

Social Affairs Select – Report of a Meeting held on 26th March 2013

Members received a report from the head of Environmental and Operational services, Richard Wilson, regarding options for the future delivery of the pest control service which currently operates at a net loss. Whilst this service is non-statutory the Council, nevertheless, has certain responsibilities under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act and would therefore be liable to incur some costs even if this service was discontinued.

After considerable debate and questioning it was agreed by a narrow margin to recommend to Cabinet that the service be maintained until April 2014 but that a further review be held at the October meeting to consider the possibility of competitive tendering.

The main theme of the meeting was around ‘improving the lives of young people’. The Head of Community Development, Lesley Bowles, explained the breadth of the Council’s involvement in delivering its objective through grant aiding the relevant voluntary organisations and working with partners such as the Kenward Trust.

This was followed by presentations on the House in the Basement – the youth café at the STAG- following a recent visit made there and the work of the Sevenoaks District Arts Council (SDAC). The latter presentation included a short clip from A Journey Through Time – a community arts project involving Town / Parish Councils, Historical and Civic Societies and the Sevenoaks Camera Club. This production traced the history of the District from prehistoric times through to the present day.

Members also received reports on visits to various Sure Start Centres.

Alison Cook

Chairman