

Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee

A meeting of Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 10th November, 2010.

Present: Cllr Andrew Sherris(Chair), Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr D Cains(sub Cllr Jean O'Donnell), Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Mick Womphrey

Officers: Sean McEneaney, Hazel Grant, Martin Graham(CESC), Richard McGuckin, Reuben Kench, Graham Clingan, Chris Renahan, Richard Bradley, Neil Russell(DNS), Peter Mennear, Sarah Whaley(L&D)

Also in attendance: Cllr Terry Laing

Apologies: Cllr Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Sylvia Wlamsley

ALC 24/10 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hilary Aggio declared a personal non prejudicial interest in relation to item 4 - EIT Review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation as she had a membership with Tees Active.

CONCLUDED that the declarations be noted.

ALC 25/10 Draft minutes from the meeting held on the 18th October 2010

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting which was held on the 18th October 2010.

CONCLUDED that the minutes be approved.

ALC 26/10 Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Initial Progress Update

Members were asked to consider the assessments of progress contained within the attached Progress Report on the implementation of the recommendations from the Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation (EIT) gateway reviews of Adult Operations and Property and Facilities Management.

The Head of Adult Operations gave a brief overview of the attached report for the EIT gateway review of Adult Operations, and informed Members that the work which was currently being undertaken at the Halcyon Centre had been delayed slightly due to unforeseen structural issues. The delay would mean the targeted completion date of December 2010 would now slip to January 2011. The Head of Adult Operations also gave an update regarding progress on STEPS at Tithebarn and Bleinham House Care Home, both of which were still on target for completion.

The Head of Technical Services presented the Committee with the attached report for the EIT gateway review of Property and Facilities Management.

Members were reminded of the consolidated approach to the Management of the Council's Buildings Assets that the authority had adopted. Members were also informed of the effect this would have on some members of staff, and some posts which had been duplicated in the past were now redundant. The Committee heard that all relevant employees had been consulted.

The Head of Technical Services indicated to Members that there was also a projected saving of £150k to come out of smarter procurement which was heavily linked with the separate Procurement Review.

Members asked about the potential of schools with Academy status purchasing services from Stockton Borough Council in relation to Building and Property services, which could bring in some additional income. The Head of Technical Services explained that this could not be forced and would be their decision to make .

CONCLUDED that the progress reports be agreed.

**ALC
27/10**

Progress Update on Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members are 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 review of Tees Active and River Based Leisure.

Additional information in relation to the River Based Leisure report was distributed to members outlining details of a consultation with regard to views on the operation of the Tees Barrage Fish Pass, following concerns that had been raised with the Chair. A selection of key viewpoints had been gathered from River User Group (RUG) members in relation to the effectiveness of the Tees Barrage Fish Pass and the importance of migratory fish such as Salmon to the Tees, from both an environmental and marketing perspective.

Members noted the information and requested that a representative from the British Waterways attend a future meeting of Arts Leisure and Culture to discuss the matter further.

CONCLUDED that

1)the Progress Updates be agreed

2) the information in relation to the Tees Barrage fish Pass be noted and a representative from British Waterways be invited to a future meeting to discuss further.

**ALC
28/10**

Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation

The Committee were requested to consider the information provided, in order to finalise draft recommendations, in order for these to be included in a draft final report for the EIT review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation.

The Head of Culture and Leisure asked members to consider the additional information provided which was asked for at a previous Arts Leisure and Culture meeting held on the 18th October 2010, further detailing the option of reducing the subsidy for Option 3 users of Tees Active(TAL) facilities.

Members also discussed various points detailed within the attached report and concluded that they did not want any change to the current subsidy for Option 3 TAL users.

The Committee were then given a brief update with regards to the joint commissioning of Tees Active services across neighbouring authorities. Members heard that the relevant local councils had been contacted and the initial feedback had been positive. Initial consideration had been given to the legalities of using a single provider across multiple authorities. Redcar and Cleveland Council had already outsourced their Leisure activities and had a 2 year contract still to run with their current provider. The cashable savings would also be difficult to estimate until something had been put into place. Members were informed that the Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services was leading on this project.

The Countryside & Greenspace Development Manager asked members to consider the information contained within the report which was asked for at a previous Arts Leisure and Culture meeting held on the 18th October 2010.

Members discussed the information and deliberated over the implications which may occur if the Environmental Development Budget for 2010/2011 was reduced. Members suggested that they would not like to see this budget cut as it was considered to give local residents value for money and was able to deliver instant results to local projects albeit they may only be small.

The Care For Your Area Service Manager updated further on the work to transfer Billingham Beck Countryside Park and Cowpen Bewley Countryside Park to Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. The Trust was willing to take the matter further, however as it looked unlikely that staff could be TUPE transferred to the Trust, the Council's savings would come from further rationalisation of the Ranger Service. Savings were still not possible to be determined with certainty at this stage however.

CONCLUDED that the

1) reports be noted;

2) Committee did not support a reduction in subsidy for Option 3 users of Tees Active facilities;

3) Committee did not support a reduction to the Environmental Development budget;

4) Committee agreed to support further work to continue to develop joint commissioning of Tees Active with one or more Tees Valley authorities;

5) further work to continue in relation to the transfer of Billingham Beck and Cowpen site to Tees Valley Wildlife Trust be supported;

6) draft final report of the review be considered at the meeting of 24 November.