



COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting: Wednesday, 15 January 2025 at 6.30 pm in The Octagon Lounge, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton

Present: Councillor R Quinn (Chair)

Councillors J Benzer, J Collins, S De Pee, S Gardner, M Hall, P Inman, D Lomax, P Mackie and K Sizeland

In Attendance: Councillors G Claff, D Greenhalgh and J Todd

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Grooby and P Hacking

25/77 TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST ON ANY MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE
(Agenda Item 2)

None.

25/78 ANY MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE UNDER THE CALL-IN PROCEDURE
(Agenda Item 3)

None.

25/79 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
(Agenda Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2024 be approved as a correct record.

25/80 NHS EAST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE - PRESENTATION
(Agenda Item 5)

The Committee received a presentation from the Divisional Director (Derbyshire), East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS), which included information and statistics around the following areas:

- Overarching C2-30 Plan and Delivery
- Activity and Responses
- Hear and Treat/See, Treat and Convey
- On Scene Time
- Handover Delays and Lost Hours

- Derbyshire C2 Performance

The Divisional Director advised the Committee that, in the previous week, EMAS had declared a critical incident due to increased patient demand, hospital delays and the additional element of snow/flooding; and that a 'wash-up' meeting was due to be held the following day to learn what had worked and what hadn't.

The good links between Kinder Mountain Rescue and EMAS were discussed, especially with the recent snow, when the rescue team had been called out to rescues every day. It was noted that some EMAS employees were also members of the Kinder Mountain Rescue Team.

Discussion was held regarding the increase in mental health patients, and the committee was advised that EMAS was working closely with the relevant partners regarding this matter.

Other matters discussed were EMAS staff wellbeing and morale; strategic conveyancing; and performance benchmarking against other ambulance trusts.

Members requested a breakdown of figures relating specifically to the High Peak area, and the Divisional Director advised that he would look into this further.

RESOLVED:

1. That the presentation be noted.
2. The Divisional Director EMAS to ascertain if it is possible to extract performance data for the High Peak, to pass onto the Committee.

25/81

DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

(Agenda Item 6)

The Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner attended the meeting and spoke to the Committee regarding her Strategic Priorities, as follows:

1. Serious Violence including Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
2. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Community Safety
3. Neighbourhood Policing
4. Bringing Offenders to Justice
5. Drugs and Substance Misuse
6. Supporting Victims and Safeguarding

The Committee was advised that the above priorities had been set according to what the public wanted and was most important to them.

The Commissioner informed the Committee that 207 e-scooters had been taken off the streets since 7 November 2024, and that to facilitate this, the same powers had been given to Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) as Police Officers.

Discussion was held around re-offenders and putting adequate and appropriate measures and support in place to ensure that those battling addiction, for example, don't fall into the cycle of prison-reoffend-prison.

The Commissioner noted that residents were disenchanted and had given up on reporting crime, and that she needed to rebuild public trust, however, highlighted the importance of continuing to report crime, as this was what identified trends and informed decision making.

The Commissioner encouraged members and officers to get in touch and invite her to attend any meetings or events where she may be of help or assistance.

The PCSO Supervisor provided an update relating to local issues and signposted members to the Police UK website (<https://www.police.uk/>). Members requested data relating to the top five crimes for each ward within High Peak.

RESOLVED:

1. That the presentation be noted.
2. Data relating to the top five crimes for each ward within High Peak to be provided to members.

25/82 PROJECT UNITY WORKING GROUP UPDATE
(Agenda Item 7)

The Executive Director (Community Services) provided an update to the Committee regarding the recently formed Project Unity Working Group (PUWG).

The Committee was advised that a site visit of Fairfield Road had taken place on 10 December 2024, attended by relevant members and officers, including representatives from AES, to identify the main issues. A meeting was due to take place the following week with key officers to form an Action Plan, which would be presented to members for discussion at the next PUWG on 11 February 2025.

The Executive Director also advised that she would be arranging a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to Project Unity.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

25/83 SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
(Agenda Item 8)

A member requested a visit from Severn Trent Water/United Utilities in relation to supply issues.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the above, the Select Committee Work Programme be noted.

25/84 ANY QUESTIONS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER (DEMOCRATIC SERVICES TO BE ADVISED OF ANY QUESTIONS AT LEAST 4 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING)
(Agenda Item 9)

Questions from Cllr Benzer to the Deputy Leader & Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Tourism & Leisure:

Thank you for attending the in-person event on 3rd December in New Mills. I understand that your intentions are to keep our Leisure Centre thriving into the future and that swimming pools are expensive to run. I understand how hard you have worked on this project and how very familiar you are with the building. I believe that if we can share detailed information about how you have arrived at the three options you have, and their likely consequences with our New Mills residents in everyday, easy to understand language then people are more likely to understand and support this project. With that in mind, here are my questions:

- 1. What evidence can you supply that Option 1 and Option 2 will likely lead to the financial sustainability of the Leisure Centre into the future? Myself, fellow councillors and residents are particularly keen to see user statistics both currently and predicted for Options 1, 2 and 3. I would like to see outlined what factors informed the forecast and the dates the user numbers are from. The more of this we can share with residents, the better.**

