

REPORT UNDER RULE 2(vi) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Report by Councillor Donald Nannestad, Portfolio Holder for Recreational Services and Health

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Council's performances in relation to recreation and health. The report has to be viewed in the context of the challenging financial position this council and other local authorities find themselves in. A significant amount of the service areas within this portfolio are non-statutory duties or the main remit falls within another authority (eg public health is the responsibility of Lincolnshire County Council).

The report covers a number of different service areas as set out below. Recreation and sport are very much integral to both the physical and mental wellbeing of the population.

There are significant health inequalities not only between Lincoln and other districts but within Lincoln. Economic poverty is a key factor in this and the antipoverty work being carried out by the council plays a role in improving the health of our residents and in particular those in the most deprived areas of Lincoln.

There have been two major projects under this portfolio area. Work on the regeneration of Boultham Park, funded mainly by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), has been completed. This project was the biggest being undertaken by the City Council aside of the Transport Hub. A second HLF bid is being put together for the regeneration of the lake within the park.

The second major project is the re-development of Birchwood Leisure Centre. The first stage of this work is anticipated to be completed before this performance management meeting. However the outside advertising and cladding is currently still under consultation with planning and this is likely to take some weeks to conclude. The second phase of the work is to improve the car park. This is anticipated to take another month. There have been delays due to entirely unpredictable events and a considerable amount of work has been undertaken by our officers and by Active Nation to ensure this is completed.

Usage figures at Yarborough Leisure Centre continue to increase although the usage of Birchwood Leisure Centre has been affected by the work that has been taking place. Physical activity figures are positive for Lincoln compared to other districts within the county. However the Health Profile for Lincoln produced by Public Health England (see Appendix A) shows areas of concern. It should be noted that some of the data included in the Profile are historical.

Sport

Yarborough Leisure Centre

Quarterly Usage (SP5)

Q1 (16/17) 175,197 Q1 (17/18) 178,857
Q2 (16/17) 172,245 Q2 (17/18) 176,421
Q3 (16/17) 156,469 Q3 (17/18) 158,419
Q4 (16/17) 175,549

Cost to the Council p/visit (SP3)

Q1 (16/17) 0.33 Q1 (17/18) 0.22
Q2 (16/17) 0.34 Q2 (17/18) 0.23
Q3 (16/17) 0.38 Q3 (17/18) 0.25
Q4 (16/17) 0.33

Swimming Figures (1 Jan to 31 Dec)

2015 267,285
2016 293,858
2017 290,487

Birchwood Leisure Centre

Quarterly Usage (SP6)

Q1 (16/17) 24,921 Q1 (17/18) 23,949
Q2 (16/17) 25,417 Q2 (17/18) 14,349*
Q3 (16/17) 23,433 Q3 (17/18) 12,177*
Q4 (16/17) 27,409

* Refurbishment work taking place during Q2 and Q3

Cost to the Council p/visit (SP4)

Q1 (16/17) 1.57 Q1 (17/18) 1.15
Q2 (16/17) 1.54 Q2 (17/18) 1.27
Q3 (16/17) 1.67 Q3 (17/18) 0.00
Q4 (16/17) 1.43

The 2017 Lincoln 10K was again operated the not for profit organisation Run For All and continued to be a success. This event as an outsourced service operates with the only costs to the City Council now being incidental costs. The 2018 event is to be held on Sunday 18 March.

10K entries

2015 - 4,995 adults
2016 - 4,682 finishers
2017 - 4,802 finishers

2014 Juniors and Minis – 443 entries

2015 Juniors and Minis – 349 entries

2016 Juniors and Minis – Races cancelled due to poor weather

2017 Juniors and Minis – 642 finishers

We continued to be a sponsor for the 2017 Lincoln Cycling Grand Prix which is the leading one-day cycle event in the UK. The weekend of events surrounding this includes not only the elite men's and women's races but a city centre criterion, the uphill dash up Michaelgate and a Sportive event which has a capacity of 2,000 entries.

Health

The 2017 Health Profile for Lincoln produced by Public Health England is included at Appendix A of this report. It should be noted that although this profile was published in July 2017 some of the data is historic.

