

Supplementary Council Agenda



Epping Forest District Council

Council Thursday, 25th April, 2019

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 7.30 pm

Committee Secretary: Democratic Services Manager Tel: (01992) 564243
Email: democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

7. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET (Pages 3 - 6)

To receive reports and any announcements from the Leader and members of the Cabinet on matters falling within their area of responsibility:

(d) Report of the Commercial and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder (attached) and;

(g) Report of the Housing and Property Services Portfolio Holder (attached).

11.1 APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER & ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER (Pages 7 - 8)

(Monitoring Officer) To consider the report attached.

14. JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (Pages 9 - 10)

(a) To receive a report from Councillor M. Sartin and Councillor S. Stavrou, as the Council's representatives on the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (attached).

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Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 25 April 2019

Subject: Commercial and Regulatory Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Grigg

Recommending:

That the report of the Commercial and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder be noted.

Commercial and Regulatory Services

The Private Sector Housing team are currently dealing with a number of heavily hoarded, filthy and verminous premises assisting the vulnerable occupants with clearances to ensure their properties are safe and fit for purpose. These are complex cases involving multi agency working, with Adult Social care, Mental Health teams and Essex County Fire and Rescue to find the best course of action to provide an improvement in living conditions.

Environmental Health Officers have the expertise to support these residents during what can be a very stressful time; but the end result is an enhancement of the health, safety and welfare of the residents and neighbours.

Estates and Valuations

Following close to two years since the development was completed the Epping Forest Shopping Park is now fully let and trading. The Park is still proving extremely popular with customers and it is envisaged that the remaining financial retentions held will shortly be released to the various contractors

All feasibility work on the relocation of the Housing Repairs Service to Oakwood Hill Depot has now been largely completed.

Pyrles Lane Nursery is currently under offer to be sold to Durkan Developments who are in the process of conducting their legal and site due diligence. Solicitors have been appointed to progress the sale.

St John's Road Redevelopment - the final version of the Leisure Centre feasibility study/options appraisal for the site is complete – there are some outstanding discussions to be had on financing options however, the key recommendation of the study is that the St Johns Road site is the most viable leisure centre option.

The majority of the site surveys have been completed in order to support any future development work. A renewed development brief is being commissioned based on previous work undertaken and taking into account the submission version of the Local Plan. This development brief will then support further planning applications.

At a recent Cabinet meeting permission was given to go ahead with the Masterplanning exercise for North Weald Airfield. Suitable consultant support will now be sought progress this going forward.

Three of the ground floor units in the Landmark building on The Broadway have now been let and negotiations are being concluded to open a public house in the summer.

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 25 April 2019

Subject: Housing & Property Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor S Stavrou

Recommending:

That the report of the Housing & Property Services Portfolio Holder be noted

1. I am pleased to be able to report that the Council has recently been successful in securing three separate grant determinations from the MHCLG to assist with preventing homelessness, tackling rough sleeping and proving the Government with robust data to inform them on the causes of homelessness so that more effective policies may be put in place to prevent it.

Two Grant Determinations in the sums of £91,000 and £42,000 have been received to support work in preventing homelessness covering the 2018-19 period of the scheme.

This additional funding is to be spent in line with the following principles:

- Prioritise prevention activity;
- Carry out homelessness activities in line with the principles of the homelessness reduction act; and
- Reduce or eliminate the use of emergency B&B, particularly for periods over 6 weeks.

In partnership with Chelmsford, Braintree, Maldon and Essex County Council our sub-regional bid for 2019/20 Rough Sleeping Initiative Funding has secured £120,000, which will fund a Rough Sleeper Coordinator, two ringfenced beds at the Night Shelter, three Street Outreach Workers as well as access funding. The Council already has a good partnership working with Chess, which will assist with its Implementation.

The Council has already been providing data to the Government via its new Homelessness Case Level Information (H-CLIC) for some months. In recognition, the MHCLG has written to confirm they will shortly be issuing a Grant Determination to assist with the costs of our data submission in 2018-19.

The purpose of this funding is to assist with ensuring that H-CLIC is a robust data set. The purpose of the H-CLIC data collection is to ensure that the Government has a robust homelessness dataset to better understand the causes of homelessness and make more effective policies to reduce it.

