

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

24 APRIL 2008

**REPORT OF ARTS, LEISURE
AND CULTURE SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Arts, Leisure and Culture – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Mrs Womphrey

Review of River Based Leisure Facilities

1. Summary

The attached report sets 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 have made recommendations in order make further improvements to use of the Borough's major natural asset.

2. Recommendations

1. The Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services consider 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, including:

- a) a review of the Tees Navigation Strategy;
- b) developing the River Tees Park proposals to an action plan stage;
- c) to co-ordinate of 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) developing 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 should 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 is 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 watersports (including angling) as a sporting option for the people of the Borough and to ensure this is built into service planning
 - with CESC, governors and headteachers to ensure that the educational and sporting opportunities for children and young people are fully promoted to schools within the Borough;
2. Cabinet endorse the Committee's expectations regarding quality of development, access to and interaction with the adjacent waterspace and ensure that these are 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 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 is possible and practical ensures that access to the river is 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) are 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 are aware of the correct reporting mechanisms;
 7. SBC and partners including British Waterways to ensure that all reasonable efforts are being made to ensure that the river remains safe, navigable and clean, including:
 - the expediant 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 be requested to include a review of issues surrounding the tourist promotion of the Borough within the scrutiny work programme.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

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. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

24 APRIL 2008

**REPORT OF ARTS, LEISURE AND
CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

REVIEW OF RIVER BASED LEISURE FACILITIES

SUMMARY

The attached report sets out the findings and recommendations from the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee's scrutiny review of River Based Leisure Facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services consider 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, including:

- a) a review of the Tees Navigation Strategy;
- b) developing the River Tees Park proposals to an action plan stage;
- c) to co-ordinate of 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) developing 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 should 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 is 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 watersports (including angling) as a sporting option for the people of the Borough and to ensure this is built into service planning
 - with CESC, governors and headteachers to ensure that the educational and sporting opportunities for children and young people are fully promoted to schools within the Borough;
2. Cabinet endorse the Committee's expectations regarding quality of development, access to and interaction with the adjacent waterspace and ensure that these are 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 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 is possible and practical ensures that access to the river is 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) are 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 are aware of the correct reporting mechanisms;
 7. SBC and partners including British Waterways to ensure that all reasonable efforts are being made to ensure that the river remains safe, navigable and clean, including:
 - the expediant 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 be requested to include a review of issues surrounding the tourist promotion of the Borough within the scrutiny work programme.

DETAIL

1. The attached report presents Cabinet with the findings of the review of River Based Leisure Facilities undertaken by the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee between June 2007 and March 2008. The review focussed on the section of the Tees which is within the boundary of the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees, concentrating on making better use of the 13 mile stretch of river upstream of the Tees Barrage to Low Worsall (the 'Tees Navigation').
2. Following consideration by Cabinet an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations will be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3. The expenditure linked to the implementation of recommendation number 1, will be met through the use of existing resources.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

5. This report on river based leisure facilities is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

6. River based leisure and the scope of the recommendations contained within the report impact upon and contribute to the following Community Strategy themes:

Economic Regeneration and Transport
Safer Communities
Children and Young People
Healthier Communities and Adults
Liveability

Community Safety implications are considered at para 4.84 of the main report and implementation of recommendation 6 would assess the extent of river related crime and disorder, and therefore contribute towards tackling such issues.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7. An assessment would need to be made on the actions contained within the recommendations.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

8. Consultation activities carried out as part of the review are identified at sections 2.6 of the main report. This included a survey of those ward councillors whose wards bordered the river.
9. Senior officers within DNS and the Cabinet Member responsible for Arts, Leisure and Culture were consulted on the scope of the review and the findings and recommendations.

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Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Councillors with Wards that border sections of the river covered within this report include:

Eaglescliffe – Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Mrs Rigg
Ingleby Barwick East – Cllr Faulks, Cllr Harrington, Cllr Larkin
Ingleby Barwick West – Cllr Dixon, Cllr Narroway, Cllr Patterson
Mandale and Victoria – Cllr Large, Cllr Mrs Trainer, Cllr Walmsley
Parkfield and Oxbridge – Cllr Javed, Cllr Rix
Stockton Town Centre – Cllr David Coleman and Cllr Paul Kirton
Village – Cllr Dalgarno, Cllr Eddy
Yarm - Cllr Mrs Beaumont, Cllr Earl, Cllr Sherris

Property

None