

Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee

A meeting of Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 19th May, 2010.

Present: Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell (Chair), Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Dick Cains (Vice Councillor Cunningham), Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley and Cllr Mick Womphrey.

Officers: G Clingan, Mrs S Daniels, R Kench, N Russell, Mrs V Shiel, R Smith (DNS); Mrs H Grant, S McEneaney (CESC); Mrs T Harrison, P Mennear (LD)

Also in attendance: No other person's were present

Apologies: Cllr Cunningham

ALC 1/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

ALC 2/10 Minutes from the meeting held on the 17th February 2010 to be considered for signature.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th February were signed by the Chair.

ALC 3/10 Draft Minutes from the meeting dated 31st March 2010

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2010.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2010 be agreed as a correct record and be forwarded on to Council.

ALC 4/10 Monitoring the implementation of previously agreed recommendations

- Action Plan for the EIT review of Property and Facilities Management

Members considered the Action Plans setting out how the agreed recommendations from the Efficiency Improvement and Transformation (EIT) Review Property and Facilities Management would be implemented and target dates for completion. Members were requested to agree a suitable date to receive a Progress Report on the actions contained within.

Members were advised that consolidation of the buildings assets and budgets were taking place.

Officers advised that a facilities management team had been created.

Members queried whether the savings would result in redundancies and were advised that it had been achieved by removing vacant posts and consolidation.

Members advised that the new management position had been possible due to

the removal of another post and the officer having been obtained from another area.

Due to the number of changes taking place, Members requested an updated Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council telephone directory and were advised that a directory would exist but would be an electronic version on the Intranet rather than a paper copy.

CONCLUDED that the Action Plan be agreed and that an initial progress report be received in October 2010.

**ALC
5/10**

Monitoring the implementation of previously agreed recommendations-

-Action Plan for the EIT Review of Adult Operations

Members were advised that the action plan had been developed and presented to Corporate Management Team the week prior to this meeting.

Members were advised that officers were on target with the action plan.

Members were advised that there was a clear link into the Fair Access to Care Service Review and the outcome of the review would have an impact on Adult Operational Services.

CONCLUDED that the Action Plan be agreed and an initial progress report be received in October, or when the first consultation results were ready, whichever was sooner.

**ALC
6/10**

Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation:-

-to agree scope and project plan;

-to receive an overview of the services under review.

Members considered the scope and project plan for the EIT review of Sports, Leisure and Recreation

Presentations were provided by the Countryside and Greenspace Development Manager and the Leisure and Sports Development Manager.

In relation to Parks and Countryside, the Countryside and Greenspace Development Manager advised that following a split in the service three years previously, the team structure within Direct Services was broken down into Countryside and Greenspace (strategy development), and Care For Your Area: Parks and Countryside Team.

Discussion took place regarding the roles of both teams.

Members were briefed on how the activities available provided a host of benefits.

Members were advised that a lot of voluntary work took place in partnership.

Discussion took place regarding the partnership arrangements that were in place for a number of projects and areas, including:

- Tees Heritage Park
- Wynyard Woodland Park
- Lustrum Beck
- Playing Out
- Spaces for Play
- River Routes in Stockton

Other key service providers included:

- Tees Valley Wildlife Trust
- Forestry Commission
- RSPB
- Natural England
- Admiralty Ecology Site Forest School

Members considered the revenue budgets.

Members were advised that the emerging issues related to raised public expectation whilst having to address the lack of external funding and the need to reduce budget spending whilst maintaining a good service. Increased revenue funding was required to ensure the level of the services continued.

Further to Members queries relating to Groundwork, Officers advised that the regeneration of Harewood Pleasure Gardens in Thornaby had been made possible through the involvement of Groundwork. Also noted that Groundwork could sometimes secure funds not accessible to Local Authorities.

Officers advised that catering within most of the parks and recreational facilities were provided directly by the Council and as a result the catering had improved.

It was noted that it would not be in the Council's interest to charge to enter parks due to management costs, and the need to ensure access for all residents.

The Leisure and Sports Development Manager gave a presentation identifying the size of the team and their roles and responsibilities. Members were advised of some of the key strategic documents which shaped their roles and responsibilities.

Officers advised on the teams contributions to targets including:

- Increase the percentage of adults doing 30 minutes physical activity three times in the week.
- Increase in adults volunteering for at least one hour per week
- Increase the percentage of residents satisfied with leisure provision
- Increase the percentage of young people doing an hour of physical activity per day
- Positive activities for young people
- Halting year on year rise in obesity amongst children
- Reducing health inequalities

Members were advised of the partnership working which took place.

Members considered the budget of the Leisure and Sports Development Team and were advised that 84% of the budget was made up of grant to Tees Active.

Members were advised that the emerging issues were:

- Making the most of the 2012 Olympic Games
- Maximising the opportunity for the whole community presented by Building Schools for the Future
- Development of stronger links with the private sector
- Developing coordination between informal activity play and formal sports participation
- Development of innovative Sports Events to inspire greater participation
- Improvement of facilities in light of reduced availability of external funding/better coordinated use of Section 106 agreements.
- Greater coordination of information and communications between all the providers of sport and active leisure.

CONCLUDED that the scope and project plan be agreed and the information be noted.

**ALC
7/10**

Work Programme

The Scrutiny Officer reminded Members that the August meeting had been moved and enquired whether Members were happy for the September meeting date to move. Members advised that they were content for the changes to take place.

Members were advised that the overview powerpoint presentation for Play would be appended to the agenda papers for a future meeting.

CONCLUDED that:

1. Members agreed that the August meeting date will be changed.
2. Members agreed for the September meeting date to move.
3. The overview powerpoint presentation for Play will be appended to the agenda papers for a future meeting.