

Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 27 th September 2023
Subject: Chairs report for Community, Health and Housing Committee	
Committee Chair: Cllr Tim Barrett	

The Community, Health and Housing Committee met on the 18th September with the updates set out below:

A report outlined the Creative & Cultural Vision 2023-2027 and the vision for creativity and culture in Brentwood, for the next 5 years, as determined through a public consultation process with a range of stakeholders. A clear strategy for culture and creativity with a five-year complementary action plan against the three priorities outlined in this report, will be developed to monitor delivery and progress.

The Brentwood Leisure Centre and Hartwood Pavilion in King George's Playing Fields is currently managed by Everyone Active (SLM) and their contract is due to expire on 1 October 2023. The Council is looking to extend the contract until 31 March 2025 and during that period draw up the tender documents to go out in 2024 for a longer-term leisure contract. This short extension aligns with expiration of the Leisure Contract for Rochford District Council's leisure facilities. It is proposed to do a joint tender for the leisure facilities across Brentwood and Rochford from 1 April 2025. Members noted the report that went to Finance, Assets, Investment and Recovery Committee on 13 September and would nominate cross party representatives for the Leisure Strategy Working Group.

Members agreed the Leisure Strategy action plan for 2023-24 and to note the progress in 2022-23. The Leisure Strategy 2018-28 is one of the key strategies for the Council to ensure that its leisure facilities now are not only fit for purpose now, but for the future. The Strategy and annual action Plan set the vision of what the Council needs to achieve, the challenges it faces and how the priorities and outcomes have been identified. The Annual Action Plan sets out what has been delivered in 2022-23 and the planned activity for 2023-24.

Members were updated on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 – 2023, was written before the COVID-19 pandemic and is due to be refreshed before 2024.

The Council work with the RSPCA to support their campaign to ban outrightly the giving of live animals as prizes on Council owned land. The RSPCA provides several reasons as to why the giving of such prizes is an outdated practice and their

concerns on animal welfare. The Council will send a clear message of its commitment to ensure the welfare of animals and help reinforce the message that these practices are no longer desirable in our community. Members agreed an outright ban of the giving of live animals as prizes in any form, on Brentwood Borough Council owned land is implemented; that Brentwood Borough Council writes to the UK Government requesting an outright ban of live animals as prizes on both public and private land and that the Council carries out a review of the current policies and the terms and conditions of the licences and hire of Council owned land and premises to ensure that they reflect the Council's position as regards giving of live animals (e.g., goldfish, etc.) as prizes.

Members received a presentation from Brentwood Housing Team together with Mr Chris Houlihan of Axis. Members welcomed the positive update and look forward to seeing an improvement on the current services.

Since 2020, Housing have been reviewing and renewing all its policies and strategies. Many of these are now approaching their review dates. a Policy working group was held with members of this committee who were invited to read and make comments and suggestions on the 4 reviewed policies:

Appendix A: Income Management Policy

Appendix B: Former Tenant Debt Recovery Policy

Appendix C: Recharge Policy

Appendix D: Electrical Safety Policy

Amendments and suggestions have been implemented as discussed to form the final draft documents. These were approved by Members.

Members agreed to endorse the Health & Safety and Wellbeing Policy. By implementing this policy, officers will have a guide to dealing with complex hoarding cases and if they are questioned on their actions, can refer to the document accordingly.

An update was given on the SHDP with a presentation from Mrs McAllister.

Members agreed to list St Andrews Methodist Church, Herongate as an Asset of Community Value and that it is added to the Council's Register of Community Assets.