

The New Town Hall, Commercial Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8NG

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Councillors nominated to the **Services Committee** are hereby summoned to attend the following meeting. Please inform the Town Clerk if you are unable to attend.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

**MEETING:** Services Committee Meeting

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 14th December 2022 at 7.00pm

**PLACE:** Council Chamber, The New Town Hall, Commercial Road, Weymouth,

DT4 8NG

This is a meeting in public, not a public meeting. If you would like to attend and have any special requirements eg access or a copy of the agenda in another format, eg large print, please contact us. Agenda and papers are available at [www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

A close up of a logo

Description automatically generatedAnyone wishing to ask a public question should do so by email to [office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk) by 9am on the day prior to the meeting.

Attendees are asked to respect social distancing and are encouraged to wear masks if they wish. Please do not attend the meeting if you feel unwell. Attendees will be asked to sign in to assist with health and safety including fire evacuation.

J L Biscombe, FSLCC, CiLCA

Town Clerk 8th December 2022 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Agenda

1. Welcome by the Chair
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the last meeting
5. Councillor questions and statements
6. Public questions
7. Draft Fees and Charges and Budget considerations 23/24
8. Funding request for Activate arts event in 2023
9. Proposals to celebrate the King’s Coronation
10. Free use of Dorset Council’s car parks in 2023
11. Proposed arrangements for fairground bookings in 2023.
12. Youth Council PID
13. Information Items

* Information report on public toilet provision
* Radipole Park and Gardens Project Update (Standing Item)
* CEE Update (Standing Item)
* Tumbledown Update (Standing Item)
* Transfer of Dorset Council street furniture - update
* Seafront Cleansing Review Update
* Actions from previous meetings
* Forward Plan

## Welcome by the Chair

## Apologies for Absence

To note any apologies for absence.

## Declarations of Interest

To receive members declarations of interest in matters on the agenda.

## Minutes of the last meeting

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 26th October 2022 as a true and accurate record.

**Recommendation**

Members are asked to agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 26th October 2022 as a true and accurate record, and that they be signed as such.

## Councillor Questions and Statements

In accordance with Standing Order 29, one clear day’s notice in writing to the Clerk of the meeting is required. In the case of urgent items permission must be sought from the Chairman and the question submitted to the Clerk of the meeting by 3:00pm on the day of the meeting.

## Public Questions

Members of the public are able to attend the meeting to ask a question but this must be pre-arranged with the meeting clerk via [office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk) by 9am on the day prior to the meeting.

Questions referring to the work of Dorset Council or other external organisations will not be taken at this meeting. The length of time available for public questions will be determined by the Chairman.

## Draft Fees and Charges and Budget Considerations 2023/24

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the draft fees and charges for 2023/24 that will be presented to the Finance and Governance Committee on 21 December 2022. A draft set of fees and charges is attached as Appendix A. Members may also discuss any other budget considerations that they wish the Finance and Governance Committee to consider as part of the budget setting process.

### Fees and Charges

It has previously been agreed that fees and charges will be increased by RPI each year. The RPI rate to be used is as of August each year and the RPI for August 2022 was 12.3%. The policy also allows for increases to be based on other factors or decisions previously agreed by committees.

Although the fees and charges are provisionally being presented based on existing policies, members can review and recommend new charges at any time during the year.

### Impact Assessment

The impact assessment is designed to give a high-level overview of the possible impacts of the decision before Councillors. The impact assessment is undertaken by Officers and Councillors may wish to take specialist advice on certain aspects.

