



**MINUTES of
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
9 JULY 2019**

PRESENT

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| Chairman | Councillor Miss S White |
| Vice-Chairman | Councillor E L Bamford |
| Councillors | M F L Durham, CC, J V Keyes, N G F Shaughnessy, R H Siddall, N J Skeens, Mrs J C Stilts, C Swain, A S Fluker and Mrs M E Thompson |
| Ex-Officio Non- Voting Member | Councillor A S Fluker |
| Substitute Councillor(s) | Councillor Mrs M E Thompson |
| In Attendance | Councillor C Morris |

237. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

The Chairman drew attention to the list of notices published on the back of the agenda.

238. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M S Heard and A L Hull.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 17 (9, 10) Councillor M E Thompson attended as a substitute for Councillor A L Hull

239. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 May 2019 be approved and confirmed.

240. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor N Skeens declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 8 – Crouch Valley Food and Drink Festival

Councillor Durham declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of Essex County Council should there be any items on the agenda pertaining to that organisation.

241. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No requests had been received.

242. CHAIRMAN'S GOOD NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman referred to the following items:

Armed Forces Weekend – 29 & 30 June

The District commemorated Armed Forces Day by supporting two events one at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome on Saturday 29th June and one in Promenade Park on Sunday 30th June.

Reserves Day – 26 June

The Council was pleased to support Reserves Day on 26 June – an initiative to recognise Reservists who give up their spare time, balancing their civilian life with a military career, to ensure that they are ready to serve when their country needs them.

Cabbies Day – 3 July

The annual Cabbies day outing saw over 100 cabs from East London visiting Maldon and enjoying the facilities of Promenade Park. A cab driver who attended took the time to email and say:-

‘I visited Maldon yesterday and would like to tell the Council what a great reception we all received. Everyone was so welcoming. The Plume school provided the most for the children not only the food but the time and the smiles. Thank you to all to the Cab drivers and the people of Maldon who were so wonderful!’

The Chairman added that when she was at the Plume she used to serve lunch to the cabbies and was pleased to see the event continuing.

Maldon Festival – 22 June – 6 July

A variety of events were staged as part of the very popular 2-week festival which the Council was pleased to support

Maldon Car Show – Sunday 7 July

The Promenade Park hosted the Annual Maldon Car Show with over 500 show cars including the showpiece replica Chitty Chitty Bang Bang proudly on display on the events field.

There were also 720 public shows and an estimated 18,000 attendees. A very busy day in the Promenade Park that was enjoyed by all.

243. ECOFLEX HOME ENERGY SCHEME

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery that provided an overview of the current Ecoflex “Help to Heat” scheme; and sought Member approval of an updated Statement of Intent for the Maldon District and the ability to work with a third-party delivery partner.

The Director of Service Delivery took the Committee through the report. He reminded Members that this was an update to the scheme that Maldon District Council had been a member of for some years. The purpose of the report was to agree the updated Statement of Intent. The main impact for Local Authorities was that the Flexible Eligibility element of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme was increased from a maximum of 10% of ECO installations undertaken by energy providers to a maximum of 25%. This meant that more properties and therefore more residents would be assisted through the scheme.

He also pointed out that the Council does not have to contribute any funding towards delivery of these schemes. The finance comes from the energy companies (hence the ‘ECO’)). The role of the Council was as an arbiter for those applicants who may fall outside of the standard ECO criteria, but who are still on a low income, not in receipt of benefits and are either in a hard to heat property or vulnerable to cold.

Councillor Fluker, in response to the issue of eligibility, confirmed that the criteria was set nationally which was how the government ascertained statistics on numbers in fuel poverty. With reference to administrative costs to the Council he said it was clear under Section 6 of the report there was no cost, the scheme was fully funded with no contribution required from Maldon District Council. He added that this was a very commendable scheme and proposed that the recommendations be agreed.

The Chairman put the recommendations to the Committee and they were agreed.

RESOLVED

- (i) That details of the scheme and the potential benefits to those in fuel poverty in the District are noted;
- (ii) That the proposed statement of intent is agreed;
- (iii) That a third party is engaged as a business partner to deliver the scheme.

244. THE CROUCH VALLEY FESTIVAL OF FOOD AND DRINK

The Committee considered the report and presentation of the Director of Service Delivery that provided Members with an update on the upcoming Crouch Valley Festival of Food and Drink.

