

10 November 2010

EIT Review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation

Summary

The Committee is requested to consider the information provided, in order to finalise draft recommendations, in order for these to be included in a draft final report.

Detail

1. Following the Committee's meeting on 18 October, Members requested information on a number of outstanding issues. Information has been gathered by the relevant services and this is as follows:

Countryside & Greenspace - Strategy and Development Team

- a) Implications of reducing Environmental Development budget (Option 2 in the paper considered on 18 October)

The Environmental Development budget for 2010/11 is £22,362. Under this option, this would be reduced by £15,000 from 2011/12 onwards, reducing the Council's capacity to undertake small-scale schemes on open spaces. In previous years this budget has been used for a variety of projects, such as the planting and trees and shrubs to restrict the playing of ball games in the close proximity of housing, small environmental improvement schemes such as seating and path works, provision of signage and interpretation, as well as contributing to the costs of larger-scale projects such as the Thornaby Spitfire and Thornaby Five Lamps restoration. Reducing this budget will mean the Council has less capacity to deliver such projects in the future, although there remains the potential for the Council or partner organisations to secure external funding - albeit with less match funding available.

As well as providing some very limited project funding, the remaining budget would be used to meet some essential expenditure on technical and professional fees associated with the title transfer of public open space and the on-going management of public open space.

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