2. Through partnership working with Rainbow Services and St Clare's Hospice, Members will be pleased to note that a new social event will be taking place at one of the Council's Sheltered Housing schemes at Hyde Mead House, Nazeing. The event has been put together to help reduce loneliness and social isolation as well as connecting the community. The events will take place every Wednesday afternoon between 1.30pm and 3.30pm starting on 8th May 2019. A Bereavement Café will also take place at Hyde Mead House on the first Wednesday

of every month starting on 5 June 2019. All of the Older population from across the District are welcome to attend.

Report to the Council

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Date: 25 April 2019

1. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER & ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

Recommending:

- (1) That, in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 and all related legislation, Georgina Blakemore be confirmed as the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for the Council with effect from 3 May 2019, with authority to appoint a deputy or deputies as may be required;**
- (2) That, in terms of Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all related legislation and with effect from 3 May 2019, Georgina Blakemore be appointed as Returning Officer for the Council, with authority to act in that capacity for elections to the District Council and all or any parish and town councils within the Epping Forest District;**
- (3) That the Council's Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer be also appointed or authorised to act in respect of all related electoral, poll or referendum duties, including those in relation to County Council elections, elections to the European Parliament (if required), and for national and regional or local polls and referendums;**
- (4) That, in relation to the duties of Returning Officer or any other electoral, referendum or polling duties arising from such appointment, the Returning Officer shall be entitled to be remunerated in accordance with scale of fees approved by the Council for local elections, or the relevant scale of fees prescribed by a Fees Order in respect of national, regional or European Parliament elections, polls or referendums;**
- (5) That in all cases where it is a legal requirement or normal practice to do so, fees paid to the Returning Officer shall be superannuable, and the Council shall pay the appropriate employer's contribution to the superannuation fund, recovering such employer's contributions from central government or other local authorities or agencies where this can be done;**
- (6) That, in relation to the conduct of local authority elections and polls, and elections to the United Kingdom Parliament, and all other electoral duties where the Council is entitled by law to do so, the Council shall take out and maintain in force insurance indemnifying the Council and the Returning Officer against legal expenses reasonably incurred in connection with the defence of any proceedings brought against the Council or the Returning Officer**

and/or the cost of holding another election in the event of the original election being declared invalid (provided that such proceedings or invalidation are the result of the accidental contravention of the Representation of the People Acts or other legislation governing the electoral process, or accidental breach of any ministerial or other duty by the Returning Officer or any other person employed by or officially acting for him in connection with the election or poll); and

(7) That any such insurance carrying an 'excess' clause by which an initial portion of risk is not insured, the Council, through its internal insurance fund or otherwise, will indemnify the Returning Officer up to the value of such excess.

1. At its meeting on 21 February 2019, the Council appointed the Chief Executive, Georgina Blakemore, as its Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer with effect from 24 May 2019.
2. The purpose of the assumption of the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer responsibilities by the Chief Executive on 24 May 2019, was to allow the expiry of the period for challenge to the operation of the local elections to be held on 2 May 2019, for which Derek Macnab (Acting Chief Executive) was appointed as Returning Officer by the Council on 20 December 2018.
3. As a result of the unforeseen requirement for preparations to be made for the holding of European Parliamentary elections on 23 May 2019, it is necessary to bring forward the appointment of Georgina Blakemore as Returning Officer.
4. The administrative and operational arrangements for the local elections to be held on 2 May 2019 are currently at an advanced stage of planning and it is intended that Derek Macnab continue to manage the elections as Returning Officer.
5. In order to ensure that effective planning arrangements are continued for the European Parliamentary elections that may be required to be held on 23 May 2019, it is therefore proposed that the appointment of Georgina Blakemore as Returning Officer now take effect from 3 May 2019, immediately following the completion of the local elections.
6. Election petitions can be used to challenge the result of elections, which must normally be presented within 21 calendar days after the day on which an election was held. The Chief Executive has received advice from the Association of Electoral Administrators that confirms that it is not necessary for there to be continuity of appointment of the Returning Officer for both an election and the subsequent challenge period.
7. The appointment of Georgina Blakemore as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer with effect from 3 May 2019 is considered to be the most effective approach to the administration of the European Parliamentary elections that may be required to be held on 23 May 2019.

Report to Council

25 April 2019

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

by EFDC external bodies representatives Councillors M Sartin and S Stavrou

FINANCE

The levy on council tax payers across London, Essex and Hertfordshire which funds part of the Authority's work has been frozen for the year 2019-20, meaning that it remains at 81p per head of population. This follows on from eight years of reductions. The levy is now the same as it was in 2001/02.

