

# APPENDIX D

## MINUTE EXTRACT

### ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 26 FEBRUARY 2016

75. **Draft Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-20**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities which sought the Committee's views on the draft Communities and Wellbeing Strategy which was being consulted on up to 2 May. A copy of the report, marked "Agenda Item 8", is attached with these minutes.

In his opening remarks Mr. R. Blunt CC, Cabinet Lead Member for Heritage, Leisure and Arts, advised that the draft Strategy was based around a principle of "supporting more, providing less", owing to the Council's resource pressures. He hoped that the consultation exercise would allow services to be mapped to ascertain which were used and valued most by customers, as well as how the services could be co-designed and co-delivered with the users where possible. He emphasised that the Council had no pre-conceived plan in regard to how services would be delivered following the consultation process.

In response to questions raised, members were advised as follows:

- (a) By asking questions of consultees around value to the health, education, business and tourism sectors, it was hoped that a more responsive service could be provided addressing the needs of communities working in partnership with service users. It was recognised that the capacity of communities to run further services was an issue, though it was emphasised that it was not intended for all Council services to be run in this way;
- (b) The Adult Learning Service (ALS) was not included in the draft strategy as it received funding from the Skills Funding Agency, the level of which was not yet known for the upcoming academic year. In addition, it was noted that the Combined Authority had a remit for "skills" which made the issue more complex. It was noted that the costs provided on page 40 of the report took account of the exclusion of LALS;
- (c) The breakdown of staff cost and income by categories for each Communities and Wellbeing Service was not included in the consultation document, as the primary aim of the consultation was to seek views on which services were valued the most. The feedback received would inform a more detailed report;
- (d) The Department was aware of the importance of making the consultation process as inclusive and accessible as possible though it was noted that obtaining the views of all communities remained a challenge. The Committee was advised that the way in which the views of the public and

stakeholders were gathered was continuously reviewed in an effort to improve response rates;

- (e) The net budget for the Communities and Wellbeing Service in 2010/11 was £10.7million (expenditure of £18.3 million and income of £7.5 million).The net budget for the service in 2014/15 was £6.1 million (expenditure of £10.5 million and income of £4.3 million);

**RESOLVED:**

That the comments of the Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 17 June 2016.