

Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee

A meeting of Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 9th February, 2011.

Present: Cllr Andrew Sherris(Chairman), Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Mick Womphrey

Officers: Reuben Kench(DNS), Vanessa Shiel(RES), Judith Trainer, Sarah Whaley (LD)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley

1 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hilary Aggio declared a personal non prejudicial interest in relation to item 6 - EIT Review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation as she had a membership with Tees Active.

2 Minutes from the meetings held on the 30th June, 21st July and 18th October 2010

Consideration was given to the minutes form the meetings which were held on the 30th June, 21st July and 18th October 2010 for signature.

CONCLUDED that the minutes be signed.

3 Minutes from the meeting dated 3rd November 2010

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting which was held on the 3rd November 2010 for signature.

CONCLUDED that the minutes be signed.

4 Draft minutes from the meeting dated 10th November 2010

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting which was held on the 10th November 2010 for approval.

CONCLUDED that the minutes be approved

5 Draft Minutes from the meeting dated the 24th November 2010

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting which was held on the 24th November 2010 for approval.

CONCLUDED that the minutes be approved

6 EIT Review of Sport, Leisure & Recreation - Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations

Members were presented with the draft Action Plan in relation to the EIT Review

of Sport, Leisure & Recreation.

The Head of Culture and Leisure took the Committee through each recommendation and proposed actions highlighting where recommendations were still 'work in progress'.

In respect of the transfer of management responsibility for Billingham Beck Valley and Countryside Park and Cowpen Bewley Countryside Park from the Council to Tees Valley Wildlife Trust(TVWT), Members heard that discussion was still taking place and although an agreement in principle had been reached, savings could not be fully realised until the finer detail had been finalised.

In respect of the reconfiguration of the Countryside Ranger Service it was the expectation that the Voluntary Sector would be picking up the interpretation and education activities although it was still unclear as to capacity of the Voluntary Sector to undertake this work. Members asked for clarification of the maintenance roles of the Countryside Rangers. The Head of Culture and Leisure explained to the Committee that this would focus on repair rather than installation. The Committee asked if there was available resource from other sectors of the community such as the Prison Service/Community "Payback" initiatives. Members learned that Stockton Borough Council were already using resource from similar initiatives and would continue to do so.

In relation to the withdrawal of Tees Active from the Castlegate Quay Members learned that permission regarding the transfer of the lease from Stockton Borough Council to a private company needed to be gained from British Waterways.

The Head of Culture and Leisure drew Members attention to the estimated savings resulting from increased efficiency and reduced staff costs of Billingham Forum and Tees Barrage. These would not be fully known until the Barrage and Forum were re opened, which was due June 2011, and they had been operational for a period of time.

Members were informed that the joint commissioning of Tees Active in partnership with one or more Tees Valley local authorities would not be realised in the short term as two of the neighbouring authorities identified still had current contracts with outsourced providers not ending until 31st March 2013.

CONCLUDED that:

- 1) the Action Plan be approved.
- 2) clarification be given as to what British Waterways own and its boundaries.

7 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 scrutiny reviews of Tees Active and, River Based Leisure and the EIT gateway reviews

of Adult Operations, Highways, Lighting and Network Management, and Property.

Members briefly discussed the attached report highlighting the following areas:

Tees Active

3e) Members asked the Head of Culture and Leisure for clarification regarding future funding in relation to the work which was being carried out with Badminton England to create a Performance Centre at the Pavilion.

River Based Leisure

1e) The Committee requested that minutes be made available for Members from the River User Group(RUG) meetings. The Scrutiny Team Leader agreed to investigate where these minutes were published and distribute to Members.

1g) Members indicated that although progress had slipped regarding the feasibility study for a more regular water borne transport service on the River Tees they were fully supportive of the plan for river transport. The Head of Culture and Leisure informed the Committee that there had been some positive developments made such as a new Jetty. Members requested that the cost of the new jetty be provided to Members.

Adult Operations

1) It was highlighted that the refurbishment works at the Halcyon Centre had slipped as detailed within the progress updates. Members requested further details and updated timescales for completion.

4) The Committee asked for details of the alternative services which the 15 clients had elected to access.

Highway, Lighting and Network Management

1) Due to the withdrawal of the PFI scheme by the Government, the assessment of progress had slipped for the Council to pursue it's application for PFI credits. Members asked for an update as to what potential alternative funding streams.

5) Members requested that the number of road signs and bollards which had been replaced with reflective equipment to date be provided.

8) The Committee sought clarification as to who was responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of Stockton's bus shelters.

CONCLUDED that:

1) the Progress Updates be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed.

2) the Scrutiny Team Leader provide further detail to the Progress Updates as

requested above and distributed to the Committee.