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| **Rating** | **Impact Area** | **Impacts** |
|  | Equalities | None directly from this report |
|  | Environment, Ecology and Climate Change | None directly from this report. |
|  | Crime and Disorder | None directly from this report |
|  | Financial | Fees and charges directly contribute to the budget setting process and allows the Council to set a balanced budget |
|  | Resources | Officer time needed to carry out a review of fees and charges can be met from current staffing levels. |
|  | Economic development | None directly from this report |
|  | Social Value | None directly from this report |
|  | Risk Management | None directly from this report |
|  | Corporate Priorities | Manage the Council’s assets and resources responsibly and transparently |

**Ratings:**

Red indicates that:

* there are negative impacts

Yellow indicates that:

* there is an issue that Councillors may wish to consider in more depth
* there are unanswered questions

Green indicates that:

* There are identified benefits from this decision

No colour indicates that:

* There are no direct impacts from this report

### Recommendation

That the committee notes the fees and charges (Appendix A) that will be presented to Finance and Governance Committee on 21 December 2022.

## Funding Request for Activate Arts Events in 2023

### Purpose of Report

To present a request for funding by Activate Performing Arts for a large-scale outdoor arts event in Weymouth in September 2023.

### Background

Over the last two years the council has provided funding to Activate Performing Arts to help secure the delivery of significant outdoor arts events in Weymouth. Both events involved parades by professional performers through the town and were well received, drawing significant numbers of spectators.

Activate are now proposing to organise another outdoor arts event in September 2023 as the highlight of their Inside Out arts festival across Dorset.

### Impact of Events 2022

Activate estimate that attendance at the September 2022 event was 2,500 people on the Friday and 3,500 people on the Saturday – approximately 6,000 people in total.

Feedback collected by Activate via spectator surveys gave the event an average score of 4.45 out of 5. Feedback included comments such as:

* “Brilliant event loved the last two years of light parades”
* “More of this please . A fantastic atmosphere and makes Weymouth attractive.”
* “It was a lovely evening with an amazing organisation.”
* “Thank you for putting on nice activities like this.”
* “Very entertaining and can’t wait to see next years.”
* “We are locals and enjoyed this very much indeed.”

In terms of social value, Activate ran a summer school in July 2022 at Weymouth College. Over 40 children and young people from the town and further afield worked with artist Holly Miller to make fish puppets. The event was fully accessible, and the puppets formed part of a short sharing performance, before being displayed in local shop windows ahead of the Sarruga performances. Activate also ran additional workshops with the artists Holly Miller in August at Redlands Community Sports Hub, Holy Trinity CE School and Weymouth Library. Again, the puppets were placed in Weymouth shop windows in the lead-up to the performances.

In terms of budget for 2022 event, the town council supported with a grant of £20,000, alongside £20,000 from We Are Weymouth. Activate also secured over £10,000 in additional funding, including from Arts Council England, Dorset Council and Children in Need. Overall expenditure on the event was approximately £50,000, so £8.33 per person who attended the two performances based on Activates estimated attendance figures. The cost to the Town Council was, therefore, approximately £3.33 per person, with an additional £5 per person of match funding. Activate consider that the event benefited the town as follows based on audience surveys:

* 77% of those attending were from Weymouth, 13% from elsewhere in Dorset and 9% from the UK or international.
* 61% of those attending would not have come into Weymouth if the event had not been running.
* 49% of those attending spent between £10 and £20 in the town, while 30% spent over £20 (7% spending over £100).
* 44% of those spending in Weymouth purchased food and/or drink.

### Proposals for 2023

Activate Performing Arts have now approached both the town council and We Are Weymouth with a request for grants of £20,000 from each organisation in order to support another major outdoor arts event on two consecutive evenings in September 2023. We Are Weymouth are considering the funding request and are, in principle, very supportive of the event taking place in Weymouth next September.

Activate’s proposal for the September 2023 event is set out in Appendix B. A response to this request for funding from the town council would be welcome by Activate as soon as possible in order that the artists can be booked early in 2023 and preparations for the event can commence.

If members were to respond favourably to this request by Activate for a grant of £20,000 then this could either be derived from the committee’s Services Events Reserve (currently £25,000) or a request for funding from other reserves could be made to the Finance & Governance Committee and Full Council. If members were to agree to provide financial support to Activate then further progress reports would be submitted to the committee over the coming months and a grant agreement would be drawn up setting out the council’s requirements.

