

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 2nd September 2014

Report of: Lorraine Butcher, Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning

Subject/Title: Notice of Motion – Commonwealth Games Baton Relay

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Janet Clowes, Care and Health in the Community

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Council resolved at its meeting on 17 July 2014 that a motion made in relation to the Queens Commonwealth Baton Relay be referred to Cabinet. The motion is set out in paragraph 11.1 and this report provides the background details.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet consider the merits of the motion set out in paragraph 10.2.
- 2.2 That Cabinet note the success of the visit by the Queen's Baton Relay in raising the profile of both the Council and the area of Cheshire East.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To enable Cabinet to note the matter raised in the motion.

4 Wards Affected

- 4.1 Congleton Town.

5 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Congleton Town.

6 Policy Implications

- 6.1 There are no policy implications.

7 Implications for Rural Communities

- 7.1 There are no implications

8 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The project costs were met within existing budgets.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 There are no legal implications.

10 Risk Management

- 10.1 There are no risk issues.

11 Background and Options

- 11.1 The following motion was proposed to Council at its meeting of 17 July 2014 by Councillor David Brown and seconded by Councillor Janet Clowes:-

“Cheshire East Council recognises all the hard work undertaken to make the recent visit to Congleton of the Queen’s Commonwealth Baton Relay such a resounding success and congratulates all those involved in making the bid for the Relay to come to Congleton. Over ten thousand local residents enjoyed a day in Congleton Park that resulted from the fantastic working together of officers from this Council, Congleton Town Council, Team Congleton, local sports groups, Everybody Sports & Recreation Trust, local businesses, schools and volunteers who together further raised the profile of both the Town and the Borough in such a positive way”.

- 11.2 In 2012 the Council hosted the Olympic Torch Relay which was branded under “Moment to Shine”. It was seen as a fantastic achievement (80,000 spectators) and allowed the local population to celebrate and enjoy not only an international event but also have pride at a local level. In 2013 the Queens Commonwealth Baton Relay was launched and as a previous 2012 Baton host we were asked to make a formal bid to host the CQBR in 2014. The success of 2012 was very much something that helped our bid and throughout 2013 the Council was constantly encouraged by Commonwealth England to submit a bid. In January of this year it was confirmed that Cheshire East would be hosting the Commonwealth Baton Relay.
- 11.3 The Queen's Baton Relay was launched at Buckingham Palace in October 2013, at a ceremony where Her Majesty the Queen placed her message to the Commonwealth into the Baton. The Baton travelled across 70 Nations and Territories covering 190,000 kilometres and lasted over 288 days
- 11.4 The Baton event took place on Saturday 31 May 2014 for four hours in Congleton Park. This site was chosen given its central location, its size to host an event, and with the proximity of both the indoor facilities at Congleton Leisure centre and the playing pitches of Hankinson’s Field. The event was

branded as one for the whole community with an emphasis on fun sporting activity for the ten thousand local residents who attended.

11.5 Volunteering

As with the Olympic Torch the event could not have been support had it not been for the volunteers and the event provided an opportunity for both established and new volunteers. During a two month lead in time over a hundred volunteers were trained in event stewarding which included joint work with Cheshire Police force who provided suspect package training and advice. Volunteers were competent to a level 2 qualification and all received certificates. The value “in kind” equated to over one thousand hours of volunteering.

11.6 Partnership Working

There was considerable partnership collaboration with the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and the police and ambulance services with meetings over several months supported and led by an Assistant Chief Inspector. Fire and Ambulance provided on the day support and inspections of the facility all done at no financial cost to the local authority or disruption to the day to day service. The work with the local highways authority Ringway Jacobs Cheshire East involved the preparation of a route plan and messages in advance of the Commonwealth Baton arriving and on the day road closure management..

Congleton Town Council and a local sporting group “Team Congleton” were also both involved in early discussions and were integral with support for such an event with promotion and messages being delivered by their networks.

Over two months four “road shows” were run for the local voluntary community clubs and private businesses to come and get involved. This led to twelve voluntary groups and eight private businesses attending on the day providing much needed support.

11.7 Schools involvement

Although the event was held in a Whit holiday break there was significant schools involvement of all thirteen local primary schools and the town’s two secondary schools. On the day there was participation of over three hundred young people all involved in the event.

11.8 Legacy from the event

Although the event was a considerable success in itself which through the attendance of both local and national media coverage including the BBC further emphasised the image of Cheshire East, it also helped to cement a number of longer terms positives. These included –

- (i) The support we get from the blue light services and their commitment and support. The collaborative work with the Highways team and

partners allowed people to be informed and in fact complaints of disruption were recorded as none.

- (ii) The large number of voluntary sports clubs who were involved recorded an interest in their activity and followed up with increased memberships. The attendance by a number of national governing bodies of sport including badminton and swimming provided support to the fifteen sports activities that were on offer. Of those residents attending it is hoped that this activity helped to encourage a healthier lifestyle combined with increased physical activity even if this isn't necessarily through sport
- (iii) The additional number of new volunteers will continue to support events in Congleton and the wider Cheshire East area throughout the year.
- (iv) Although the event showed that there is already considerable community engagement and a strong community sector within Congleton the provision of new links into schools and sports groups will further strengthen this in particular for working on future initiatives in Congleton

12 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Mark Wheelton
Designation: Principal Leisure Services Manager
Tel No: 01270 686679
Email: mark.wheelton@cheshireeast.gov.uk