

Present: Councillor Gary Hewson (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Helena Mair, Councillor Thomas Dyer,
Councillor Ronald Hills, Councillor Rebecca Longbottom,
Councillor Lucinda Preston and Councillor
Lorraine Woolley

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Laura McWilliams and Councillor Pat Vaughan

65. Confirmation of Minutes - 9 January 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2020 be confirmed.

66. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

67. Portfolio Holder under Scrutiny - Remarkable Place

Cllr Bob Bushell, Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place, presented a report to Performance Scrutiny Committee to show the progress made in the following areas over the past year:

- Allotments
- Equipped Play areas
- Parks
- Boutham Park
- Hartsholme Country Park and Camp Site
- Commons
- Volunteering
- Arboriculture
- Park Advisory Groups
- Travellers
- Street Scene
- Waste/Recycling
- Street Cleansing
- Public Toilets
- Bereavement Services
- Crematorium
- Climate Change
- CoLC commitment to reduce single use plastics
- Licensing
- Food, Health and Safety
- Health and Safety (Enforcement)
- Sport Recreation and Leisure Services
- Obesity
- Leisure Centre Provision
- Yarborough and Birchwood Leisure Centres in Partnership with Active Nation
- New Artificial Grass Pitches
- Fairs and Circus's
- City of Lincoln 10K

- Playing Pitches

He invited members' comments and questions.

Question: Members asked when the allotments at Melbourne Road would be allocated?

Response: Once the contractors were on site, it should take 6-8 weeks for 12 allotments to be ready for allocation.

Question: Members asked how many play parks were closed and whether feedback was sought from users of the play park?

Response: There were no play parks closed. The Citizens Panel was a cross section of people so not necessarily users of the parks. There would be a community event for St Giles for users of the new play park to attend.

Comment: Members commented that the advocate for play parks was not invited to the meeting regarding the Play Area Strategy.

Response: The first meeting for the Play Area Strategy was regarding costs. Officers were to include the advocate at future meetings.

Question: Members asked if the cleaning of parks and the repairs had targets associated with them, whether hot spots for anti-social behaviour were monitored and how were decisions made on where new parks were to be placed?

Response: The location of new parks was incorporated within the Play Area Strategy. Repairs were dealt with by property services and the amount of time it took to repair depended on whether a part was needed or not. There was a degradation timescale that was used when play parks needed cleaning. Reports were received for drug paraphernalia at play parks through the performance board.

Question: Members asked if there was proof of litter bins being emptied?

Response: The trucks that emptied the bins were tracked. Officers were looking at smart bin technology which would track when they were half full etc.

Question: Members asked how much communication provision was in the Play Area Strategy and what could be done to improve the Media Strategy?

Response: The Media Strategy was to be included in the Play Area Strategy.

Question: Members asked what was done with allotments that were not being looked after by tenants?

Response: Officers try to work with the tenant to increase the usage and get the site back to a manageable state. Tenants also received letters.

Question: Members asked whether information was available to show the length of allotment tenancies and the profile of the tenants?

Response: The information was available and the allotments were owned by a mix of different ages. Data was not reviewed regularly but once the Allotment Strategy was updated it would be.

Question: Members asked when the tree stumps on Ruskin Avenue were to be taken out?

Response: Trees were only cut down if needed. The stumps would be removed at a later date and be replaced with trees.

Question: Members asked what action was being taken against travellers that set up on our land?

Response: A few sites had been identified for an injunction to be placed on them but this had been put on hold due to the court's ruling that this was not an appropriate use of court powers. Other measures were being looked at such as CCTV. The issues was still on the radar.

Comment: Members commented that the amount of trees that were being planted needed to be communicated to the public to a greater extent.

Response: The partnership with The Woodland Trust and The Wildlife Trust would help get the message out regarding trees, who were backing the work that was being carried out in Boultham Park.

Question: Members asked whether voluntary contributions could be put towards the car park at Hartsholme Park as the biggest issue was with drainage? Members also asked whether the use of the barrier to stop travellers had been appraised?

Response: Prices to repair the car park were higher due to having to be sensitive to the trees that surrounded it. The barriers were installed to deter travellers from entering the car park at night but this could be got around by entering in the day when the barriers were up.

Question: Members asked whether there was anything that could be done for the maintenance of trees?

