

CULTURE, LEISURE & TOURISM PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

16 February 2010

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

Present:

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

Officers: Pat Usher, Sports and Recreation Manager
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

19. Mill House Leisure Centre – Refurbishment Works Progress and Consequent Building Closure Requirements – *Sport and Recreation Manager*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the current refurbishment programme at Mill House Leisure Centre and seek approval for a building closure allowing for some elements to be completed.

Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report updated the Portfolio Holder on progress with the ongoing refurbishment programme to the pool changing facilities and reception area. The programme, which having fallen behind schedule by four weeks had required an early start in the Reception area affecting the Centre's operation. This had already meant a temporary closure of the Health Suite area. However the pool was able to continue to operate by making use of the dry sports changing facilities located adjacent to the Pool Hall. Although the current works were causing inconvenience to the public, customers had been extremely tolerant and understanding of the situation and looking forward to the improved facilities.

The Portfolio report of 25 August 2009 had indicated a full closure of the Centre would be needed at some point in the works programme and detail of these proposed dates was now given for consideration

and approval by the Portfolio Holder. Since the earlier report other essential maintenance work had been highlighted as needing attention.

The report also gave information of a further £82,000 capital grant funding secured from Sport England, again as part of the Government's Free Swim Initiative and the match funding element requirement of £95,000 from the Strategic Capital Resource and Asset Programme Team (SCRAPT). This is to specifically replace the combined heating and power system which was failing and to refurbish some elements of the mechanical plant.

Details were also given of £48,000 secured from Communities for Health to replace the existing fitness room equipment which had been in place for almost 16 years and required updating. Reasons for the proposed relocation of the existing fitness area to a larger, currently redundant area of the Centre were outlined.

It was proposed that the Centre be closed to allow the draining of the pool to facilitate work on overhauling of valves on the mechanical plant as well as tiling repairs to the pool. This would also afford an opportunity for staff training.

The Portfolio Holder said that he had visited the Mill House Leisure Centre to appraise himself of the ongoing works and that it would be beneficial to customers as well as the staff working at the Centre. He agreed that the relocation of the Fitness Suite into the unused cafeteria area was a positive idea and that the CCTV installed in the centre would provide an element of safety for customers and staff. He thanked those involved in the work.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder :-

- Noted the progress made with the ongoing refurbishment programme at Mill House Leisure centre due for completion at the beginning of April 2010
- Noted the further capital grant funding secured from Sport England of £82,000 and SCRAPT of £95,000 for the replacement of the combined heating and power system and overhauling of some mechanical plant valves as well as £48,000 from Communities for Health for new fitness room equipment
- Approved the closure of Mill House Leisure Centre during the period of Monday, 1 March 2010 to Friday, 12 March 2010 inclusive to allow for elements of the work to be carried out
- Noted that there may be a requirement for short temporary closure periods thereafter

20. Child and Adult Services Departmental Plan 2009/2010 – 3rd Quarter Monitoring Report – Sport and Recreation Manager

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2009/10 in the first three quarters of the year.

Issues for Consideration

The report summarised the progress against the actions contained in the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2009.2010, the third quarter outturns of key performance indicators and associated risks.

There were no actions or Performance Indicators which were not expected to be achieved by the year end.

The Portfolio Holder agreed with the statement in the report in relation to risk monitoring that the purpose of the risk register was not to remove all risks as this was neither possible nor desirable, but to ensure that potential losses were prevented or minimised and rewards were maximised. He thanked staff for their input.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the achievement of key actions and third quarter outturns of performance indicators.

21. London 2012 Inspire Mark Recognition – “Ready, Steady Walk! Your Journey to the Games” – Director of Child & Adult Services

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of a new Sports Development Initiative launched in January 2010 which following a recent application to the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG)

has been awarded 'Inspire Mark' accreditation.

Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report gave details of one of our newest developments in the drive to increase sport and physical activity participation in Hartlepool – “Ready, Steady, WALK! Your Journey to the Games”. This was specifically aimed at 4 – 11 year olds in their respective participating Primary Schools.

Information was also given on the Inspire Mark Programme which London 2012 was using to 'badge' specific projects inspired by the Games. Details of the accreditation criteria were given along with information on a successful application to have the project recognised as one that could bring about significant change.

The project had been designed to take place in Hartlepool's Primary Schools primarily as a tool to raise activity levels of children aged 4 – 11 years and would involve participants collectively walking agreed distances. Commencing in January 2010 and running until September, the starting point would be a city previously hosting the Olympics/Paralympics in the modern era with the ultimate aim of reaching London in time for the Olympic/Paralympic Games. Distances would be marked on playgrounds or school fields for children to measure how far they had walked. Cultural aspects of their chosen host city or any other cities they encountered on the way would also be explored thus enabling other curriculum subjects to be covered. Resource packs were being made available to participating schools as part of the scheme.

The Portfolio Holder said that it was very good news that the town's children had the opportunity to become involved in something like this. He suggested that a competitive aspect could be introduced in the scheme between schools and the Sports and Recreation Manager agreed to look into this possibility.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:-

- Noted the details concerning the recently launched 'Ready Steady WALK! Your journey to the Games' programme
- Noted the successful accreditation of the programme by LOCOG having being awarded Inspire Mark as part of the London 2012 legacy plan

The meeting concluded at 10.27 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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