### Impact Assessment

The impact assessment is designed to give a high-level overview of the possible impacts of the decision before Councillors. The impact assessment is undertaken by Officers and Councillors may wish to take specialist advice on certain aspects.

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| **Rating** | **Impact Area** | **Impacts** |
|  | Equalities | The event proposed by Activate would provide free entertainment to all the community. |
|  | Environment, Ecology and Climate Change | Activate will seek to mitigate and offset the environmental impact of the event as set out in their proposal and using established tools. |
|  | Crime and Disorder | Activate will ensure that appropriate marshalling is in place for the event and liaise with the Dorset Safety Advisory Group. |
|  | Financial | Activate have requested a grant of £20,000 from the town council and, if agreed by committee, this will need to be derived from either the Services Events Reserve or a request to Finance & Governance for other reserves to be made available. |
|  | Resources | Officers in the Events, Resort and Communications teams can work with Activate to support the event. |
|  | Economic development | The event will take place on two consecutive evenings in September 2023 and will help to increase footfall and visitor spend on food and drink. High-profile arts events can help to raise the profile of a town as a cultural destination. |
|  | Social Value | If the event proceeds, then Activate plan a programme of outreach and engagement with young people at various locations in the town. |
|  | Risk Management | The council can mitigate the financial and legal risks of supporting the event through the use of a comprehensive grant agreement. |
|  | Corporate priorities | Improve the wellbeing of the people of Weymouth. |

**Ratings:**

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Yellow indicates that:

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* there are unanswered questions

Green indicates that:

* There are identified benefits from this decision

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### Recommendations

1. That the committee considers the request from Activate Performing Arts for a grant of £20,000 towards the cost of the outdoor arts event on 15th & 16th September 2023 and, if the funding is not derived from the *Services Events Reserve*, that a request for an appropriate budget to be made available is submitted to the Finance & Governance Committee.

1. If a grant is allocated to Activate Performing Arts for the September 2023 performance event, then the Town Clerk is given delegated authority to draft and issue to Activate Performing Art a grant agreement setting out the council’s terms and conditions.

## Proposal’s To Celebrate the King’s Coronation

### Purpose of Report

To present proposals for special commemorative events and community projects to be undertaken in 2023 for the King’s Coronation. Commemorative projects for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II are not within the scope of this report.

### Background

Following the national announcement that the King’s Coronation will take place on Saturday 6th May 2023 and an additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8th May 2023, members are invited to consider proposals for how Weymouth could celebrate this significant occasion.

At this time, minimal detail has been released from the Palace apart from that the Service will take place at Westminster Abbey, London on 6th May 2023.

It is proposed that the Council could lead the local celebrations as follows:

* **A** **seafront firework display** on the Saturday evening at 9.30 pm (when sufficiently dark). The expected cost for this display would be in the region of £6,000 – this cost includes the payment to the pyrotechnics company, charter of boats and first aid but excludes casual / seasonal staff costs as these would be met from Events’ salary budget.

* **Supporting street parties** - working with colleagues at Dorset Council, the town council could encourage residents and community groups to organise street parties for the Coronation weekend. Residents would have to apply to Dorset Council as they manage the highway network, however, full details could be shared and promoted on the Town Council website.

* **Coronation Celebration Grants Scheme**: The Council could establish a small, time-limited grant scheme to specifically provide small amounts of funding to community groups (such as parks friends groups) to help cover the cost of hosting Coronation celebrations in, perhaps, the Council’s parks or other open spaces around the town. Other previous small grants schemes (e.g. Weymouth 450 and for the Platinum Jubilee) have proved successful. It is suggested that the Council could allocate £3,500 in total and encourage local community groups and organisations to apply to the Council for up to a maximum of £350 per application to assist in the funding of events and activities. It is envisaged that the funding would follow similar principles of the council’s current grants policy.

