

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

### **AGENDA ITEM**

### **REPORT TO CABINET**

**16 APRIL 2009**

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

## **CABINET DECISION**

**Arts, Leisure and Culture** – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Mary Womphrey  
**Leader** – Lead Cabinet Member - Councillor Ken Lupton

### **SCRUTINY REVIEW OF TEES ACTIVE**

1. Summary

This report presents the findings of the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee following a review of Tees Active. The review examined Tees Active's performance since it was established in 2004, its contribution to wider corporate priorities, and future plans.

2. Recommendations

The Committee request that those recommendations for external organisations be endorsed for submission to them, and recommend:

- R1. that to ensure Tees Active Limited continue to deliver against a range of national and local priorities, a more formal & detailed monitoring regime should be implemented in relation to Tees Active's performance, finance, policies and procedures, and that this monitoring information be provided to members through the established Quarterly Performance Reports.
- R2. that Tees Active should strengthen consultation and feedback mechanisms in order to strive to ensure that their leisure offer continuously meets the needs and aspirations of the community.
- R3. that in order to further improve the partnership arrangements already in place, Tees Active should strengthen their role as Stockton Council's strategic leisure partner by providing support to the broader leisure and sport sector within the borough, and that this support should include:
- a) Contributing to the broader social agendas, including community safety and children and young people;
  - b) Facilitating greater participation by hard to reach groups and/or groups that require most support including children looked after, people with disabilities, and the BME community;
  - c) Contributing to the development of a coordinated leisure offer in the borough to include public, private and voluntary sector;

- d) Exploiting new management and/ or development opportunities that would enhance leisure provision within the borough, including opportunities through Building Schools for the Future;
- e) Achieving stronger relationships with the voluntary sector, including sports clubs, through improved partnership working;
- f) Contributing towards the full exploitation of the opportunities presented by the Olympic & Paralympic Games.

- R4. that Tees Active should consider extending the layer of support in place beneath the TAL Academy for those young sports people who do not meet the standards of the Academy, yet have attained representative honours at a recognised level, as appropriate.
- R5. that Tees Active should ensure that all eligible facilities attain Quest accreditation status.
- R6. that Tees Active should continue to investigate the scope for increased web interactivity and online transactions.
- R7. that Tees Active should provide the results of their staff survey to the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee as soon as they are available, and that any issues arising from consideration of these results be investigated through the established SBC/Tees Active Management Group.

### 3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The topic was identified at a meeting of the Scrutiny Liaison Forum in March 2008, and subsequently incorporated into the scrutiny work programme by the Executive Scrutiny Committee in April 2008. Tees Active Limited is the independent leisure trust responsible for the management of the Council's leisure centres and swimming pools. The review represented the opportunity for the first comprehensive review of Tees Active's performance since it was established in May 2004.

### 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.**

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## **DETAIL**

- 1. The attached report presents Cabinet with the findings of the review of Tees Active undertaken by members of the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee. Tees Active is an independent leisure trust and has managed Stockton Borough's public leisure centres since May 2004. The review examined Tees Active's performance since it was established, the contribution made to the Borough's wider priorities, and future plans. The Committee found that Tees Active had performed well against its original aims, and made recommendations in order to secure further improvements.
- 2. Following consideration of the recommendations by Cabinet and Tees Active Limited 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. There are no new financial implications emanating from this report.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4. There are no specific legal implications emanating from the review.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 5. The review of Tees Active is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6. This report and the recommendations contained within relate mainly to the Healthier Communities and Adults theme (specifically the 'Reduce health inequalities' and 'Promote healthy living' ambitions), and Children and Young People (particularly the 'Be healthy' ambition, in relation to enabling active lifestyles and halting the rise in obesity), and services for looked after children.
- 7. Other themes relevant to the report include Older Adults, and Safer Communities (increased involvement of Tees Active with the community safety agenda, for example through provision of targeted diversionary activities). Increased co-operation with the voluntary sector in the provision of leisure facilities will contribute towards the Stronger

Communities supporting theme. Satisfaction with leisure centres and swimming pools will continue to be monitored through the Arts, Leisure and Culture theme.

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8. Recommendations 2 and 3 aim to ensure that Tees Active continuously meet the needs of all the local community. During the review, the Committee found that Tees Active is working towards meeting the requirements of the Equality Framework for Sport Foundation and Preliminary levels. The Foundation Level tests an organisation's commitment to equality and the Preliminary Level examines whether an organisation is clear about what it needs to do to achieve equality.

## **CORPORATE PARENTING**

9. Services for Looked After Children were examined as part of the review. Recommendation 3 b) aims to ensure that participation by children in care is as high as possible; in particular this will be through further promoting uptake of the free leisure card dedicated to children in care, and provision of support for these children to attend TAL facilities, as appropriate.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

10. The Group received evidence from a range of interested parties including from within the regional sport and leisure sector, and users of facilities. Every club and school that uses Tees Active managed facilities on a regular basis was contacted in order to invite their comments. The Committee also considered relevant results from the Council's Ipsos MORI Residents Survey 2008.
11. Senior officers within DNS and CESC, and the Leader of Council, and the Cabinet Member responsible for Arts, Leisure and Culture, were consulted on the scope of the review, and the findings and recommendations.

### **Committee Membership:**

Councillor Jean O'Donnell (Chair)  
Councillor Andrew Sherris (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Hillary Aggio  
Councillor Dick Cains  
Councillor Ken Dixon  
Councillor Alan Lewis  
Councillor Kath Noble  
Councillor Sylvia Walmsley  
Councillor Mick Womphrey

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Background Papers In relation to the decision making process when Tees Active was established, the Committee considered Cabinet reports from 5 December 2002, 27 November 2003, and 19 February 2004 during the review.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not ward specific

Property No new implications. Tees Active manages the Council's leisure centres and swimming pools under contract.