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Michael Sayward (Chairman) Councillor Gavin Harrison (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Tim Armit, Sue Fazackerley MBE, Matthew Lee, Cheryl Little, David O' Rourke, Vince Settle, Elaine Silverwood.
Members of the public:	One member of the public was present.
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Ian Curtis, Marie Percival, Mark Wilde, Tim Dixon, Lisa Foden (remotely), Lyndsey Lacey-Simone.

Public Platform

There were no requests to speak under the Public Platform arrangements.

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. There were no interests on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting held on 4 November 2021 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitution was reported under Council Procedure Rule 23(c):

Councillor David O'Rourke for Councillor Peter Anthony.

Decision Items

4. In Year Funded Budget Increase - North Beach Windsports Centre

Further to the report to committee on 9 September 2021, the Chairman invited Marie Percival (Estates and Asset Manager) to introduce the report regarding an in-year funded budget increase for North Beach Windsports Centre.

Members were reminded that the property previously known as 'Trax' was brought back into Council administration in July 2021 after the lease to the previous tenant was surrendered and vacant possession was obtained.

It was reported that various local groups had expressed a desire to use the property as part of plans to grow sporting related activities on a local, regional, and national footprint taking advantage of the ideal natural conditions offered on St Annes coast. Details regarding the opportunities (including the provision of a café) that could be explored and the associated requirement for a Service Level Agreement(s) were set out in the report.

It was further reported that the property needed significant refurbishment including replacement showers, new toilets for any proposed café operation, replacement decking area, shutters, security measures and an upgrade of the décor and fittings. Members were advised that the cost of these works are estimated to be £200,000 and the report sought capital to fund the works from the capital investment reserve.

In terms of the procurement pathway, the report sought the Committee's approval to use a quotation procedure instead of the normal Contract Tender Rules that would apply to the works of this value in order to progress the scheme for completion in summer 2022 and reduce the period the premises are left vacant and unused.

Included as appendices were: (i) Briefing Note (detailing feasibility options), (ii) Architect proposals which included the layout & external design and (iii) a costed proposal.

In conclusion, Miss Percival stated that it is anticipated that, subject to contractor and material availability, the property will be ready for occupation in the summer season 2022.

Following the presentation, the Chairman invited questions. Comments were made about the design of the proposed facility and whether it would include appropriate storage, shower facilities etc. In addition, it was suggested that it would help with the ambience of the facility it was licenced for alcohol.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to Finance & Democracy Committee, approval of a funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2021/22 in the sum of £200,000 to the 'North Beach Wind Sports Centre' scheme, to be met from the Capital Investment Reserve.
2. That subject to approval of the Finance & Democracy Committee, to authorise the drawdown expenditure of £200,000 in 2021/22 as detailed within the report.
3. To approve the request to use a quotation procedure instead of the normal Contract Tender Rules that would apply to the works of this value in order to progress the scheme for completion in summer 2022 and reduce the period the premises are left vacant and unused.
5. Improvements to Children's Play Areas 2021/22

The Chairman invited Lisa Foden (Parks and Coastal Services Manager) to present the report. In doing so, she advised that the Council's 21/22 Capital Programme included a sum of £100,000 to deliver a scheme for improvements (including the proposed refurbishment of playground surfacing and equipment) of children's play areas.

It was reported that the planned works were based on a prioritised play area audit prepared by officers. Following a community group consultation, specifications for each play area had been prepared and finalised in readiness for the contract tendering. Details regarding the procurement process and evaluation were set out in the report.

Members were advised that the following sites were proposed for investment and improvement:

- Waddington Road Park
- Promenade Gardens
- Mornington Park
- South Park
- Lansdowne Road Open space
- King George V Playing Fields

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To authorise the drawdown of the capital expenditure of £100,000 in respect of the approved capital scheme 'Play Area Improvements' in 2021/22 as detailed within the report.

2. To approve the letting of the contract to Abacus Playgrounds for the sum of £100,000 to carry out the scheme as outlined in the report.

6. Green Loop Project Funding

Tim Dixon (Tourism and Cultural Services Manager) advised the Committee that funding had been awarded by Arts Council England in the sum of £26,200 to provide support for a series of arts & environment initiatives, within a project entitled 'Green Loop'. Mr Dixon explained that the project will be coordinated by the Fylde Council Arts Development Officer who will commission & oversee the work of a creative team and local community & environmental organisations.

Members were advised that the project (formerly an aspect of the proposed wider 'Coastal Explorers' /Sightlines & Shorelines project) will run from February 2022 to October 2022 and consist of three main tranches. Details regarding the matter were set out in the report.

It was RESOLVED: To recommend to the Finance & Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £26,200 for the year 2022 / 23 to be met in full, from a grant from the Arts Council England relating to this project.