* **Coronation Trees for Schools**: To mark the Coronation and as a long-lasting project, Weymouth Town Council could provide all schools and learning centres in the Town’s area with an English tree sapling presented by the Mayor to plant within school grounds. The trees saplings would come from Tumbledown Farm, however as they would be too small for planting out, we would provide these in pots with advice notes attached for care. There are 19 schools / learning centres within Weymouth. There would be minimal costs associated with the project in the region of c. £500 but exact costs have yet to be confirmed.

Breakdown costs of projects:

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| --- | --- |
| **Event / Project** | **Total Amount** |
| Trees for Schools | £500 – TBC |
| Community Grants | £3,500 |
| Seafront Fireworks Display | £6,000 |
| **Total Cost** | **£10,000** |

Members are asked to discuss the options and confirm if the funding to support these initiatives could come from the budget allocated to from the Services Events Reserve (currently £25,000). Any underspend in any of the projects could be returned to the Reserve.

### Impact Assessment

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| **Rating** | **Impact Area** | **Impacts** |
|  | Equalities | Wide range of events and activities that free to attend. |
|  | Environment, Ecology and Climate Change | Impact from firework display, fossil fuel vehicles emissions impacting on the environment. Encourage the use of public transport, walking and cycling to events.  Benefits of tree planting include: removes and stores carbon, creates wildlife habitats, Improves aesthetics, provides oxygen, cleans the air, absorbs odours and pollutants. increases pollinator numbers, and reduces pollutants. |
|  | Crime and Disorder | Event help to reduce anti-social behaviour and help to combat the ‘fear of crime’. |
|  | Financial | £10,000 would be required to fully the fund the proposals set out in this report. This funding could be derived from the ‘Services Events Reserve’ (£25,000 available) allocated to Services Committee. |
|  | Resources | Officer time can be met from current staffing levels. |
|  | Economic development | Increased footfall and spend in the Town. Well managed trees within the natural environment makes it a desirable place to live and work. |
|  | Social Value | Enabling local community groups to come together to share this unique occasion can contribute to social cohesion. |
|  | Risk Management | Reputation risk should the Council choose to not commemorate this national occasion. |
|  | Corporate Priorities | * Improve the wellbeing of the people of Weymouth. * Promote opportunities for economic success in the area. * Work to address the climate and ecological emergency.   Manage the Council’s services to meet the needs of the community. |

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### Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the committee considers funding the following projects from the *Services Events Reserve*:
2. Firework display on 6th May – costing £6,000.
3. Coronation Community Grants – costing £3,500
4. Coronation Commemorative Trees Project – costing £500
5. That a report is presented to the committee early in 2023 setting out more details of any of the projects set out in recommendation (1) which the committee agrees to fund.

## Free Use of Dorset Council’s Car Parks for 2023

### Purpose of Report

To agree dates when free use of car parks will be requested of Dorset Council.

### Background

Dorset Council’s Parking Policy aims to help to support local business and events by providing the following opportunities to town councils:

1. Four days each year when town councils can use the Dorset Council public car parks free of charge for events which generate valuable footfall for businesses. The four days cannot be used during weekends in December.

1. Free parking in all Dorset Council town centre car parks on Small Business Saturday (typically in December).

1. Free parking in all Dorset Council town centre car parks on one weekday in December – to be allocated in consultation with town councils.

Dorset Council’s policy allows for the free use of specific car parks to support an event. However, the policy does also state that ‘it is the decision of Parking Services Manager whether to include free parking in all Dorset Council car parks in area or in specific car parks only’.

The town centre car parks are as follows: Pavilion & Forecourt, Council Offices, North Quay, Governors Lane, Cosens Quay, Harbourside, Melcombe Regis, Park Street, Royal Yard and Swannery. It should be noted that even if Dorset Council allows these car parks to be used free of charge on the proposed dates, any time limit restrictions in each car park (e.g. short stay) will still apply.

It is proposed that the following high-profile events are supported through the free use of car parks:

* Armed Forces Weekend – Sunday 18th June 2023 – free use of Pavilion, Pavilion Forecourt and Lodmoor car parks.
* Beach Motocross – Sunday 15th October 2023 – free use of Pavilion and Pavilion Forecourt car park.
* Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 12th November 2023 – free use of Swannery, Melcombe Regis and Park Street car parks.
* Christmas Lights Switch-on – Saturday 25th November 2023 – free use of all town centre car parks.

