

CABINET**Tuesday, 21st October, 2014**

Present:-

Councillor Burrows (Chair)

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Councillors | Blank | Ludlow |
| | Gilby | Russell |
| | King | Serjeant |
| Non Voting Members | Brown | Huckle |
| | Hill | Martin Stone |
| | Hollingworth | |

*Matters dealt with under Executive Powers

100 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor Huckle wished it to be noted in respect of Minute 107 that, while not having an interest to declare, he is employed by Derbyshire County Council within the same service area, although not for the service that was the subject of the agenda item, nor for this authority.

101 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Huckle and the Chief Executive.

102 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 7 October 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

103 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period November 2014 – February 2015 was reported for information.

*** RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

104 OPTIONS FOR CLOSED COMMUNITY REST ROOMS (R320)

The Cultural and Visitor Services Manager and the Project Academy Officer submitted a report to update Members on the rest rooms and how they are managed and financed, with proposals for their future use.

The report outlined the nine rest rooms within the Regeneration portfolio that the Council owned and retained responsibility for the maintenance, repairs and decoration of the buildings. Each rest room had a Management Committee that was responsible for the fixtures and fittings and the day-to-day management of the buildings.

There were five that were actively used in the community:

- Even Tide Rest Room, Cherry Tree Grove, Mastin Moor
- Manor Rest Room, 63 Manor Road, Brimington Common
- New Haven Rest Room, 8 Station Road, Barrow Hill
- The Elders, Laburnam Street, Hollingwood
- The Hollies, Sutton Crescent, Inkersall Green

It was proposed that these rest rooms continue to operate under their respective Management Committees and are kept under review.

The remaining four rest rooms were already closed due to lack of community support and declining attendance:

- Rest-a-While Rest Room, Staveley Road, Poolsbrook, Staveley
- Golden Age Rest Room, Middlecroft Road, Staveley
- Sunnycroft Rest Room, Lowgates, Staveley
- Welcome Centre, 27 Duckmanton Road, Duckmanton

It had cost the Council around £11,300 per year to maintain these sites.

It was proposed that Rest-a-While and Golden Age Rest Rooms be put on the open market for sale.

As the land to the rear of the Sunnycroft Rest Room was part of a review into the Council's future requirements for recreational playing fields within the Borough, it was proposed that this rest room be retained until all options for redeveloping the land are exhausted.

The Welcome Centre was attached to the Sheltered Housing Scheme in Duckmanton. It was therefore proposed that it be appropriated into the Housing

Revenue Account for conversion into a two bedroomed, wheelchair accessible bungalow. The property would then be retained as social housing in perpetuity.

It was noted that the Welcome Centre and Golden Age were used as polling stations; however alternative venues for these polling stations had been identified.

The alternative option of retaining all of the closed rest rooms was considered, but as the buildings no longer provided a service to the local community and continued to incur on-going maintenance costs, this was not justified. It was also considered whether the buildings could have been converted for residential use; however this was not seen as viable due to the very high conversion costs and lack of guarantee that they would sell for market value.

***RESOLVED –**

- (1) That Rest-a-While and Golden Age Rest Rooms be put on the open market by Kier Asset Management.
- (2) That the Welcome Centre be appropriated into the Housing Revenue Account for conversion into a single storey dwelling, subject to an agreed valuation.
- (3) That Sunnycroft Rest Room be retained by the Council until the Council's future requirements for recreational playing fields has been determined.
- (4) That the five remaining rest rooms, which continue to operate under the direction of their respective Management Committees, be kept under review.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

These four rest rooms are no longer used or needed by the local community and they are surplus to the Council's requirements. Maintaining the rooms, given the Council's current financial situation, is unsustainable. The proposed course of action would potentially benefit the Council's General Fund by between £96,300 and £131,300 from capital receipts.