The difference in life expectancy for men between those in the most deprived wards within the city is 8.6 years compared to 7.4 years in the 2016 report. This may seem an alarming difference but the 2017 figure is very similar to that of 2015 where the difference was 8.7 years.

The equivalent data for women in 2017 is 7.5 years which, although again a significant change from 2016 (when the figure was 8.2 years) brings it to a similar level to 2015 which was a 7.7 years differential.

Hospital stays for alcohol related harm have decline for the second consecutive year with the figure being 630 per 100,000 population (678 in 2016 and 734 in 2015).

Low income and poor housing are key factors in poor health. The report notes that about 23% (3,900) children live in low income families within the city.

A new item included in this year's profile is the figure for excessive winter deaths which again is of significance to Lincoln. This is data produced for the period August 2012 to July 2015 and is the ratio of excess winter deaths to average non-winter deaths over a three year period. The figure for Lincoln is 36.0 compared to the England average of 19.6 and Lincoln is the worst figure for England. It equates to 274 extra deaths over the three years.

The City Council's anti-poverty strategy is one of the keys to improving these statistics. Increasing the income of local residents will improve both the physical and mental health of our residents.

Physical Activity

The data produced by Sport England relating to physical activity is now produced using different criteria with the Active Lives Survey replacing Active People. This is in line with its remit to concentrate on physical activity rather than purely sporting activity. There are a number of new key performance indicators and in particular KPI 2 which measures inactivity as opposed to activity. The new indicators have been set by the Government's Sporting Future document. The survey which provides the Active Lives data is carried out by IPSOS-MORI and measures the number of people aged 16 and over who take part in sport and physical activity by demographic group, where people live and activity type. Sport England is due to produce a new set of data in March 2018 and acknowledges that some of the information it produced for 2017 was inaccurate due to the way the data was gathered. Active Lives not only includes the usual sporting

activities but also physical activity including gardening. Some of this data is included in Appendix B of this report.

The data produced in the Active Lives survey covering the period November 2015 to November 2016 which includes gardening gives a positive outcome for Lincoln. The level of the adult population aged 16+ counted as “active” is 70% in Lincoln which is the highest of any district in Lincolnshire. It compares with the average for Lincolnshire of 65.1% with the lowest district in Lincolnshire being Boston with 57.5%. Additional figures for Lincoln are 10.3% “fairly active” and 19.7% “inactive”. In terms of numbers for Lincoln this equates to 15,387 inactive people. However Lincoln comes out less favourably in data referred to by Sport England as “the inequality gap” which is the difference between activity levels of the 16-34 age group and those of the 55+ age group. 80.5% of the 16-34 age group is active (the highest for this age group in the county and well above the England average of 72.6%) but for the 55+ group the figure is 61.4% giving a gap of 19.2% which is worse than both the England and Lincolnshire average. Because of the demographic make-up of the City the overall total of 55+ people being inactive is 6,381 which is the lowest total (as opposed to %) within the county.

The Health & Wellbeing Strategy currently being developed for the county will include a physical activity theme the strategy for which is to be produced by Active Lincolnshire.

Parks

The work to complete the Heritage Lottery funded regeneration of Boultham Park is finally coming to its conclusion with some minor snagging all that is left to be sorted. This work is an innovative scheme in partnership with Linkage Trust which is one of the reasons that the HLF agreed to grant such a significant amount of funding.

Key improvements include a café and toilets, a restored stable block (with a room that can be booked by community groups and a Changing places toilet), a glass house, the footprint of the old hall marked out, new path surfaces, a restored ‘fountain’ and crazy paving, a restored bandstand, bridges repaired, CCTV installed, and some new sign posts, litter bins and benches. An archive of Boultham Park and its surroundings is currently in development.

A celebration of the end of this phase of the park’s restoration is to be held this spring. This will be on Saturday 19 May.

The overall project concludes in the autumn, when the community development programme also comes to an end, and the work that these staff have put in to host community development activities and events, and work with volunteers, will stop. Our challenge now is to make sure that we have arrangements and support in place to ensure that the positive outcomes of their work continue as seamlessly as possible.

The project has received support from, a number of regular volunteers, most notably Lindsay Johnson, who has given thousands of pounds-worth of her time to the project,

focusing on the Centenary Garden but also the interpretation board and the sundial design.