If these dates are agreed by Committee, then officers will submit this request to Dorset Council for consideration. In addition, the council is able to request that all town centre car parks are available to use free of charge on one weekday in December – however the selection of this date can be made by members later in 2023.

Where Dorset Council agrees to the free use of its car parks, then town council officers will need to undertake all necessary signage and promotion.

### Impact Assessment

The impact assessment is designed to give a high-level overview of the possible impacts of the decision before Councillors. The impact assessment is undertaken by Officers and Councillors may wish to take specialist advice on certain aspects.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rating** | **Impact Area** | **Impacts** |
|  | Equalities | The provision of free use of car parks can assist those on low incomes. |
|  | Environment, Ecology and Climate Change | Fossil fuel vehicles create carbon emissions impacting on the environment. Inevitably, the offer of free parking will stimulate the use of cars although if the Council is organising an event it will also encourage the use of public transport, walking and cycling. |
|  | Crime and Disorder | The proposed scheme will make a positive contribution to community cohesion. |
|  | Financial | The scheme does not incur any costs for the council but there would be significant financial implications for the council if it had to hire car parks for Armed Forces weekend events. |
|  | Resources | The scheme can be implemented with minimal demand on officer time. |
|  | Economic development | Free use of car parks, particularly for the Christmas lights switch-on event can increase both footfall and spend in the town. |
|  | Social Value | The opportunity to park for free can be a significant benefit to those on low incomes. |
|  | Risk Management | If members were not to agree free parking for Remembrance Sunday then there may be a reputational risk for the council. |
|  | Corporate Priorities | Improve the wellbeing of the people of Weymouth.  Promote opportunities for economic success in the area. |

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### Recommendations

It is recommended that the committee agrees that a request is submitted to Dorset Council for the allocation of the following dates for the free use of specific town centre car parks:

1. Armed Forces Weekend – Sunday 18th June 2023 – free use of Pavilion, Pavilion Forecourt and Lodmoor car parks.
2. Beach Motocross – Sunday 15th October 2023 – free use of Pavilion and Pavilion Forecourt car parks.
3. Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 12th November 2023 – free use of Swannery, Melcombe Regis and Park Street car parks.
4. Christmas Lights Switch-On – Saturday 25th November 2023 – free use of all town centre car parks.

## Proposed Arrangements for Fairground bookings 2023

### Purpose of Report

To review the fairground bookings in 2022 and propose dates and locations for fairgrounds on Weymouth seafront in 2023.

### Background

In March 2023, the committee agreed amendments to the events programme and set new dates for the booking of fairgrounds on Weymouth seafront. Given that fairgrounds generate income for the council, there was an increase in the dates for bookings but restrictions on locations in order to mitigate the impact on nearby businesses.

*1. That the Committee agrees the following proposed additional dates when fairground would be allowed to operate, for a fee, on the Promenade near the Jubilee Clock in 2022:*

*a)* *2nd - 5th June*

*b)* *29th – 31st July*

*c)* *12th – 17th August (already agreed)*

*2. That the Committee agrees that only small fairground rides will be allowed to be located on the Promenade.*

Members may recall at the March 2022, Service Committee, a report was discussed regarding fairground bookings on the Seafront. The report also gave details of the visits that take place on the Pavilion Forecourt car park (hired from Dorset Council) and the trial of some additional long weeks at the Jubilee clock in addition to the long-established five-day booking in August each year.

Appendix C lists the occasion, location, operator and income generated for each booking in 2022.

To use the Pavilion Forecourt car park, the town council hires the whole site from Dorset Council for a set fee of £258.33 excluding VAT (£310 including VAT) per day. This fee is passed on, in full, to the fairground operator. Dorset Council site fee for the Pavilion Forecourt for 2023-24 has yet to be confirmed.