Response: The maintenance of trees was a big job. Some of the footpaths that were damaged by trees were the result of an inappropriate tree being planted in that location. There were two arborists that were employed by the City of Lincoln Council who responded to concerns and did as much as possible to maintain the quality of trees.

Question: Members asked whether it was worth installing mobile CCTV cameras in areas where fly tipping was most prominent and at peak times of the year?

Response: CCTV had been effective in the past for catching fly-tippers but it was very hard to stop this all together. Officers had put forward a BID for 2 mobile CCTV cameras in Sincil Bank.

Question: Members asked whether there was a long term plan for bus shelters?

Response: There is currently no budget for repairing or replacing bus shelters. Officers would look for opportunities within the County Council Transport Strategy.

Question: Members asked for more information regarding memorial sales.

Response: Officers would forward the information regarding memorial sales to the Committee. The crematorium was going to have its own website and have its own branding which would help with memorial sales.

Comment: Members commented that officers were very dedicated to tackling fly-tipping.

Question: Members asked whether there was a policy which enabled council tenants to have an electric car charge point installed at their property?

Response: There wasn't a policy in place but tenants could apply to improve or change their property.

Question: Members asked whether there were any figures available for the use of the peloton studio and whether it had covered its costs?

Response: Officers were to circulate this information to the committee.

Question: Members asked if there would be more signage in town to show where taxi firms were located?

Response: It was hoped this would be an outcome of the Lincoln Transport Strategy that was being published by Lincolnshire County Council.

RESOLVED that:

1. Information regarding memorial sales be circulated to committee members.
2. Information regarding the use of the peloton studio at Birchwood Leisure Centre be circulated to committee members.
3. The content of the report be noted.

68. Vision 2020 - Remarkable Place Progress Report

Simon Walters, Director of Communities and Environment, presented Performance Scrutiny Committee:

- a) with an annual update on progress made towards the 'Let's enhance our remarkable place' strategic priority in Vision 2020, including a comprehensive overview of what had been achieved over the last three years, this was the last report under Vision 2020, along with a position statement (Appendix A) and a Project Monitoring Table (Appendix B)
- b) highlighted that there were 19 outstanding projects covered in Appendix B, which represented the remaining programme for 2019/20
- c) explained the position with projects as follows:

- Completed/achieved projects:
 - Crematorium design work and planning permission sought
 - Biodiversity – Wildlife Sites
 - Heritage Action Zone
 - Allotments
 - Outdoor Leisure Facilities
 - Boutham Park Phase Two
 - Street Scene Contracts
 - Play Strategy
 - Visitor Information Service
 - Lincoln Christmas Market 10 year vision
 - Car Parks
 - Residents Parking Scheme
 - Whitton's Park Play Areas
- Amber Projects:
 - Traffic Flows in Sincil Bank
 - St Giles Youth Centre/Play Area
 - Contaminated Land Strategy
 - Delivery of a multi-agency Events and Festivals strategy
- Red Projects:
 - Leisure Village
 - Hartsholme Country Park Cottages

d) invited members' questions and comments.

Comment: Members commented that what had been achieved was brilliant and should be promoted.

Question: Members asked whether the Leisure Village would help bring the Western Growth Corridor to fruition?

Response: The Leisure Village was part of the Western Growth Corridor Project and would take several years from start to finish. It was subject to a live planning application currently. Lincoln City Football Club were keeping their options open regarding their location.

Question: Members asked whether the cottages in Hartsholme Park were likely to deteriorate more than they had?

Response: Officers were not fully sure but some vegetation had been removed to help prevent further deterioration. The cost of renovation was currently prohibitive.

RESOLVED that the progress made within the Vision Group Remarkable Place be noted.

69. Work Programme 2019/20

Clare Stait, Democratic Services Officer:

- a) presented the draft work programme for 2019/20 as detailed at Appendix A of her report

- b) advised that the work programme for the Performance Scrutiny Committee was put forward annually for approval by Council; the work programme was then regularly updated throughout the year in consultation with the Performance Scrutiny Committee and its Chair
- c) reported that items had been scheduled in accordance with the existing work programme and officers' guidance regarding the meetings at which the most up-to-date information could be reported to the committee; the work programme also included the list of portfolio holders under scrutiny
- d) requested any relevant comments or changes to the proposed work programme for 2019/20.

RESOLVED that the work programme 2019/20 as detailed at Appendix A to the report be noted.