

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting24th April 2008

1. Title of Item/Report

Report of Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee - Review of River Based Leisure Facilities

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report which set out the findings and recommendations from the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee's scrutiny review of River Based Leisure Facilities. The review examined the progress made since the construction of the Tees Barrage in relation to river based recreational activities. The review encompassed a wide ranging consultation of those involved in river based leisure provision and the Committee made recommendations in order make further improvements to use of the Borough's major natural asset

RESOLVED that:-

1. The Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services considered focussing a senior officer resource for a fixed term basis on the range of river development issues to lead and provide immediate momentum to the issues identified during the review, which included:

a) a review of the Tees Navigation Strategy;

b) development of the River Tees Park proposals to an action plan stage;

c) to co-ordinate the diverse nature of water based activities on the river and develop a sustainable method of developing this sector, including a detailed review of the capacity of all watersports facilities, having regard to the potential relocation of facilities as part of the North Shore scheme;

d) to explore options to maximise the funding available for the staging of major events linked to river based activities including development of an annual Stockton regatta in conjunction with partners including the University of Durham;

e) to support the development of the 'Tees River Trust';

f) develop the Council's relationship with managers of the Tees Barrage White Water Course to assist it in developing its full potential;

g) to undertake a feasibility study for a more regular water borne transport service, and to explore funding streams to achieve this, (including the Local Transport Plan);

h) to develop a marketing strategy to promote and market the river at the local, regional, national and international level, working with Visit Tees Valley where appropriate. This would include work:

- to increase engagement with the local community
- to engage with local business to promote the river-based opportunities available
- to develop a communication strategy to ensure that the river would be effectively promoted by all partners
- to develop a central hub of information including a website and a comprehensive information pack for users, including for schools use
- with Tees Active and Sports Development to raise the profile of watersport (including angling) as a sporting option for the people of the Borough and to ensure this would be built into service planning
- with CESC, governors and headteachers to ensure that the educational and sporting opportunities for children and young people were fully promoted to schools within the Borough;

2. Cabinet would endorse the Committee's expectations regarding quality of development, access to and interaction with the adjacent waterspace and ensure that these would be included within the various development and regeneration projects in place, in particular:

- within the North Shore masterplan and the planning application itself;
- within the final plans for re-development of Preston Park, recognising its importance as a gateway location;

3. The Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services would explore with partners, including HM Revenue and Customs, concerns surrounding business rates, mooring charges and rents for river-based businesses in Stockton Borough compared to other locations;

4. The Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services so far as was possible and practical would ensure that access to the river would be maintained and improved where possible through the LDF process and individual planning applications themselves;

5. Ensure that the opportunities for the Borough in relation to the period leading up to the 2012 Olympic Games (and future international sporting events such as Glasgow 2014) would be maximised through work with regional partners in particular ONE- in particular the opportunities to host

a range of associated events;

6. The Head of Community Protection be tasked with collating accurate and reliable data relating to river-related crime and anti-social behaviour, and to explore how best to ensure that river users would be aware of the correct reporting mechanisms;

7. SBC and partners including British Waterways would ensure that all reasonable efforts would be made to ensure that the river remains safe, navigable and clean, including:

- the expedient removal of HMS Kellington from Stockton riverside
- the efficient removal of debris and obstructions in the river itself
- the cleanliness of the immediate riverside environment including footpaths;

8. Executive Scrutiny Committee would be requested to include a review of issues surrounding the tourist promotion of the Borough within the scrutiny work programme.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The topic was identified during a meeting of the Scrutiny Liaison Forum in January 2007. It was considered timely for the Committee to take the opportunity to review the progress made so far in relation to river based leisure, in order to build upon such progress and maximise the available opportunities in relation to future major events.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont declare a personal/non-prejudicial interest as she was a member of Tees Active Board.

Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey declare a personal/non-prejudicial interest as she was a member of Tees Active Board.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

By no later than midnight on Friday, 2nd May 2008

Proper Officer
28 April 2008