The fee charged to the operator by the Town Council for each fairground varies as, in addition to the site fee, there is a fee per ride per day. These prices will be included in the council’s fees and charges for 2023-24 to be considered by Finance & Governance Committee on 21st December.

During the visit to the Pavilion Forecourt at the end of May, Members of the Weymouth Town Council, Climate and Ecological Emergency Group undertook a site visit and briefing with the Fairground operator to gain a good understand of the how the site is operated, energy consumption and the recent improvements made to total wattage used on the individual rides. Members concluded that they were impressed by the standard of operation and the investment made into the rides to reduce the energy consumption.

During both summer bookings on the Pavilion Forecourt in August 2022, there were reports of anti-social behaviour and large gatherings of youths witnessed on a number of occasions. These gatherings took place not only surrounding the Fairground but in the general Peninsular area including the Pleasure Pier. The nuisance generated by this behaviour has been highlighted by some members of the *Weymouth Hoteliers Guesthouses & Leaseholders Association* (WHGLA).

The WHGLA members also raised concerns about noise with regard to the music/noise generated from the rides, customers screams and set-up and breakdown of equipment.

To address these concerns, officers will put further provisions in the licence agreement which each operator must adhere too with regard to noise, security and operating times.

Another point that was raised by the WHLGA related to the location of the August fairground that is currently on the Pavilion Forecourt. The Council was asked to explore the option to move the fairground site to the Pavilion Car Park. Initial views have been sought from Dorset Council however due to imminent building works on the peninsula / harbourside it is not yet clear which areas of the car park will be needed for contractors’ compounds. Dorset Council has indicated that it may be in a position to discuss availability of space in the Peninsula car park in Spring 2023.

The relocation of the fairground to the Peninsula was also raised at the recent WTC Youth Council and was supported by the young people who attended.

Taking into account the above issues and in order to both provide attractions for visitors and residents, and generate sufficient income to meet budgets for 2023-24, officers are proposing in Appendix D the dates and locations for the fairground visits for 2023.

### Impact Assessment

The impact assessment is designed to give a high-level overview of the possible impacts of the decision before Councillors. The impact assessment is undertaken by Officers and Councillors may wish to take specialist advice on certain aspects.

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| **Rating** | **Impact Area** | **Impacts** |
|  | Equalities | Access to fairground rides for those with mobility impairments is limited. The cost of |
|  | Environment, Ecology and Climate Change | Operators are being asked to improve the energy efficiency of their operations and reduce the use of diesel generators. This is an on-going process as officers work with operators to reduce carbon emissions. |
|  | Crime and Disorder | Anti-social behaviour in the Peninsula area has also affected the fairground rides sites and, as outlined above, local businesses have expressed serious concerns. The licences issued to operators will require that appropriate security is put in place at all times. |
|  | Financial | Fairground bookings make a significant contribution to ensuring the Events service meets its income targets and the council generates more income to support services. |
|  | Resources | The administration of the bookings and on-site liaison with operators is undertaken by the Contracts & Procurement Officer with support from the Events and Resort teams. |
|  | Economic development | Seafront attractions can help to attract visitors to the resort, particularly in the evenings. However, some local hospitality businesses have expressed concerns as to the adverse impact of the fairgrounds on their customers. |
|  | Social Value | Fairground rides can provide entertainment for young people, in particular. |
|  | Risk Management | The failure to attract sufficient fairground rides could have a negative impact on the council’s income budgets. However, any anti-social behaviour may pose a reputational risk of the council. |
|  | Corporate priorities | Improve the wellbeing of the people of Weymouth. |

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### Recommendation

That the committee approves the proposals for fairground bookings for 2023-24 as set out in Appendix D.

## Youth Council PID

Proposer: Cllr Fuhrmann

Members are asked to consider the following Project initiation Document (PID) – Youth Council (Appendix E).

### Recommendation

That the Committee approves the Youth Council PID and agrees that the Youth Council officially commences in January 2023.