105 REVIEW OF VENUES FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2015 (T240)

The Arts and Venues Manager submitted proposals for raising the levels of fees and charges for lettings at the Pomegranate Theatre, the Winding Wheel, the Assembly Rooms in the Market Hall and Hasland Village Hall for 2015.

The report only covered the scale of fees and charges for lettings at the Council's cultural venues. Ticket prices were negotiated with visiting companies throughout the year when productions are booked, whilst bar

and refreshment prices were reviewed twice a year, linked to the costs of purchases, and compared with the local market.

The report also proposed removing the availability of booking the Pomegranate Theatre Bar to hire separately from the theatre itself as it was not financially viable to open the whole theatre just for the use of the bar.

The report provided details of the hire charges applied to different categories of hirers at both venues, and proposed increases. It also included details of hire charges and proposed increases at the Market Hall Assembly Rooms and Hasland Village Hall.

Consultation had been carried out with Focus Groups composed of existing hirers of the Venues and members of the public. Additional time had been required to develop the proposals due to a lack of consensus at the Focus Groups. It was therefore proposed that the changes to the fees and charges be deferred from 1st January 2015 to 1st April 2015 to give hirers time to assess the impact of the changes.

It was proposed that officers would support community groups to find meeting spaces appropriate to their needs if affected by the proposals.

An option of introducing a significantly greater increase to the charges was ruled out as there would have been a risk of losing potential hirers. Another option of leaving the charges unchanged was also ruled out as increases in the charges were required to develop a sustainable business plan for the Venues.

***RESOLVED –**

- (1) That officers work with local community groups to ensure that meeting spaces, appropriate to their needs, are available to them, whilst still making the most efficient use of the Council's facilities.
- (2) That the proposed changes to the pricing structure at the Council's Venues be deferred from 1st January 2015 until 1st April 2015, to give hirers time to assess the impact of the proposed changes to the hire charges.
- (3) That the building hire charges for the Pomegranate Theatre be increased from 1st April 2015 as follows: an average increase of 5% for charities and societies, 5% for dancing schools, and 5% for professional companies, as shown in Appendix A to the report.
- (4) That the Pomegranate Theatre Bar no longer be available to hire separately from the theatre itself.
- (5) That an average increase of 5% be levied on all community room hire charges at the Winding Wheel from 1st April 2015 and an average increase of 3% be levied on all equipment hire charges at the Winding Wheel from 1st April 2015, as shown in Appendix B to the report.
- (6) That a minimum room hire charge of £150 for all rooms at the Winding Wheel be introduced as from 1st April 2015.
- (7) That an average increase of 4% be levied on the hire fees for professional companies and commercial use at the Winding Wheel from 1st April 2015, as shown in Appendix C to the report.
- (8) That an average increase of 4% be levied on all day time room hire charges at the Assembly Rooms in the Market Hall from 1st April 2015, and new hire rates be introduced for the use of the meeting rooms 1 and 2 during the evening and at other times when the Market Hall is not normally open, as shown in Appendix D to the report.
- (9) That an average increase of 4 % be levied on all current room hire charges at Hasland Village Hall from 1st April 2015, as shown in Appendix E to the report.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To make further progress towards a sustainable financial position for the Venues.

106 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That under Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 – as they contained information relating to financial and business affairs.

107 **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION ON
PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS - POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HOUSING
SERVICE (H000)**

The Housing Service Manager – Customer Division submitted a report to inform Members of the proposals from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) in respect of the funding reductions in housing related support, and to agree a response from the Council as part of DCC's consultation process.

If adopted by DCC, the proposals were likely to affect the Council's Sheltered Housing Schemes and the Floating Support for Older People.

The consultation period was due to end on 18 November 2014.

The proposed response from the Council was supported by Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 20 October 2014.

***RESOLVED –**

That the proposals from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) are noted and that the response to DCC be approved, including the request to meet with leading Members from DCC to discuss the impacts for Chesterfield Borough Council.

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure that Members are aware of the potential impacts of the proposals put forward by DCC and to agree a response from the Council as part of the consultation process.