

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE
HELD AT 6.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2017
BOURGES VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Irene Walsh (Chair)	Peterborough City Council
Parish Councillor Margaret Palmer	Barnack Parish Council
Parish Councillor Ian Allin	Orton Longueville Parish Council
Parish Councillor Geoff Smith	Werrington Neighbourhood Council
Parish Councillor Jean Mead	Helpston Parish Council
Parish Councillor Susie Lucas	Bainton and Ashton Parish Council
Parish Councillor Neil Boyce	Castor Parish Council
Parish Councillor Keith Lievesley	Ufford Parish Council
Parish Councillor Henry Clark	Peakirk Parish Council
Parish Councillor Richard Clarke	Wansford Parish Council
Parish Councillor Bob Randall	Glington Parish Council
Parish Councillor Denis Batty	Glington Parish Council
Parish Councillor Margaret Long	Thorney Parish Council
Parish Councillor D. V Perkins	Ailsworth Parish Council
Parish Councillor Jason Merrill	Bretton Parish Council
Parish Councillor John Dadge	Northborough Parish Council
Parish Councillor Olive Leonard	Hampton Parish Council
Parish Councillor Vince Moon	Werrington Parish Council
Parish Councillor Peter Lee	Sutton Parish Council
Parish Councillor John Howard	Hampton Parish Council
Parish Councillor Andrew Kenedler	Hampton Parish Council
Parish Councillor Dawn Magnus	Eye Parish Council
Parish Councillor Pam Bledes	Eye Parish Council
Parish councillor Richard Perkins	Ailsworth Parish Council
Parish Clerk Alison Benfield	Northborough Parish Council

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Peter Carpenter	Service Director: Financial Services
Russ Carr	Care and Repair Manager
Laura King	Reablement Service Manager
Sylvia Radouani	Parish Council Community Co-ordinator
Joanna Morley	Democratic Services Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Ann Sylvester and Parish Councillors, John Bartlett, Sandra Hudspeth, Phil Thompson, Jane Hill, and Harry Brassey

The Chairman advised the Committee that she had received a request to reverse the order of item 3, Phase 1 Budget Proposals and item 4, Care and Repair, Leap and the Re-Enablement Programme on the agenda. The officer presenting item 3 had to attend another meeting and would arrive late. The Committee unanimously agreed to this change.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

2.1 20 September 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. CARE AND REPAIR, LEAP AND THE RE-ENABLEMENT PROGRAMME

The Reablement Service Manager gave a presentation on the reablement work that was currently being undertaken by the service. Discussion took place around the following points:

- Reablement was a service offered to those who needed support for the first time. It was offered for up to six weeks and was also available to those who received care privately and those who experienced a change in their circumstances.
- The service was available 365 days a year from 7am to 10pm and was staffed not by carers but by support workers who enabled clients to live to the most independent level they could following injury.
- The majority of people referred to the reablement service, almost 80%, came through hospital discharge. Others came through early intervention and referral by Adult Social Care.
- There was not the ability to self-refer but anyone interested in the service could call 01733 747474. If suitable an assessment was completed by occupational therapists who created a mutually agreed goal plan for the client to work towards with the help of support staff.
- Assisted technology, for example fall sensors and personal alarms, may be offered as a way of enabling clients to live independently.
- Support workers worked within a multidisciplinary team which included physiotherapists and occupational therapists.
- As part of the reablement service, a home check was also now offered. This service covered things such as assessing damp, going through how to work the central heating system and taping down rugs so they did not pose a trip hazard. Clients could also be referred to the Care and Repair team if further works were needed and also to LEAP (Local Energy Advice Programme).
- The team could also refer clients to voluntary organisations that offered services such as befriending, free transport and lunch clubs.
- Reablement clients tended to be those that had suffered an injury rather than those looking at long term care.
- The demand for the service had increased year on year for the last three years. Monies from the Better Care fund meant that the service could grow with demand and it was actively recruiting for more support workers in order to minimise any delays for the service.
- There were currently 42 members of staff but recruitment for an additional eight support workers was taking place so that eventually there would be 50 members of staff in total.
- The service is free for up to six weeks. Often the time is shorter than this although, dependent on the client, and in exceptional circumstances, the service can also be extended by two weeks. The average length of time for the service was usually four weeks.
- The reablement service delivered a cost saving to the Council last year of £1.6 million in terms of reducing admission or readmission to hospitals and care homes.

The Care and Repair Manager then spoke about the LEAP service in more detail and the services the Care and Repair department carried out. Discussion took place around the following points:

- The Care and Repair service helped older, vulnerable and disabled people to live

independently.

