

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16 DECEMBER 2010

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

CABINET DECISION

Leader – Councillor Ken Lupton

Arts, Leisure & Culture – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Mary Womphrey

EFFICIENCY, IMPROVEMENT, AND TRANSFORMATION (EIT) REVIEW OF SPORT, LEISURE AND RECREATION

1. Summary

This report presents the finding of the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee following the EIT review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation.

The review examined services which aim to provide a wide variety of high quality and accessible leisure and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors to the Borough. These included Sports Development, Countryside and Greenspace, Parks and Countryside Management and Maintenance (Care For Your Area), Children and Young People's Strategy, and the relationship with Tees Active. The recommendations include a number of efficiencies and savings that have been identified, and also measures to undertake future work with the aim of reducing the level of the Council's Management Fee that is provided to Tees Active.

2. Recommendations

The Committee recommend:

1. That the Council should transfer management responsibility for Billingham Beck Valley Countryside Park and Cowpen Bewley Countryside Park from the Council to Tees Valley Wildlife Trust (TVWT), subject to agreement with TVWT, and that further consideration be given to the transfer of other countryside sites to alternative providers as appropriate;
2. That the Countryside Ranger Service be reconfigured to focus on maintenance activities in future and therefore cease educational activity;
3. That the £25,000 research element of the Countryside and Greenspace Professional, Consultancy and Hired Services budget be removed;
4. That the Countryside and Greenspace Environmental Development budget be reduced by £15,000 per annum;
5. That, in line with the expected cessation of external funding streams for direct delivery, the Sports Development team should be reduced and re-focused in order to provide a service based on strategic commissioning as outlined in the report;

6. That the efficiencies identified by Tees Active be supported, including the withdrawal from the Castlegate Quay facility (and its transfer to an alternative appropriate river activity tenant) and consolidation of water-based and river-related activity at the Tees Barrage location, and staffing measures linked to the re-opening of Billingham Forum;
7. That a further review of Tees Active's financial position be undertaken in the summer of 2012, once the full earning potential of the new facilities has been realised and allowing for a full year of trading in the new facilities, with the expectation that further reduction in subsidy would be realised from April 2013;
8. That further work be undertaken in order to explore the options for the joint commissioning of Tees Active in partnership with one or more Tees Valley local authorities.
9. That if, following implementation of the measures in relation to improving trading (recommendation 7), and joint commissioning (recommendation 8), the consequent reduction in the Council's subsidy to Tees Active is insufficient, consideration should be given to options for service reduction.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

As part of the Council's EIT Programme, the Committee has undertaken the review with the aim of identifying options for future service provision that deliver efficiency savings and where possible sustain and improve high quality and accessible sport, leisure and recreational services.

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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AND RECREATION**

SUMMARY

This report presents the finding of the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee following the EIT review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation. The review examined services which aim to provide a wide variety of high quality and accessible leisure and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors to the Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend that:

1. That the Council should transfer management responsibility for Billingham Beck Valley Countryside Park and Cowpen Bewley Countryside Park from the Council to Tees Valley Wildlife Trust (TVWT), subject to agreement with TVWT, and that further consideration be given to the transfer of other countryside sites to alternative providers as appropriate;
2. That the Countryside Ranger Service be reconfigured to focus on maintenance activities in future and therefore cease educational activity;
3. That the £25,000 research element of the Countryside and Greenspace Professional, Consultancy and Hired Services budget be removed;
4. That the Countryside and Greenspace Environmental Development budget be reduced by £15,000 per annum;
5. That, in line with the expected cessation of external funding streams for direct delivery, the Sports Development team should be reduced and re-focussed in order to provide a service based on strategic commissioning as outlined in the report;
6. That the efficiencies identified by Tees Active be supported, including the withdrawal from the Castlegate Quay facility (and its transfer to an alternative appropriate river activity tenant) and consolidation of water-based and river-related activity at the Tees Barrage location, and staffing measures linked to the re-opening of Billingham Forum;
7. That a further review of Tees Active's financial position be undertaken in the summer of 2012, once the full earning potential of the new facilities has been realised and allowing for a full year of trading in the new facilities, with the expectation that further reduction in subsidy would be realised from April 2013;

8. That further work be undertaken in order to explore the options for the joint commissioning of Tees Active in partnership with one or more Tees Valley local authorities.
9. That if, following implementation of the measures in relation to improving trading (recommendation 7), and joint commissioning (recommendation 8), the consequent reduction in the Council's subsidy to Tees Active is insufficient, consideration should be given to options for service reduction.

DETAIL

1. The attached report presents Cabinet with the findings of the EIT Review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation undertaken by the Arts, Leisure, and Culture Select Committee between April and December 2010.
2. The review formed part of a three year programme of EIT (Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation) reviews covering all services provided by the Council. The programme aims to ensure that all services are reviewed in a systematic way to ensure that they are provided in the most efficient manner, provide value for money and identify opportunities for service improvements and transformation. This review examined a number of service areas within the Council, and the commissioning of services from the independent leisure trust, Tees Active Limited (TAL). The overall aim of the review was to identify options for future strategy, policy & service provision that will deliver efficiency savings and sustain / improve high quality outcomes for Stockton residents in relation to sport, leisure and recreational services, including opportunities for increasing earned income through trading activities.
3. 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

4. A number of estimated savings will be achieved by the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. Recommendation 2 would produce savings of £122,924, recommendation 3 would save £25,000, recommendation 4 would produce savings of £15,000 and recommendation 5 would produce savings of £33,880. Recommendation 6 is subject to the generation of additional income from the delivery of the new business plans for Billingham Forum and Tees Barrage International White Water Course and would lead to a saving of £200,000 based on a reduction in the level of the Tees Active Management Fee provided by Stockton Council; the element linked to the consolidation of river-based activity on the Tees Barrage site (£100,000) would be realised from 2012-13.
5. Recommendation 1 is subject to further discussion however it is projected that the saving could be approximately £25,000. In relation to recommendations 7, 8 and 9, the precise level of savings that will be achieved is also subject to future work.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no specific legal implications emanating from the review at this stage. Implementation of recommendation 1 would necessitate further discussions on the legal implications of the transfer of the two countryside sites, in conjunction with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. Governance issues in relation to the arrangements for any future joint commissioning of Tees Active (recommendation 8) would need to be considered at the appropriate time.

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. This EIT Review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation services 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

8. This review impacts upon a number of themes including Economic Regeneration and Transport, Environment and Housing, Children and Young People, Healthier Communities and Adults, and all three supporting themes: Stronger Communities, Older Adults, and Arts, Leisure and Culture.
9. There are no specific community safety implications; however the services under review provide a number of facilities that provide positive activities for residents to engage with. In addition, the services provided within parks and countryside locations aim to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour at those sites.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10. This report has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment and has been judged to have a neutral impact (score of 70).

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

11. Senior officers within Development and Neighbourhood Services, the Leader, and the Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Culture were consulted on the scope of the review and the draft recommendations.
12. The Committee considered the results of relevant surveys and consultations as part of the baseline reports that were considered as part of the review.

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Education related?

No

Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not ward specific.

Property

None