

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

29th September 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: John Mennear, Assistant Director, Community Services
Graham Jarritt, Borough Librarian
Chris Wenlock, Parks and Countryside Manager
Stephen Cashman, Strategic Arts Manager
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

4. Playbuilder Project – Consultation, Site Selection and the Way Forward (*Parks and Countryside Manager*)

Type of Decision

Key – test ii applies

Purpose of Report

To update the Portfolio Holder on progress in delivering the project and request approval of the sites for implementation and delivery which have resulted from the public 'Site Consultation' exercise.

Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report outlined the intended purpose of Hartlepool's Playbuilder Project which was being delivered by the Parks and Countryside Section supported by the Children's Services Young People and Play Co-ordinator, to refurbish or develop 22 play areas over the next 2 years. It also outlined the public consultation process which had been undertaken to identify suitable Playbuilder sites within the Borough, the ongoing consultation and visioning exercises with able and non-able bodied children from across the Borough and exploration of what concepts work well in existing Play Building play areas in the North East region and how children use these play spaces. It also outlined the challenges and compromises faced in bringing the vision for Playbuilder play areas into reality. The report explained the need to embed the 'Risk-Benefit Assessment' process within Hartlepool's approach to play provision.

Finally, the report identified the sites that were recommended to be taken forward for delivery through the Hartlepool Playbuilder scheme.

The Portfolio Holder queried whether the visits to existing Playbuilder sites had already occurred and was informed that they had and had been a worthwhile exercise. The young people involved have produced material and ideas which will be incorporated into the material that would be taken out for public consultation. The Portfolio Holder agreed that it was important for young people to take ownership of the sites to ensure that vandalism would not occur.

It was clarified that the proposed site at Rossmere would be in the west end of the park. The Portfolio Holder expressed concerns at the site earmarked for the North Cemetery and was informed that the Authority could be flexible regarding the location of the year 2 sites although it was hoped that as these were not like current play sites, there would be no objection to their locations.

The Portfolio Holder agreed with the concept of the sites recognising the importance of play in children's lives and their opportunities to learn about risk.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:-

- Noted the community orientated public consultation process that had focussed on identifying suitable sites
- Noted the ongoing children's consultation
- Noted the challenges and compromises faced in bringing the visions for Playbuilder areas into reality
- Noted the need to embed the Risk – Benefit Assessment process within Hartlepool's approach to play provision
- Approved the year 1 and year 2 Playbuilder sites in the report for implementation and delivery, retaining the option to research alternative sites if a supplementary site became necessary and to discontinue sites to drop which were unsuitable for inclusion in the programme of work at this time.

5. Consideration of a Naturist Beach at Seaton Carew (Assistant Director – Community Services)

Type of Decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To consider a request from the Three Rivers Outdoor Club to establish a

naturist beach at Seaton Carew.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

An application had been received from the Three Rivers Club requesting that the Council consider designating the beach at the south end of Seaton Carew as a naturist beach. A copy of the letter was appended to the report. Issues and concerns raised by this request were outlined within the report and details of responses from Natural England and Cleveland Police included. Officers recommended that a site visit should be undertaken with all interested parties including representatives of the club, police and Natural England before any final decision was made by the Portfolio Holder.

The Portfolio Holder said that he had received a number of comments in relation to this application and that consideration should be given to other users of the beach.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the report and considered undertaking a site visit with the significant players and the Three Rivers Club to assist a final decision.

6. Hartlepool Cultural Strategy – 2009-2014 *(Strategic Arts Manager)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval and endorsement of the revised Cultural Strategy for the Borough 2009-2014.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Town's first cultural strategy was published in 2003 and developments since then required the production of a new strategy. The reviewed strategy was built through consultation across the Council's cultural services and associated partners. Details were given of the overall vision of the aim driving the strategy and the six strategic aims. The underpinning aim was to use provision of cultural opportunities and engagement with them as a means of contributing to the wider processes of enhancing wellbeing for all.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the strategy.

7. Libraries Opening Time Proposals for Christmas 2009 / New Year 2010 *(Borough Librarian)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To request approval by the Portfolio Holder for the proposed opening hours for libraries for the Christmas / New Year holiday period 2009/10

Issues for Consideration

Public consultation had taken place to measure public demand for libraries to be open over the festive period. The results of this had been used in conjunction with actual usage in previous year to ascertain optimum opening times as follows:

Christmas Eve – all branch libraries to close at 12.30pm, Central Library to close at 2.00pm

Sunday December 27th – all libraries closed

Tuesday December 29th and Wednesday December 30th – all libraries to close at 5.00pm

New Years Eve – all branch libraries to close at 12.30pm, Central Library to close at 2.00pm

These closures would be in addition to normal statutory holidays.

The Portfolio Holder queried whether the number of those who had returned the questionnaire reflected an accurate sample of library users and was informed that officers were assured that this number would give an accurate response.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the proposed opening times for Christmas/New Year 2009/10.

8. Annual Complaints Report 1 April 2008-31 March 2009 *(Assistant Director – Community Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To present the fourth Annual Complaints Report of the former Adult and Community Services Department on complaints and representations for the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009.

Issues for Consideration

It is a legal requirement that an annual report be published on complaints to be presented to the Portfolio Holder and made available staff, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and general public.

The report offered an opportunity to demonstrate learning that has occurred from complaints and also consideration of trends emerging through the year's activity within the complaints framework.

The content of the report included types of complaints and representations received 2008/09 and their outcomes as well as compliance with timescales, lessons learned and service improvements and an overview of the effectiveness of the framework.

The report provided an analysis of recorded complaints and representations and drew comparisons with the previous year.

Decision

The report was received by the Portfolio Holder and proposals for development of the Complaints Framework was noted.

9. The Big Mix 2009 – A Mini-Festival of Diversity *(Strategic Arts Manager)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of plans for the forthcoming mini-festival entitled 'The Big Mix 09'.

Issues for Consideration

The report outlined the rationale behind the series of events and a description of the planned events which were due to take place at the beginning of November. These included 5 events and performances with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of identifying and valuing difference, improve community cohesion, engage members of the community in the arts and enlighten, enhance and enrich people's lives.

The Portfolio Holder asked whether the number estimated to engage in the dance marathon would be achieved and was informed that it should.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report and wished the events every success.

The meeting concluded at 11.00 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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