## Information Items

### Review of public conveniences and cleansing service.

The member review group (Cllrs Wakeling, Toft, Brookes and Fuhrmann) has met and started to consider the following issues: setting clearer standards for the cleansing team (e.g. daily cleaning and deep cleaning), changes to opening times in order to reduce staffing costs, and futures maintenance/refurbishment plans. There will also be a review as to whether the temporary toilets brough to the Promenade each summer will return next year. The group will report back in full early in 2023.

### Radipole Park and Gardens Update (Standing Item)

Officers have been continuing to work hard to progress the Radipole Park project with a large focus being to bring the capital build costs back in line with the available budget. This has involved the project team and the preferred suppliers exploring value engineering and alternative delivery solutions to arrive at the revised scheme that can still deliver the majority of the original project scope and outcomes and reduce the funding gap

The council are seeking additional grant funding from the Lawn Tennis Association to refurbish the 4 public tennis courts.

Officers submitted a request to full council on 23rd November for an additional council contribution of up to £150,000 from the council’s CIL funding allocation. The council voted to support this request.

The project team are confident that a revised and fully costed scheme that matches the available budget will now be achieved before the Christmas break, this will then be presented to the Lottery for approval. Once the council have approval, the project team will communicate the revised project scheme, schedule and project delivery information to all stakeholders.

### CEE Update (Standing Item)

This is an update report from the Climate & Ecological Emergency working group providing an update on key items that the group are currently working on.

**Cycling Hub**

Mark Femor, Chair of Shropshire Cycling Hub gave a presentation on the active travel developments, focusing on cycling they have delivered. Keith Johnson and Des Lockrie are keen to try and set up a Weymouth cycle hub. CEE are keen to support this if it becomes possible as it will help promote active travel and reduce traffic/emissions in the town centre. CEE will ensure they are connected with the new Travel Action Group.

**Nursery Relocation to Tumbledown**

The business case for the relocation is ready to go through the committee process now, it will go to Finance & Governance first (21/12/22) as there are no funds currently identified for this project and then to Services (18/01/23) before going forward to Full Council (15/02/23). The outcome of the planning application is expected in mid-December, the council have been told that the Planning Officer now has no concerns in relation to the application at Tumbledown.

**Renewable Energy Proposal**

CEE members have attended a presentation regarding the proposed renewable energy installation by Statera partly within Weymouth linking with the Standby Gas-powered Generator at Chickerell. The proposed operation is very large, 57 acres of Battery Storage and 1300 acres housing Solar Panels producing 400MW. The company say this would enable Dorset to be self-sufficient! This will be discussed at the next CEE meeting on 12th December.

**Solar PV Panels**

Solar PV panels have been installed on the Swannery toilet building and the council now has access to live data on energy produced and used. This has already saved the council money. Further panels will be installed at Lodmoor toilets and the Beach Office after Christmas.

**Water Refill Stations**

The council is looking into improving the free water refill stations and add some colourful promotional boards behind the taps to highlight where they are and promote their use.

**Shuttle Bus during events**

An initial meeting with the new First Bus Company Weymouth Manager has taken place to ask if they felt a shuttle bus from the park & ride to the town centre would be possible during events like firework nights. They were receptive to exploring this idea with the council.

### Tumbledown Farm (Standing Item)

Change of governance – As previously approved at committee Tumbledown now has two new governance groups set up and meeting, Tumbledown Project Group (TPG) to guide strategic development and Tumbledown Operational Group (TOG) to develop on the ground development and actions. The groups will meet quarterly and provide a regular update to the Services Committee. Ben Heath has stepped into project management for the project.

The immediate priority is about encouraging use of the site from a variety of user groups; paid and unpaid and to develop the capacity for food production along with processing and product development. Development of site infrastructure will be key to support the development of these activities and it will be important to quantify and monitor the social value, as well as financial that these activities provide.

The planning application to improve facilities and buildings on the site has been submitted to Dorset Council and officers are hopeful of a decision before Christmas.

