

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

22 July 2008

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director, Community Services
Leigh Keeble, Development Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

1. Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2008/9 – 2010/11 *(Assistant Director, Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

The report was presented in order to submit the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan for consideration by the Portfolio Holder.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report highlighted the direction of travel for the Adult and Community Services Department for the next three years. It was the second annual update and outlined progress on the previous year's work and enabled the department to ensure its ability to respond to new initiatives and legislation which may affect the Department or the Council. The Plan had been written in accordance with the agreed corporate format and had clear linkages with the Corporate Plan.

The following service plans were being developed in the overall Departmental Plan:-

- ✍ Older People
- ✍ Disabilities
- ✍ Mental Health
- ✍ Support Services

- ✍ Adult Education
- ✍ Libraries
- ✍ Sports and Recreation
- ✍ Museums and Heritage
- ✍ Parks and Countryside
- ✍ Strategic Arts
- ✍ Tall Ships 2010

The overall departmental plan contains the key priorities for the department for the next three years. These may change over time and will need to be reviewed and updated to reflect the changing priorities, therefore a revised Departmental Plan will be produced each year to be reviewed annually. A quarterly update would be brought to the Portfolio Holder. The Portfolio Holder asked whether there had been any negative feedback from the Plan but was informed by the Assistant Director that he was not aware of any.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder endorsed the Departmental Plan.

2. Mill House Leisure Centre – Learner Pool Operating Procedures *(Sport and Recreation Manager)*

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

The report sought to update the Portfolio Holder on recommendations/guidelines produced by the Health and Safety Executive in relation to minimum lifeguard numbers required to supervise swimming pools and approval for the adoption of these guidelines and hence an alteration in Learner Pool availability to the public.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Health and Safety Executive document 'Managing Health and Safety in Swimming Pools' sets the industry standards for several aspects of pool operations, including amongst other things, supervision arrangements.

As part of an ongoing review relating to the implementation of Quest quality assurance systems at Mill House Leisure centre, pool operations have been reviewed. Consequently options needed to be considered concerning the availability of the learner pool to the public to take account on available Lifeguards on duty in alignment with the guidance.

The issue specifically focused on the operation of the Learner Pool during

Adult only sessions. Learner Pool usage had been monitored over a ten week period and had been found to be relatively low with some customers being observed to only use it to wade through on the way back to the changing room facilities. Some use of the pool was made, however by those less able customers who may encounter some difficulties in entering the main pool. However adapted facilities were already available to assist those who may require help with access.

Three options were put forward, but two were discounted as one infringed Health and Safety guidance and the second had a financial impact.

The Portfolio Holder asked whether explanations would be given to users of the Leisure Centre and was informed that notifications would be put in place at the Leisure Centre.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the recommendations of the Health and Safety Executive in relation to the operation of swimming pools.

The Portfolio Holder approved the closure of the Learner Pool to the public during adult only sessions as follows:-

Mornings	Monday to Friday until 10.00 am
Evenings	Monday/Wednesday, Fridays from 9.00 pm until 10.00 pm Tuesday/Thursday from 8.45 pm until 9.45 pm

3. Loan of Painting ‘Gala Day at Newlyn’ by Stanhope Forbes *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to inform the Portfolio Holder of the possible loan of the painting ‘Gala Day at Newlyn’ by Stanhope Forbes.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Portfolio Holder

The report focused on the possible loan of the painting from the permanent collection for an exhibition about Newlyn, an artistic community at Penlee House Gallery and Museum, Penzance, Cornwall which is scheduled to take place in early 2009. The Portfolio Holder queried whether transport costs would be borne by Penlee House and was assured that this was so.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder gave approval for the loan of the painting.

4. Annual Diversity Report *(Development Officer)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to provide the Portfolio Holder with an update on diversity actions completed in 2007/2008 and to provide an overview of key diversity issues for 2008/2009.

Issue(s) for Consideration

Diversity issues are of paramount importance to the provision of services, which are fully inclusive and are provided equally to all sections of the community. Adult and Community Services is contributing to the self assessment process following the declaration by the Council of achieving the Level 3 Equality Standard for Local Government. The appendix to the report provided a summary of the key achievements and actions completed in 2007/2008.

The Portfolio Holder stated that he was pleased with the progress of Summerhill regarding the achievement of a Green Flag Award and thanked all staff who were involved with this.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the report.

5. Sports Development – Development of Outdoor Activities Team Building Trailer *(Assistant Director, Community Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to inform the Portfolio Holder of the development of a Team Building Trailer as part of Sports and Recreation's Sports Development Outdoor Activities Service.

Issue(s) for Consideration

A report had previously been submitted to the Portfolio Holder on 15 August 2006 outlining how the Outdoor Activities Service was an integral element of the Sports Development Team's service delivery.

The delivery of outdoor activities is recognised as requiring the full and thorough attention of highly trained and professional instructors in order that users can participate in a safe and appropriate manner but has been limited due to the participant to instructor ratio. However the concept of a mobile team building trailer was developed and through a shared funding partnership arrangement with Partnership Development Manager for Hartlepool's School Sport Partnership, the mobile trailer unit was developed at a cost of £2,000 creating a resource that could be placed at a school site and left for trained teachers to deliver.

The Unit offers the ability to deliver fourteen different activities and any teaching staff wishing to make use of the trailer have to be trained by the Outdoor Activities staff which is mandatory and a syllabus has been specifically developed to cover such as team development, speaking and listening skills.

To date four training days have been held for schools resulting in 31 trained teachers who can now make use of the service. The first two day hire period resulted in 163 children accessing the trailer, a participation figure far surpassing anything offered previously by the Outdoor Activities Service. Further bookings have been made for this financial year by Hartlepool schools for a total of 33 days.

The trailer has proved to be self sustaining through the level of income generated which to date amounts to £2,925.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder said that he was pleased with the use of the trailer showing that the Authority was able to give the community what it needed. He suggested that a certificate be presented to schools to show that they have participated in activities. The Portfolio Holder was informed that the activities experienced at the trailer tied in with items on the schools' curriculum and he stated that it was a very positive way to encourage pupils who might not otherwise be interested in activities.

6. Annual Complaints Report 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008 *(Assistant Director, Community Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

This report presented was the third Annual Complaints Report of the Adult and Community Services Department on complaints and representations for the period 1 April 2007 until 31 March 2008.

Issue(s) for Consideration

The report identified complaints and actions taken and lessons learned from these complaints.

The Portfolio Holder said that he was aware of a complaint relating to the water temperature of the Mill House Leisure Centre pool but was aware of the reasons behind the water being cold at that time of the evening. He stated that he was pleased that the number of complaints was not high and that some compliments had been received. He expressed his thanks to all staff in the Department.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder received the Report and noted the proposals for the development of the Complaints Framework contained in the report.

The meeting concluded at 10.20 am.

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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