The Chairman introduced the item and invited the Tourism and Events Manager to take the Committee through the report and presentation.

At this point Councillor Fluker declared in the interests of openness and transparency, as an associate of his was exhibiting at the Crouch Valley Festival of Food and Drink.

The Tourism and Events Manager then went through the detail of the report. He advised the Committee that the Festival would comprise of a two-day event that would celebrate the very best food and drink from the local area. With live music and entertainment, activities, competitions, family fun, food to meet all tastes (including pop up restaurants and intimate hosted tasting sessions) together with delicious drinks, all with stunning riverside views. This quality event had the potential to be a landmark on the Essex event calendar.

He advised that the ‘Gastro Experience’ event had been inspired by the desire to celebrate the fantastic growth in vineyards and breweries in the Maldon District and was designed as a promotional vehicle, putting Riverside Park on the map as an event venue. It was noted that the event was supported by the Sense of Place Board and partly funded by the Magnox Socio-Economic fund (£4,500). Approximately £6,500 had been invested by the Council from existing tourism promotional budgets. It was envisaged that the event would return that investment and provide a model for future years and events. The pitch fees had been deliberately set low and a shared income model adopted to encourage traders to partake in the event.

The Committee acknowledged all the hard work the team had invested in this project, all Members were keen to promote the event and looked forward to attending. Some concerns were raised around access, highway safety and adverse weather conditions. The Tourism and Events Manager reassured the Committee that there were a number of volunteers, including councillors, on hand to assist with access and the Community Safety Team would be present to handle all traffic related matters. A contingency plan was in place to deal with adverse weather conditions in the guise of two large marquees.

In response to issues on feedback he said that a questionnaire and link would be distributed at the event and a report on the outcome submitted to a future meeting of the appropriate committee. In conclusion he said he would circulate both the marketing pack and sponsorship pack to all Members.

The Chairman said that it was an excellent report and presentation, and above all, great to see our public parks being fully utilised and showcased.

The Chairman put the recommendation to the Committee and it was agreed.

RESOLVED that Members support and promote the forthcoming Festival and take the opportunity to visit the event over the weekend of the 20th & 21st July 2019.

245. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Chairman put the proposal that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test, to the Committee and this was supported.

RESOLVED that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test.

246. ADVICE SERVICES CONTRACT

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery seeking Members' approval to extend the current contractual arrangements with the existing Advice Services contract for a further 12 months, to April 2021.

The Customers, Community and Casework Manager took the Committee through the report. She explained that the reason the item was before Committee was to ensure continuity of service in the short-term whilst also ensuring the Council has the opportunity to review and re-negotiate funding and service levels later in the year.

Councillor Fluker acknowledged the excellent service provided by the Advice Service and thanked the Customers, Community and Casework Manager for her hard work and input, given that the new Advice Services model was now serving an increased number of people.

He proposed the recommendations be approved with the addition of a third recommendation that Officers ensure that the most efficient and effective processes are applied when determining future provision. It was further proposed that the recommendations be referred to Council.

The Chairman put the recommendations to the Committee including the additional recommendation and they were agreed.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) That the current contract is extended for a further 1 year;
- (ii) That funding remains at 2019/20 level, subject to a review by Members in November 2019 (minute 865 refers 14 February 2019); and,
- (iii) That Officers ensure the most efficient and effective processes are applied when determining future provision.

247. CONCESSIONS IN PROMENADE PARK

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery that provided Members with an update on concessions in the Promenade Park and considered new guidance for future seasons.

The Director of Service Delivery took the Committee through the report and appendix. He reported that this was a success story and there was an opportunity to continue the good work into next year. Some concerns had been raised and these had been remedied. It was before the Committee to review the 2019 experience and provide guidance to the Events Working Group on future plans.

It was noted that the Committee was not being asked to discuss the concessions but advise on future plans for consideration by the Events Working Group. The Chairman asked that those with issues and /or ideas email her and she would endeavour to have them considered by the

Events Working Group. She went on to say she was delighted that such a great facility was successful.

In light of the upcoming new governance structure it was agreed that the recommendation be amended from 'report back to the Community Services Committee' to 'report back to the appropriate Committee'.

The Chairman put the revised recommendation to the Committee and it was agreed.

RESOLVED that Members request the Events Working Group review the 2019 concessions, provide guidance on concessions for future years and report back to the appropriate Committee.

There being no further items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

MISS S WHITE
CHAIRMAN