- The Care and Repair team offered a handyperson service, disabled facility installations, repairs work and central heating installations, help with grant & charitable funding applications, hospital discharge and also benefit checks.
- Last year the service took 20,000 calls and assisted over 6,000 vulnerable children and adults.
- The service was a National Award winning service that achieved satisfaction rates of over 99%.
- The Care and Repair service was recognised as a trustworthy service and therefore undertook private work too.
- LEAP was a local energy advice programme that provided help and support to vulnerable residents by providing simple energy efficiency measures, giving energy saving advice, help to switch tariffs and help to identify any benefit shortfalls.
- The LEAP scheme was funded by grants from the Warm Home Discount Scheme where the money came from the Utility suppliers so there was no cost to the Council.
- There needed to be more self-referral to the service so that they could fully utilise the grant.
- Residents who were tenants were able to access the service.
- Eligibility to the service was broad and included any one item from many income and benefits criteria as well as health and vulnerability criteria.
- Income Max was an award winning and trusted community interest company which worked with utility companies and the LEAP service to help residents increase household income. This was done by finding out about any unclaimed benefits and grants and any other financial help that they could access. The company also offered help to families to control their finances and take control of their bills.

ACTIONS AGREED:

1. The Care and Repair Manager to send flyers to the Parish Council Co-ordinator for distribution to the Parish Councils.
2. The Parish Council Co-ordinator to distribute the LEAP presentation slides

4. PHASE 1 BUDGET PROPOSALS

The Service Director: Financial Services introduced the report on the Phase 1 Budget proposals. Discussion took place around the following points:

- The Revenue Support Grant, which was the grant received from Government to support a range of services delivered by the Council, had seen an alarming reduction over the last seven years, down from £55m in 2013/14 to £10m in 2019/2020. This equated to an 80% cut.
- Peterborough was one of the fastest growing areas in the Country with only Milton Keynes and Swindon Councils ahead of it. As government funding tended to lag behind, Peterborough was facing a massive funding shortfall.
- PCC received a Flexible Homelessness Support Grant, which was based on the number of people in temporary accommodation. In the forthcoming year Peterborough would get £489,321, yet Luton would receive £2.7million because the funding formula was based on out of date homelessness figures which did not reflect the sharp increase Peterborough had seen in the past two years.
- Additionally, Peterborough had a lower revenue than other fast growing cities as the standing/average council tax band in Peterborough was band B.
- Peterborough has some of the most deprived areas in the UK, ranking as the 14th highest deprived unitary authority area. This brought about an increased demand for service provision; highlighted by the upward trend in the number of households becoming homeless.

- Unitary Councils tended to be further disadvantaged as they were not a big enough area to effect economies of scale. Peterborough City Council was therefore looking to do as much as possible with neighbouring Councils and share services to save money.
- The Stand Up For Peterborough campaign had been launched in order to try and get fairer funding for Peterborough and was an all-party initiative.
- Government funding had been based on the 2001 census even though there had been a more recent census in 2011. This had a negative effect on those Councils that were fastest growing.
- The Government had announced that Councils would be able to raise an extra 2.99% from their local population for the next two years to help fund social care.
- Phase One budget proposals included generating income through commercial property and Peterborough Highway Services alongside savings through management restructure and savings in long-term public health contracts

5. PARISH COUNCIL REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT

The CEO of CAPALC (*Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils*) gave his perspective on the challenges facing Parish Councils and how they needed to develop in order to meet them. Discussion took place around the following points:

- There were currently 10,000 Councils across England.
- Parish Councils were the closest to the democratic group and were therefore in a strategic position to provide an ultra-local voice and to deliver services most needed by the community.
- In the past, parish councils had been seen as old-fashioned, decaying bodies but, in the current climate of decentralisation, were now thriving and in a unique position to help principal councils deliver innovative services in all areas of economic development, health and wellbeing and housing and neighbourhood planning.
- Parish Councils needed to seize the current opportunity to become more involved. This would entail encouraging people to engage and get involved, celebrating successes by having effective public relations, better training and development, working together more closely with partners and cluster groups and by being well run, efficient and transparent.
- Change was happening now, with 38 devolution deals being discussed; 12 agreed and more in the pipeline. The government wanted these to include devolution to town and parish councils and was encouraging parishes to get more involved with councils and county associations.
- A largescale survey had been conducted by CAPALC which identified what gaps there were in the service provided by parish councils.
- It was suggested that an improvement strategy could include applying for a local council award scheme, better training for parish councillors, and clerks undertaking the certificate in local council administration.
- CAPALC had developed a self-assessment document which was circulated to parish councils' members at the meeting. The document could be used as a performance management tool for parish councils and feedback on the form and the areas that it covered would be greatly appreciated

ACTIONS AGREED:

1. The Parish Council Community Co-ordinator to distribute to the parish councils the following documents:
Our place guide to cost benefit analysis:
<https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/our-place-guide-to-cost-benefit-analysis>) and
Redesigning services at the neighbourhood level:
<https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/our-place-guide-to-redesigning-services-at-the-neighbourhood-level/>)

2. Feedback on the self-assessment document to be included on the agenda of a future parish council liaison meeting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman thanked the Parish Council Co-ordinator for all her hard work in organising the very successful Parish Council Annual Conference which had taken place on 14 November 2017. Parish Councillors agreed with the Chair and also expressed their appreciation.

ACTIONS AGREED:

1. The Parish Council Community Co-Ordinator to send out to all Parish Councils the feedback from the conference.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7 February 2018

CHAIRMAN 6.30-8.30pm