It has decreased by over 47% (or £5.8m) in real terms since 2010/11; and in cash terms by 22% (or £2.8m).

ACTIVITY

Over the last year:

- The Park has had 7.3m visitors.

- The Park hosted two world cups. Over 100,000 people visited the Vitality Women's Hockey World Cup, the most spectators to a women's tournament in the UK since the Olympics; and 17,000 people went to the UCI Track Cycling World Cup. The ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup takes place at Lee Valley White Water Centre in June this year.

- Lee Valley VeloPark was announced as the track cycling venue for the Commonwealth Games 2022, further cementing the venue's position as a thriving London 2012 legacy venue. 2022 will make it the only venue in the world to host an Olympics, World Championships and Commonwealth Games in the same sport.

- Other events across the park have included Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, with 1000 women and girls running a half marathon at River Lee Country Park, and Countryside Live which brought 3000 school children from 43 schools from 12 council areas face to face with nature.

- The Authority's Community Access Fund provided money to disadvantaged and hard to reach groups to remove the barriers of the cost of entry to the venues, coaching sessions or outdoor learning. Having just completed its third year it has brought 12,600 people from 263 community groups and schools to the park. This included 140 pupils from Hill House Primary School in Waltham Abbey last year and over 500 participants from various youth and adult community groups across Epping Forest District since 2016.

- The Authority's Youth and Schools Service engaged with 1,500 people from the District over the year through their diverse range of outdoor learning programmes which included:
 - 529 students who participated in Youth and Schools activities at events such as the Tulip Tea Party at Myddelton House Gardens, Essex Food and Farming at Writtle College and Countryside Live
 - 746 pupils from schools across Epping Forest District who participated in outdoor learning programmes
 - 137 pupils from King Harold Academy who attended a water safety assembly by Karen Wheeler (Youth & Schools manager) and the Robbie Lea Water Safety Partnership

- 72 visitors from the District participating in family events
- The Authority's Sports Development Team continuously engages with communities from across Epping Forest District and this year the team have linked up with Epping Forest District Council to run 6 led cycle rides in the Park on weekends from April to September.
- Volunteers are very important to the Authority and last year 800 people volunteered at the park with volunteering opportunities rising last year taking the total volunteer hours to over 26,000.
- The Almost Wild Campsite at Broxbourne ran for a second year, attracting 1200 people to its Ray Mears style 'back to basics' campsite, up a third on the previous year.
- The Park Authority is about to publish its 10 year Biodiversity Action Plan which sets out its aims for biodiversity, plus priority species and habitat across the 10,000 acre park. This includes:
 - A Barbel project in partnership with the Environment Agency, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife trust and local angling groups to maintain and expand the current distribution and abundance of Barbel in the Lee Valley through targeted habitat management of key watercourses
 - Glen Faba Reedbed Creation - an ambitious project to re-profile part of the edge of the lake. A large shallow area will be created and planted with Common Reed which will create an anticipated 0.35 ha of new reedbed, a key habitat in the valley, providing important resources for a range of animals

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Wave

Groundwork investigations are underway at Lee Valley Leisure Complex in Edmonton to pave the way for a privately funded £40m inland surfing destination, completely reinvigorating this 100 acre site. The Wave will be a new regional and national world-class surfing destination, allowing people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to have a go at surfing, whether it be a child stepping on a board for the first time or a pro-surfer training for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Lee Valley Ice Centre

The Authority's much loved and hugely popular ice centre in Leyton is nearing the end of its operational life. Ambitious plans are being developed for a 'best in class' new centre with two Olympic size ice rinks to meet the enormous demand for ice in the region. There is a long way to go with this project as well as The Wave, but work is moving forward on funding, consultation and planning issues.

Bittern Information Point

The Authority is investing half a million pounds to create a new Bittern Information Point and bird hide at Fishers Green, near Waltham Abbey. From spring 2020 visitors will be able to enjoy state of the art facilities including a new viewing tower providing a completely different perspective to watch wildlife and a two-tier viewing platform inside the hide for enhanced viewing angles and photography opportunities. A CCTV system will provide stunning up-close footage, along with new nest box cameras, allowing visitors to get closer than ever to the wildlife in this signature spot in the Lee Valley. The Bittern Information Point project will also include significant habitat improvement work, including building a Kingfisher Bank and further enhancing the reedbed habitat for Bitterns.