

Crawley Borough Council

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Monday, 4 November 2019 at 7.30 pm

Councillors Present:

T Rana (Chair)

T G Belben (Vice-Chair)

M L Ayling, R G Burgess, D Crow, R S Fiveash, G S Jhans, R A Lanzer, A Pendlington and K Sudan

Also in Attendance:

Councillor C J Mullins

Ian Cook	Regional Manager - Everyone Active
John Dunlevy	
Katie-George Dunlevy	Paralympian Gold Medallist/World Tandem Cyclist
Jon Hodgson	Contracts Manager - Everyone Active
Gary Lee	Crawley Town Life Saving Club
Stuart Mills	Area Manager - Everyone Active

Officers Present:

Paul Baker	Senior Leisure Officer
Natalie Brahma-Pearl	Chief Executive
Heather Girling	Democratic Services Officer
Graham Rowe	Partnership Services Manager
Nigel Sheehan	Head of Projects and Commercial Services
Jess Tamplin	Democratic Services Support Officer
Kate Wilson	Head of Community Services

Apologies for Absence:

Absent:

Councillor T McAleney

1. Disclosures of Interest and Whipping Declarations

The following disclosures were made:

Councillor	Item and Minute	Type and Nature of Disclosure
Councillor M L Ayling	Update on the K2 Crawley Management Contract (Minute 4)	Personal Interest – Member of Bewbush Gym

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 September 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Public Question Time

No questions from the public were asked.

4. Update on the K2 Crawley Management Contract

Members received a presentation from representatives from Everyone Active (Sport and Leisure Management Ltd), the Head of Major Projects and Commercial Services, Partnership Services Manager, Senior Leisure Officer together with the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing on the leisure management contract together with the performance and changes that Everyone Active had focused on recently, which included:

- A brief background to the contract. The key elements had been aiming to provide high quality services, stronger links with schools, raising the profile of the town through sport and reduce the subsidy to the council.
- The current operators and CBC shared a vision and there was an opportunity to work in partnership. It was highlighted that there remained a strong focus on health and wellbeing, sports development and customer service, whilst re-investing in the facility.
- During the transition period regular support was provided through a 'buddy system' to ensure ongoing assistance and collaboration.
- Since managing K2 Crawley the main outcomes had been increases in attendance, particularly in junior activities, participation in over 50s activity, disability sport and the talented athlete programme.
- Partnership work with Crawley Wellbeing had continued and there had been further development with vulnerable groups.
- Further investment had occurred including work on signage/branding, specialist equipment, sports hall inflatables and virtual group exercise.
- K2 Crawley hosts many local, regional, national and international events, and whilst acknowledging the impact some of the events had on the local community, work also continued with partners and businesses to both minimise impact and maximise success.

- K2 Crawley was generally a very efficient building however further measures have been taken to reduce the carbon footprint and work was continuing ongoing.

The Commission were then treated to presentations from Katie–George Dunlevy (Paralympian Gold Medallist and World Tandem Cyclist) and Gary Lee (Crawley Town Lifesaving Club - World Class Status). Dunlevy, a multiple World medallist and double World Champion commented on the importance of sport as it aided not only physical activity but also mental wellbeing and confidence. Gary Lee continued by informing Members that Crawley Town Lifesaving Club was seen as a regional centre. Its aim was to turn normal members of the public into qualified lifesavers and to teach people vital skills that saves lives. Members had competed at many championships across various counties winning multiple European and World titles. Both endorsed the facilities at K2 Crawley which fully supported individuals in their training, allowing them to compete in their fields locally, regionally and nationally.

OSC Members held a question and answer session with the representatives from Everyone Active and Officers from the Council. The issues raised and the key responses included:

- Car parking during events and the impact on regular users. It was confirmed that due diligence was undertaken and there was always a balance to be struck when events took place. It was acknowledged that parking was a challenge, particularly on event days, however a banding system was in operation together with the use of overflow car parking which had proven successful. The alternative means of travel were recognised by the number of cycle racks and the local transport system had resulted in a positive effect on the parking situation.
- Staff satisfaction and the challenges faced within the first year. The first 6 months of operating a new site was always challenging but this had quickly settled down. There had been a desire for cross training individuals and a keenness for personal development.
- Future engagement and outreach work with schools. It was discussed that the Sports Development Plan covered activities including outreach work, for instance sports events in local parks, working with the Wellbeing Team and the junior weight management programme.
- Increased participation in the over 50s and how to publicise to various groups. It was noted that social media was the most powerful tool in terms of marketing. However 'word of mouth' was ensuring the walking activities remained the most popular with increased attendance. There was a need to build relationships and engagement with individuals that may not regularly use the facility, particularly for a new activity.

RESOLVED

That the Chair thanked the representatives from Everyone Active, Katie-George Dunlevy and Gary Lee for attending and for the informative discussions that had ensued. The Commission welcomed the update and noted the strong and successful partnership working.

5. Cabinet Member Discussion with the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

The Commission noted the update given by Councillor Mullins and questioned him on a variety of issues relating to his portfolio.

The following topics were discussed:

- The nature of the portfolio, including the variety of the role.
- It was acknowledged that the management of the K2 Crawley site took skilful organisation. It was recognised that success can generate issues such as parking but it was how these problems were resolved that was testament to the operators and the partnership working.
- The health and wellbeing programme had been successful locally through the work of the Wellbeing Team. It was noted that strategically work was scheduled with a bespoke plan tailored to Crawley demographics.
- The play areas refurbishment programme was discussed. It was recognised that these were prioritised in terms of need but safety was a priority. In terms of adventure playgrounds, consultation was due to commence on Waterlea shortly.
- The town's community centres were discussed as it was recognised that the majority of these were popular and regularly used throughout the town.
- In terms of Crawley Museum it was suggested that some of the exhibitions could be adapted into the schools' curriculums and feature school visits to assist in increasing attendance. The facility was deemed to be an important facility documenting the history of the town.

RESOLVED

That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission thanked Councillor Mullins for attending and for the informative discussion that had ensued.

6. Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC)

An update was provided from the most recent HASC meeting. Key items of discussion included:

- The take up of the measles vaccination had been low in certain areas. However, the measles immunisation strategy would help parents understand the importance of their children receiving the MMR vaccination.
- There had been a delay in the flu vaccinations.
- The West Sussex Suicide Prevention Strategy 2017-20 was discussed and it was highlighted that overall the number of suicides in West Sussex was reducing. There had been successful work with reducing self-harm.

7. Forward Plan - and Provisional List of Reports for the Commission's following Meetings

The Commission confirmed the following reports:

25 November 2019

All the reports listed below with the exception of Three Bridges Improvement Scheme Final Design and Waste and Recycling Contract are Policy Framework Documents.

- Budget Strategy 2020/21 – 2024/25
- Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2019/2020
- Crawley 2035: Crawley Borough Local Plan 2020-2035
- Review of Statement of Licensing Policy Gambling Act 2005 (2020-2022)
- Homelessness Strategy 2019 - 2024

- Tenancy Strategy 2019
- Three Bridges Improvement Scheme Final Design
- Waste and Recycling Contract (provisional referral)

3 February 2020

- 2020/2021 Budget and Council Tax
- Treasury Management Strategy 2020-21
- Capital Strategy 2020/2021
- Crawley Arts and Culture Proposition
- Irrecoverable Debts 2019/20 (over £50,000) – provisional referral

Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.04 pm

T Rana (Chair)