

Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee

A meeting of Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 30th June, 2010.

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

Officers: A Bryson(RES), M Kirk, G Clingan, N Russell, R McGuckin, C Renahan, R Kench(DNS), M Graham(CESC), P J Mennear, P K Bell (LD).

Also in attendance: None.

Apologies: Cllr Alex Cunningham, Cllr Mrs Kath Nelson and Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley.

1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

2 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th May 2010**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2010.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2010 be agreed as a correct record and be forwarded on to Council.

3 **Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations Initial Progress Update**

Members were asked to consider the assessments of progress contained within the attached Progress Report on the implementation of the recommendations from the Efficiency Improvement and Transformation (EIT) Review of Highways, Lighting & Network Management.

Following the Cabinet consideration of Efficiency Improvement and Transformation reports, accepted recommendations were then subject to a monitoring process to track their implementation.

At the meeting on 31st March 2010, Members received and approved the Action Plan that set out how the recommendations from the Efficiency Improvement and Transformation (EIT) Gateway Review of Highways, Lighting & Network Management would be implemented. It was agreed that the initial Progress Report would be received within three months.

Evidence had been submitted by the relevant department together with an assessment of progress against all recommendations. Members were asked to consider and agree the assessments of progress as contained in the report. Should Members of the Select Committee agree, those recommendations which had reached an assessment of '1' were then signed off as having been completed.

In order to track those recommendations which were not signed off following this initial Progress Report, a series of Progress Updates would be submitted to

Members on a quarterly basis.

Attached to the Progress Report was the 'assessment of progress' categories, for Members' reference.

With regard recommendation 1 - "The Council pursue the application for PFI Credits and, if successful, procure a private finance operator to deliver a street lighting replacement and maintenance programme" the Acting Head of Technical Services reported that there was lots of work still on going but there was still some doubt over funding as street lighting wasn't included in the first round of central government cuts. The Council had asked the Department for Transport for an extension to the deadline for submitting the business case as the Council wanted to find out if street lighting funding would be cut and to avoid the Council doing any unnecessary work.

Overall Members were happy with the progress that had been made against the previously agreed recommendations from the Efficiency Improvement and Transformation (EIT) Review of Highways, Lighting & Network Management.

CONCLUDED that the Progress Report be agreed, and that further updates on outstanding recommendations be considered as appropriate.

4 Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members were asked to consider the assessments of progress contained within the attached Progress Updates on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations. There were outstanding recommendations from the review of River Based Leisure Facilities.

Attached to the report were the outstanding recommendations for the Committee and the 'assessment of progress' categories for Members' reference.

The Head of Culture and Leisure and the Regeneration Project Officer were in attendance at the meeting and detailed the progress against the previously agreed recommendations. Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the Progress Report. Discussions took place on the new structure for British Waterways that was in place following the departure of Alan Slater, River Manager for the Barrage reach area. Members noted that the working relationship with British Waterways had been affected by its restructure of local staff, but that the formation of the River Users Group ensured that a co-ordinated approach to river issues would be maintained.

Members requested further detail regarding progress on the feasibility of a water transport borne transport service to be included in the next progress update.

Overall Members were happy with the progress that had been made against the previously agreed recommendations from the Review of River Based Leisure Facilities.

CONCLUDED that the Progress Report be agreed, and that further updates on

outstanding recommendations be brought to future meetings as appropriate.

5 EIT Review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation

Members were asked to consider and challenge the baseline information for Leisure and Sports Development as part of the review of Sport and Recreation.

As part of the review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation, the baseline information for Leisure and Sports Development, had been prepared for the meeting and was attached to the report. Baseline information was designed to outline a service in its current form.

Members were requested to consider and challenge the baseline information in order to ensure that it was robust. Members were also asked to identify any further information requirements that were believed were necessary to inform the review.

In addition to the baseline report, and to provide further context a copy of the Sport and Active Leisure Strategy 2009-14 was attached to the report.

Members requested that they receive further detail with regard to Sports Development services that could be provided by alternative delivery methods.

Discussion took place in relation to the range of leisure facilities in the Borough, including school and private facilities, and ways in which this could be better co-ordinated to improve access.

The dependence of Sports Development on grant funding, especially in relation to PCT funding streams, was noted.

The need to examine the relationship with Tees Active as part of the review was noted.

Members also asked for further information on charging policies, and trading opportunities. Discussions also took place on what other local authorities were doing and if there were any joint arrangements with other Tees Valley authorities.

CONCLUDED that the baseline information be noted, and that the requested information be brought to a future meeting.