

## **APSE Parks, Grounds, Street, Sports & Leisure Services Advisory Group Meeting**

**Minutes Wednesday 27 August 2014**

### **Chatelherault Country Park**

**1. Welcome**

Group Chair Cllr Norman Hampshire thanked all for attending the meeting in Chatelherault Country Park.

**2. Attendance & Apologies**

See attached.

**3. Minutes for meeting 5 March 2014**

The minutes were noted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**4. Matters Arising**

It was noted that there was no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 5 March 2014.

**5. Business transformation: neighbourhoods operations review – Jason Hedley, Scottish Borders Council**

The first presentation of the day was given by Jason Hedley of Scottish Borders Council. Jason talked the group through the Councils review of neighbourhood services. The review was agreed in January 2014 and a number of services were to be reviewed as part of this including grounds maintenance, street cleaning and bereavement. He highlighted that during this process it was key to involve community councils and ward members.

Jason then went on to speak to the group about where neighbourhood services were at the moment and the processes it was currently undertaking including an 8 point assessment plan of green space areas.

Following the presentation there was a detailed discussion and a number of questions to Jason and the Scottish Border Council attendees. Areas such as biodiversity and funding were discussed as well as some of the challenges potentially still to be faced.

It was agreed that Jason would present at a future meeting on how the review had continued to progress.

**6. How much of a contribution do our services make to delivering Council Plans? Do we promote the importance of our services to the community strongly enough?**

The second part of the meeting was based around a general discussion as to the services and how they contribute towards tourism, safe environments and health links etc.

It was also highlighted during the discussion the importance of promoting the health connections made through parks, health boards and Councils to Scottish Government.

Falkirk Council attendees informed the group that the Council has a graduate currently working on promoting parks/ open spaces and biodiversity to their communities.

There was also a discussion about greenspace questionnaires and the current wording of the National Household Survey with regards to green open spaces which perhaps could be re-worded in terms of parks to provide more information.

## **7. State of the market survey in sports and leisure including developments within Performance Networks**

Louise McMillan provided an update to the group on some of the findings from the recently completed APSE state of the market survey for sports and leisure. It was highlighted that there was a number of cross cutting issues between sports & leisure and parks, grounds and street services. The issues had been touched on throughout the meeting in terms of health links and funding.

The findings included information on areas which APSE members feel may see changes due to the continuing on value for money and productivity. These included reductions in management and Council subsidy but an increased focus on better energy management.

The survey also included information around thoughts on expected budgets and like parks, grounds and streets, the sports & leisure service envisage further reductions in budgets over the coming years.

## **8. APSE Update – Louise McMillan, APSE**

Louise McMillan provided a comprehensive update on the work of the Association. This included an update on the research projects which had been recently completed by APSE including the Local Water publication.

The group were also informed of upcoming research projects taking place including the bespoke report for Scotland on the Future Role of Elected Members which would be due for release at the start of November.

Louise also updated the group on the various forms of advocacy undertaken by APSE recently including a meeting with Scottish Government civil servants on the work of APSE Energy, meeting with the Improvement Service in relation to the Local Government Benchmarking Framework as well as our continued work with Scottish Government with regards to Better Eating Better Learning and the NHS Health Scotland/ Scottish Government free school meals evaluation.

As part of the update Louise informed the group of the recent Land Audit Management System (LAMS) pilot which APSE's performance networks was completing over the summer with the intention of opening up to all in 2015. Further information on this pilot will be available via an upcoming APSE briefing.

Louise completed the presentation by updating the group on APSEs services including APSE Solutions, APSE Training, APSE Energy, Performance Networks and the upcoming seminars.

**9. Date & venue of next meeting**

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 19 November and will take place at Strathclyde Country Park.

**10. AOCB**

There was no other competent business raised at the meeting.

**Parks, Grounds & Street Services Group**

**27-Aug-14**

**Attendee List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Authority</b>
Louise McMillan	APSE
Kevin Robertson	Angus Council
Gordon Allan	Angus Council
Karen Reeves	City of Edinburgh Council
Gillian Telfer	East Dunbartonshire Council
Douglas Fox	East Lothian Council
Andrew Hogarth	East Lothian Council
Laurence Christie	East Renfrewshire Council
Donnie McManus	East Renfrewshire Council
David Crighton	Falkirk Council
Gerry Kane	Falkirk Council
Graham Downs	Falkirk Council
Willie Rennie	Inverclyde Council
Justin Venton	Midlothian Council
Mark McNeil	North Ayrshire Council
Rob Bryce	Perth & Kinross Council
Kirsty Glennie	Perth & Kinross Council
James Kinnear	Perth & Kinross Council
Jason Hedley	Scottish Borders Council
Ian Gray	South Ayrshire Council
Gavin Rowan	South Ayrshire Council
Iain Stewart	South Lanarkshire Council

### Apologies

Allan Walker	Inverclyde Council
John Campbell	Fife Council
Damien Woods	Fife Council
Thea Petticrew	South Ayrshire Council
D Paterson	Scottish Borders Council
Wallace Turpie	North Ayrshire Council