

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

25th August 2009

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

Present:

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

Officers: Alan Dobby, Assistant Director (Support Services)
John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

1. Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2009-2010-2011/12 *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To submit the Departmental Plan for Adult and Community Services
Department for Portfolio Holder consideration

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report set out 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 while enabling the department to ensure its ability to respond to new initiatives and legislation which might affect the Department or 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:-

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

The overall departmental plan contained the key priorities for the department for the next three years. Naturally these would change over time and need to be reviewed and updated to reflect the changing priorities. As a revised Departmental Plan would be produced each year the overall priorities would be reviewed annually.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the BMX competitions which had been held at Summerhill, congratulating officers on their efforts. He went on to thank everyone involved in the preparation of the departmental plan and for their efforts on behalf of the people of Hartlepool, commenting that anyone who felt there was not enough to do in Hartlepool should look at this plan.

Decision

That the proposed Departmental Plan be endorsed.

2. Annual Diversity Report 2008/2009 (*Director of Adult and Community Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide the Portfolio Holder with an update on diversity actions completed in 2008/2009 and to provide an overview of key diversity issues for 2009/2010

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

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 contributed to the self assessment process which led to the Council achieving Level 3 Equality Standard for Local Government. A summary of the key achievements and actions completed in 2008/2009 was appended to the report along with a summary of the service plan diversity objectives for 2009/2010.

The Portfolio Holder commented that it was refreshing to see members of the older and younger generations and the disabled benefitting. The report demonstrated how much work was done for minority groups in Hartlepool. He thanked officers for their efforts.

Decision

That the Annual Diversity Report 2008-2009 be noted.

3. National Free Swimming Initiative – Progress and Update *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder concerning the roll-out of the National free swimming scheme and a successful capital funding application to refurbish elements of the Mill House Leisure Centre.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder had previously approved the Council's participation in the National free swimming initiative for Under 16s and Over 60s during 2009-2011 and acceptance of the associated funding offers from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Participation in both these schemes offered the opportunity to apply for capital funding via a competitive bid process and the Council had been successful in securing capital funding of £344,179, to be utilised for refurbishment and improvement works at Mill House Leisure Centre. Details were given within the report of the proposed refurbishment works, an estimation of the timescales involved and plans to ensure the continued operation of the Centre during the work. The report indicated that the total cost of the project would be £699,179 total and officers were confident that these costs could be met.

An update on the progress of the Free Swimming Initiative was also given. The Portfolio Holder was advised that during the first quarter of 2009-10 Adult swim participation had increased by 4.7% and under 16s by 16.3% when compared with the same period for 2008-09.

Decision

That the following be noted:

- I. The securing of capital grant funding from Sport England of £344,179 and SCRAPT of £350,000 for the refurbishment of the pool changing facilities and foyer/reception at Mill House Leisure Centre be noted
- II. The proposed refurbishment plans
- III. The increase in swim participation in the first quarter of 2009-10 since the free swimming initiative was introduced
- IV. The increase in "Pot 2" revenue funding allocated to Hartlepool to

fund Under 16s free swimming from £48,170 to £58,131 per annum for the period 2009-11

- V. The partnership funding of £20,000 during 2009-11 from the Primary Care Trust as a contribution towards the delivery of the Free Swimming Initiative.

The meeting concluded at 10:30 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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