7. Boating Pool Safety Improvements

Lisa Foden (Parks and Coastal Services Manager) introduced this report. In doing so, she sought approval from the committee for funding to implement a Boating Pool Safety Improvement scheme. She explained that the scheme included a series of measures to safeguard the public in the use of the facility, including the installation of non-slip rubber wetpour surfacing, accessible ramp, traffic barrier fence and a public safety sign.

The Committee were requested to approve a fully funded budget increase to the value of £60,000 to deliver the scheme in-line with a specification prepared by officers.

Details regarding the proposed procurement process was set out in the report.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman invited questions. It was suggested that because of the proposed works, the boating pool be suitably renamed. This was acknowledged.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a new fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2021/22 in the sum of £60,000 to the 'St Annes Paddling Pool (boating pool) - health and safety improvements' scheme, to be met in full from the Capital Investment Reserve.
2. Subject to approval by Finance & Democracy Committee, the committee is requested to authorise the drawdown expenditure of £60,000 in 2021/22 as detailed within the report

8. Budget Setting - Prioritisation of Capital Bids 2022/23

The Chairman introduced the report relating to the prioritisation of capital bids for 2022/23 which fell within the Terms of Reference of the Committee. He then went on to invite the relevant officers to clarify the details of the bids.

In summary, the bids related to the following areas: (i) Improvements to Children's Play Areas (ii) Play Area- Blackpool Road North, St Annes and (iii) Petanque Court, St Annes.

The specific details/costings associated with each bid were included as an appendix to the report.

Members were invited to comment on the various bids set out in the report and in turn, determine the associated order of priority.

In terms of the Blackpool Road North play area, St Annes, it was suggested that external funding also be sought for the improvements.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To support the capital bids relevant to the Committee's Terms of Reference in the following order of priority for further consideration by the Budget Working Group.

(i) Play Area - Blackpool Road North, St Annes and (ii) Improvements to Children's Play Areas and (iii) Petanque Court, St Annes.

9. Budget Setting - Fees and Charges 2022/23

Allan Oldfield (Chief Executive) 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 relevant Programme Committee before being approved at the March Budget Council meeting.

A full schedule of proposed fees and charges for all Council services for 2022/23 was made available via a link:

The schedule of fees and charges (as detailed in Appendix A of the report) for those services/activities within the remit of the Tourism and Leisure committee were considered by members.

Members were invited to comment on the various fees and charges. It was suggested that there appeared to be minimal changes to the fees and charges and clarification on this matter was sought. Matters associated with the operational hours and the execution/ policing of paid open water swimming at Fairhaven Lake was raised by Councillor Armit. An undertaking to get back to Councillor Armit on the matters raised was given at the meeting.

Clarification was also sought on the reduced charges for the 121 paddle lessons. This was addressed by Mr Dixon.

The Committee RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to Council the proposed schedule of fees and charges applicable for 2022/23; and
2. To note that the final fees and charges for 2022/23 will be approved by the Budget Council in March 2022.

Information Items

10. Budget Setting - Revenue Budget 2022/23 - First Draft

The information report provided an update on the first draft of the revenue budget for 2022/23 (made available via a link). The Committee was advised that the budget had been prepared on a continuation basis and had been updated to reflect all Committee and Council decisions made to date, the outcome of the budget-rightsizing exercise and all virements.

11. General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2021/22 - Position as at 30th November 2021

The information report provided an update on the General Fund Revenue Budget of the Council as at 30th November 2021 with specific reference to those areas under the remit of the Committee.

Clarification was sought on various adverse funding elements with reference to Covid 19 and the associated Government funding support. This was addressed by Mr Oldfield.

12. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2021/22 – Position as at 30th November 2021

The information report provided an update on the approved Capital Programme of the Council as at 30th November 2021 with specific reference to those schemes under the remit of the Committee.

13. Performance Reporting 2020/21

The information report combined details of the key performance outcomes which had not been reported to the committee (due to the pandemic) for the previous financial year end 2020/21 (1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021) and the first six months of the existing financial year end (1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021).

Performance was reported against the targets set and commentary was provided by performance exception. The Committee was advised that due to the ongoing challenges post-covid, target setting will be reviewed in detail at the start of the new financial year 2021/22.

Clarification was sought on the figures detailed in the 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 schedule and the figures detailed in the 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021 schedule in that, there appeared to be a duplication. In addition, clarification was sought on the figures relating to the number of swims at St Annes pool. An undertaking to get back to members on this was given at the meeting.

14. Corporate Plan Action Update

The information report provided the committee with the latest progress against the corporate actions relevant to the committee that are scheduled for completion at the time of the meeting.

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