One of the disappointments of this project was the fact that the funding did not extend to improving the lake. The Council remains committed to finding a way to carry out this work and currently we are drafting a further bid to the HLF for the funding of this. However this will require significant match funding and at the time of drafting this report it is not possible to say if we will be able to find the required level of support for a bid in this round.

The Arboretum has seen the cafe reopen. This provides an excellent facility both for visitors to the park and for local residents.

The camp site at Hartsholme had a good year, with more visitor bookings than ever before, with each month other than October being higher than any previous year. The result was an increase of 393 nights booked on the previous year. Further upgrading means that all pitches can now offer electrical hook-ups.

Use of the trialled camping pod was down a little this year when compared to its first year. However the pod is showing signs of being a profitable element of the site, and adding to the offer. As such staff are exploring ways to identify funding for an additional unit for 2019. The annual report on Hartsholme Country Park is included at Appendix C. The Council's Vision 20:20 includes the production of a master plan to regenerate the park following on the excellent work in regenerating both the Arboretum and Boultham Park.

The City Council again achieved the external accreditation of Green Flag Awards for Hartsholme Country Park and the Arboretum, which provides independent evidence that both parks continue to be well managed and run. These awards require considerable work by the staff and I thank both the operational staff and volunteers for their dedication to ensure high standards.

Finally in this section, I remain grateful to the various Park Advisory Groups' members for their guidance and engagement in the management of our parks, and the Commons Advisory Panel for its continued work in the protection of our three commons.

Volunteers

Although the city has some long standing volunteers aiding care of its open spaces in Hartsholme Park, and more latterly in Boultham Park, for which we continue to be most appreciative, members will recall that following a service review last year it was determined that we should try to encourage a greater level of volunteering on a wider basis. Working with our grounds maintenance contractors, Continental Landscapes, we have been able to begin a trial post to coordinate and encourage volunteering. This work has been slow to get started but we can now see tangible work on the ground at places such as South Common and Birchwood Nature Park. As well as delivering

practical improvements this work has delivered against two strands of the Vision 20:20 plan, these of improving biodiversity and encouraging and offering greater community engagement opportunities.

Citizen Panel Surveys

The 2017 Citizens Panel survey continued to reflect good satisfaction levels amongst users, although not as high as in previous years.

Open spaces overall returned a 'Very or fairly satisfied' result of 86%

Grass cutting in the city returned a 'Very or fairly satisfied' result of 77% (83.5% in 2016 and 91.5% in 2015).

Parks returned a 'Very or fairly satisfied' result of 84%(95.9% in 2016 and 96.9% in 2015).

Commons returned a 'Very or fairly satisfied' result of 77% (92% in 2016 93.2% in the 2015)

It is important to note that there has been no reduction in budgets or work in these areas, or changes in staffing prior to the surveys in July. To a large extent the outcomes, being down on previous years are therefore inexplicable, other than to suggest that the levels of publicity about cuts may mean that the public are expecting to see service reductions thus influencing their views. This will be kept under observation.

One area of note is the feedback on safety in parks. Responses on this issue from those who actually use parks show:

"I always/usually feel safe in parks in the day"88.9% (89.8% 2016 and 92.3% in 2015).

"I always/usually feel safe in parks after dark" 41% (49.5% 2016 and 58.06% in 2015)

Whilst this slightly worsening picture mirrors the general reductions, it should be noted that this is in contrast to a similar question regarding use of the High Street at night, which shows 37% as "always or usually feel safe at night". If this is used as a benchmark then, comparatively, Lincoln's parks are considered to be relatively safe places.

Finally I thank all those members of staff who have contributed to these performance figures and in particular Simon Walters (the director who covers this portfolio area) and the assistant directors Steve Bird and Simon Colburn. These continue to be difficult times for local authority staff, particularly those working in non-statutory areas such as the service areas covered by this portfolio, and the dedication to their work of all staff whose work covers recreation and health has continued to be excellent over the last year.

Appendix A – Lincoln Health Profile 2017

Appendix B – Active Lives Survey data (from presentation to Active Lincs AGM)

Appendix C – Hartsholme Country Park annual report

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