

Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee

A meeting of Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 10th September, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell(Chairman), Cllr Andrew Sherris(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Mick Womphrey

Officers: Neil Russell (CESC), Andy Bryson (RES), Peter Mennear, Michelle Jones, Kirsty Wannop (LD)

Also in attendance: Judith Rasmussen (Sport England)

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Kath Nelson

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the Meetings Held 7th May 2008

The Chair signed the minutes of the 7th May 2008 as a correct record.

3 Minutes of the Meeting Held 25th June 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2008.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2008 be forwarded as a correct record.

4 Minutes of the Special Meeting Held 30th July 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes for the meeting held on 30th July 2008.

Cllr Dixon noted that the Managing Director of Tees Active made reference at the meeting to survey evidence that supported a need for a 25 metre pool within the borough, and requested that the Children & Young People Select Committee minutes reflected this.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2008 were noted for information.

5 Review of Tees Active

Members received evidence as part of their review of Tees Active from the Finance Manager and Sport England.

The Finance Manager noted his report regarding the financial contribution SBC makes to Tees Active. It was noted that Tees Active was a charitable trust and that SBC made contributions to Tees Active to fulfil its statutory functions in terms of leisure provision.

The Finance Manager also noted the Tees Active accounts for year ending 31st March 2008. Tees Active had a turnover of £5.8m, a retained profit of £137,000 and reserves of £508,000, which would be used to oversee the period of

redevelopment at several TAL facilities.

The Sport England representative informed Members as to the national and regional role of Sport England, and informed that Sport England had recently published a new national strategy. The strategy had a renewed focus on 'sport for sport's sake' and committed Sport England to deliver on the following targets by 2012/13:

- one million more people doing more sport;
- a 25% reduction in the number of 16 year olds who drop out of five key sports;
- improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports;
- a measurable increase in people's satisfaction with their experience of sport;
- a major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people.

Currently ongoing was a consultation into the future distribution of sports lottery funding. It was noted that there was a proposal to introduce a funding procedure had changed from it being a regional funding process it would become a central pot. The Committee were also informed that the levels of lottery funding had reduced, and that multi-million pound funding awards, such as that for Splash, would not be available in the future.

It was also noted that Sport England was not responsible for Olympians, as this was the remit of UK Sport. Discussion was also held on the participation figures, following Sport England's Active People Survey, and the different levels across the region and Borough. As this survey is repeated, the figures will become even more useful for comparative purposes.

School playing fields were raised, and Sport England explained that they would work with the Planning Authority when an application to build on a field was received to ensure that the field was either not lost, or a suitable facility would be provided in its place. It was stated that, overall, there had been a net gain of playing field facilities. It was also noted that Sport England was part of the team that discussed the plans for Building Schools for the Future. Sport England explained the processes that were carried out when an application for a new sport facility was received, to ensure that the facility was placed in the best possible location. Sport England had developed various methods of modelling the impact of changing the location facilities and advised accordingly. It was noted that Stockton, along with the rest of region, were currently dealing with the issue of ageing leisure facilities.

Neil Russell informed the Committee that he would be carrying out a benchmarking exercise which would include a comparison survey of other leisure Trusts in the North of England through consultation with local authority partners. This will help to inform the Tees Active Review.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6 Work Programme

Consideration was given to the Work programme of the Committee and Members were informed that the time for the review had been extended to ensure that the Tees Active staff survey results could be included in the review. The review would now aim to report to Cabinet in January 2009. Further

evidence in relation to the meeting on 30th July 2008 was tabled for Members.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be noted.