

## **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of LED Monitoring Forum held on 27 January 2021**

#### **Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 3.28 pm

#### **13 Public Speaking**

There were no members of the public registered to speak.

#### **14 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 December 2020**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 16 December 2020 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

#### **15 Declaration of interest**

Cllr P Arnott; Minutes 18 – 24; Personal interest; Paid membership of LED Leisure;  
Cllr A Dent; Minutes 18 – 24; Personal interest; Paid membership of LED Leisure.

#### **16 Matters of urgency**

There were no matters of urgency.

#### **17 Confidential/exempt item(s)**

There were three items agreed by the Forum to be held in private session, listed under minutes 22 to 24.

#### **18 LED Monitoring Forum to agree list of their priorities**

The Forum agreed their work priorities as:

- Monitor and assess the ongoing financial support needed by LED;
- Review and consider the LED service fee and agreement for 2021/22 onwards;
- Ensure that LED and EDDC are, where appropriate, seeking third party funding opportunities;
- Review LED portfolio future building maintenance and investment requirements;
- Consider and map the future relationship between LED and EDDC;
- Consult with stakeholders and residents, where appropriate, to better understand if the leisure provision being provided is meeting the needs of communities, and if it can be improved;
- Work with the consultants to help develop the Leisure Strategy and with Overview and Cabinet committees to ensure the ongoing LED relationship fits with the aims and goals of the Council;
- Ongoing monitoring of LED's operational performance;
- Consider how our leisure sites are meeting the priorities and actions within the Council's Climate Change Strategy to achieve its target of being carbon neutral by 2040.

The agreed priorities would be kept under review.

**RESOLVED** that the work priorities listed be agreed.

19 **Update on appointment of external Consultant to audit LED claims**

The Strategic Lead Finance reported that the external consultant had already begun work directly with LED, understanding the delivery provided in the District. The Forum were reminded that the cost of the consultant was met by Sports England up to the end of the current financial year. He clarified that the remit included a holistic approach, not purely an audit examination of claims.

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

20 **Developing a Leisure Strategy next steps discussion**

The Forum received a report from the Service Lead – Countryside & Leisure outlining the background to the existing strategy, and how a new strategy would overlap into existing plans and strategies. The report asked the Forum to consider what a future leisure provision should look like, in the context of future demand by local communities and the ability to provide long term financial support.

The Forum had also been furnished with two examples of Leisure Strategies from other authorities, to illustrate two difference approaches.

The CEO of LED Community Leisure spoke of the benefit of having a strategy in place as a means of an evidence base for bidding for funding opportunities. He suggested to the Forum that the shape of the strategy may include a strategic review of the facilities, along with a review of the current playing pitch strategy. He outlined the new and upgraded pitches that had occurred since that strategy was produced in 2015. The Service Lead – Countryside & Leisure explained to the Forum that linking in with the Planning Policy Team on this area of work would be actioned.

The debate by the Forum included:

- Use of the sport England calculator in bidding for funding – this was confirmed as utilised, and examples given;
- The Forum was appropriately configured to deal with the development of the Strategy before recommending to Cabinet and Council;
- Consider the development of the Leisure Strategy alongside the new Local Plan, perhaps with some economies of scale in spend on consultation with the public over options. Some of the evidence collection for the Local Plan would be applicable to the Leisure Strategy;
- Dovetailing with the Local Plan was key, as through developer contribution (CIL, s106) the Council could look to build enough resource to match fund bids, so that communities have proper provision of sport and leisure;
- Procuring consultancy through Sport England preferred, as there was a framework agreement in place to contract consultants, and there may be opportunity through them to secure funding for the consultation;
- Timescale for the production of a new Leisure Strategy was difficult to define at this stage until there was a clear direction of what it would cover;
- Strategic review of the facilities was important, because of those aging facilities and what their future maintenance costs would be;
- Consider the budget provision carefully in order to inform the Leisure Strategy, as it must be achievable;

- Need to be clear on what the service would look like in future years, and what savings could be achieved in relation to asset provisions;
- Cost of consultation to deliver a strategy was not clear at this stage but it was hoped that this could be met from another fund.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Sport and Tourism commented that the aim of the new Leisure Strategy should be towards all residents, including the importance of wellbeing now brought sharply into focus by the pandemic. He also felt that the open spaces controlled by the Council should be considered as sources of leisure.

**RESOLVED** that

1. Sport England framework be used to contract consultancy services to help deliver a new Leisure Strategy;
2. The development of the new Leisure Strategy to be undertaken by the LED Monitoring Forum as the best suited body to conduct the work.

21 **Exclusion of public and press**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012, the public (including the press) were excluded from the meeting as exempt and private information was likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussion the items in private session.

22 **Lockdown 3.0 impacts on LED operations - additional COVID19 financial support**

The Forum received an update on the impact of the latest lockdown on LED operations.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted

23 **LED Management fee 5 year review and funding scenarios and implications**

The Forum discussed the management fee review.

**RESOLVED** that, subject to legal agreement, the management fee review be paused and consideration be given to a 12 month agreement, with subsequent review for extension.

24 **Update on National Leisure Recovery Fund bid**

The Forum received an update on the National Leisure Recovery Fund bid.

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

**Attendance List**

**Councillors present:**

P Arnott

A Dent  
M Hartnell  
S Hawkins (Chair)  
P Hayward  
G Pook  
J Rowland

**Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)**

P Faithfull  
S Gazzard  
N Hookway  
S Jackson  
D Ledger  
J Loudoun  
A Moulding  
J Whibley

**Officers in attendance:**

Tim Child, Service Lead - Place, Assets & Commercialisation  
Simon Davey, Strategic Lead Finance  
John Golding, Strategic Lead Housing, Health and Environment  
Charles Plowden, Service Lead Countryside and Leisure  
John Symes, Finance Manager  
Mark Williams, Chief Executive

**Councillor apologies:**

V Johns  
G Jung

Chair .....

Date: .....