Over the last year Tumbledown has continued to develop the amount of site users, range of activities, improving infrastructure, engaging with organisations, all of which has produced lots of social and environmental benefits however the income targets in the agreed budget and business plan are currently not being met. To address this the new TPG have requested a full review of the Tumbledown operation which is already underway to provide information to be able to set a clear budget and realistic business plan to make decisions on how to move Tumbledown forward. This information will be available before the end of the financial year.

### Transfer of Dorset Council Street Furniture – Update

The town council has now signed an agreement with Dorset Council to take on responsibility (and ownership) for street furniture across the town. This includes all highway benches and those on the harbourside landing stage, bike stands and the two new cycle shelters in the Harbourside and Governor’s Lane car parks.

Officers are working to develop a single approach to recording and mapping these new assets along with the council’s existing stock of benches in parks, cemeteries and the seafront. Following on from this, officers will develop a single framework for the memorialisation / sponsorship of benches in order to generate an income to help meet the cost of on-going maintenance. This framework and fee proposals will be presented to members in due course.

### Seafront Cleansing Review Update

The member review group has met for the last time and has formulated recommendations that will be presented to the next meeting of the Finance & Governance Committee. A specification and fee is being agreed with Dorset Council for the 2023-24 service although the service will be reduced from previous years due to rising costs. A fuller information report will be presented to Services Committee early in 2023.

### Actions from previous meetings

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Who | Action | Status |
| 26/10/22 | WH | Develop project plans for improved beach access at Greenhill and the trialling cashless payment for the hire of beach equipment (e.g deckchairs). | Project plans to be submitted to Services Committee in January 2023. |
| 13/04/22 | TH | Approach DC with regards to traffic management and opening the Park and Ride for events such as the Activate outdoor arts event. | Approach made to Dorset Council on this matter. - Complete. |
| 19/01/22 | CS/SH | Events Team and Communications Officer to review presentation of Events webpage on WTC website. Copy of response to be circulated to all Committee members. | Officers have made a number of enhancements to content and key pages across the website. Action completed. |
| 20/10/21 | TH | Officers to explore membership of Disability Rights UK and bring a report to the next meeting of the Services Committee. | Officers have approached Disability Rights UK to discuss the membership of their organisation. Only one other Council is a member at present.  The group work very closely with individuals, disabled people’s organisations and Government to influence regional and national change for better rights, benefits, quality of life and economic opportunities for Disabled people. The cost of membership is £252 per annum. Completed |
| 02/06/21 | IM/TH | Weather monitoring update report to be presented to a future Committee meeting. | Information report on use of data from Beach Office weather station to be submitted to Services Committee in January 2023. |
| 10/03/21 | WH | Circulate to members a document outlining projects that will be initiated this year. | The Resort team’s proposed projects and activities for 2023-24 will be set out in a new service plan and presented to Committee early in 2023. |

### Forward Plan

WTC Forward Plan – this is not a definitive list and is subject to change

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 21/12/22 | F&G | Draft budget and precept  Review of seafront cleansing and recycling arrangements for 2023 onwards.  Review of Street Food Trading  Civility and Respect Pledge  Lookout Café - Lease Update (Confidential session)  Community Expo |
| 11/01/23 | Full Council | Draft budget and precept  Civility and Respect Pledge |
| 18/01/23 | Services | Lighting of Jubilee Clock for 2023 – Information Report  Purple Flag – promotion and future options  Seafront lighting (including lasers) – future options  Public Toilet Provision  Nursery Relocation Business Case  Proposals for community engagement events in 2023  TIC Options Update |
| 01/02/23 | F&G | Risk management and internal controls  Asset register  Q3 Budget Monitoring  Fairground Options |
| 15/02/23 | Full Council | Risk management and internal controls  Draft Seafront Masterplan  Asset register  Q3 Budget Monitoring  Nursery Relocation Business Case |
| 22/02/23 | HR | HR Support Review  Union recognition agreement |

### Recommendation

That Members note the information items.