Options 1 and 2 have been developed in collaboration with an industry leading professional team of Architects, Build Contractors, and Leisure Consultants who undertake similar projects for many local authorities across the UK. Options 1 and 2 have both progressed through the Royal Institute of British Architects' (RIBA) design stages to stage 4 and 3 respectively, which gives as much certainty as possible over cost at this stage. The business case behind both designs has been developed iteratively, using the current performance of the centre as a baseline and income and expenditure projections that are built up using robust assumptions based on national and local level performance metrics used by the industry. The business case for both investment options have been tested by colleagues in the Council and MyActive's Senior Management Teams and will be tested again should they change once the public consultation process has been completed.

Financial Performance			
MyActive New Mills 10 year average	'Do Nothing'	Option 1	Option 2
Revenue	£929,251	£1,275,554	£1,286,586
Costs	£957,520	£1,086,008	£1,072,450
Operating Profit/Loss	£28,269	£189,546	£214,136
Balance after borrowing costs and revenue improvements	£28,269	£81,115	£40,922

Usage			
MyActive New Mills 5 year average	'Do Nothing'	Option 1	Option 2
Total	245,080	319,426	315,823

2. **Please could you provide financial information about the current state of the Leisure Centre and the predicted ones for Options 1, 2 and 3 that I can share with residents? If competitive confidentiality prevents actual figures, please could you provide comparative information - what is the Leisure Centre's financial position like compared to other leisure centres in the High Peak? How many additional users do we need to keep the leisure centre sustainable? I know you presented slides to us with some financial information on it, but it's very hard to make use of this when it is all confidential.**

Investment proposals for MyActive New Mills have been developed without any direct relationship to the performance or potential future investment proposals of the other centres in the High Peak. As you will appreciate, each centre has a completely different facility mix, operating costs, income levels and local circumstances in which they operate, all which have a unique impact on their performance and therefore not a 'like for like' business model for comparison.

The summary presented in response to Question 1 sets out the key headlines in simple terms and demonstrates the projected performance of the centre under the 3 options in a format that is reasonable to share with Councillors or residents who may be interested in this information. That said, we are currently consulting on which option (1, 2 or 3) is preferable based on the designs as they stand, the business case of each one is not something we are consulting on.

Rather than approaching this project with a starting point of 'how many more people do we need to engage to keep the centre 'sustainable'?', our starting point is 'how do we make the leisure centre contribute as much as possible towards getting people active along with our wider corporate objectives?'. As such, current options which include investment look to make notable improvements to the centre's overall offering that will deliver a sustained improvement to participation and financial performance over a prolonged period of time. Information contained within the background information already shared in relation to the project highlights some of the existing limitations which prevent the centre from contributing more in this regard currently - [MyActive New Mills Leisure Centre Redevelopment Consultation Information](#).

3. Please could you explain why this investment is being funded by a private loan rather than external grants?

The Council has an excellent track record in securing external funding for a wide range of leisure projects as recently evidenced by its application to Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund for energy improvement works at MyActive New Mills and a previous application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for the decarbonisation of MyActive Buxton, both of which resulted in funding awards of £585k and £1.2m respectively. Should either investment option proposed for MyActive New Mills progress, we will continue to identify and apply for any funding that may support their delivery.

To complement, or in the absence of securing grant funding, the Council will finance the project via a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loan. This is a specific lending facility operated by the UK Debt Management Office on behalf of HM Treasury and provides loans to local authorities and other specified bodies for capital projects and is the usual approach taken by local authorities across the country when funding capital projects.

4. Could I ask that an equality impact assessment of the three different options is carried out now rather than later? One example is young squash players who don't have a car or who are unable to drive to Glossop.

In line with the Council's decision making process, an Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed once the current public consultation has ended, results considered and a proposed way forward is ready for final review by The Executive. Option 3 would present no change to existing facilities/services provided, therefore an EIA would not be required.

5. I have submitted 10 FAQs to you, please could you confirm you have received them and let me know when they can be answered and visible to the public?

The list of 10 FAQ's being referred to was received on Friday 20/12/24. An initial set of FAQ's* was issued on 23/12/24 and may cover some of the questions asked, however, a further set of FAQ's which include responses to recent questions that have been submitted, together with those received after the above date will be issued as soon as possible, which may be after the consultation period has closed.

*Published FAQs on 23/12/24:

[MyActive New Mills Leisure Centre Redevelopment - High Peak Borough Council](#)

Councillor Benzer asked a supplementary question during the meeting in relation to completion of an Equalities Impact Assessment, which the Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure responded to verbally.

Members were advised that an update would be provided to the Committee for discussion/scrutiny in the Spring, after the consultation process.

RESOLVED:

An update regarding New Mills Leisure Centre to be provided to the Select Committee for discussion/scrutiny in the Spring, after the consultation process.

The meeting concluded at 8.25 pm

CHAIR