

# **CULTURE, LEISURE & TOURISM PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD**

16 November 2010

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

**Present:**

Councillor Hilary Thompson (Culture, Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Child and Adult Services)  
Chris Scaife, Countryside Access Officer  
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

## **12. Christmas and New Year Opening Arrangements – Sport and Recreation Facilities – Assistant Director (Child and Adult Services)**

**Type of Decision**

Non key.

**Purpose of Report**

To request the approval for the Portfolio Holder for the proposed public opening hours of the Department's sport and recreation facilities over the Christmas and New Year period of 2010/2011.

**Issues for Consideration by the Portfolio Holder**

The Single Status Agreement introduced in 2007 related to the local working arrangement of Council staff requiring them to take holiday between the Christmas and New Year holiday period. However, Sport and Recreation facilities, for example Mill House Leisure Centre, have normally remained open during this period, closing early on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and only close fully on the statutory bank holidays. Due to the pattern of Bank Holidays this year and analysis of usage over previous years there had been a suggestion for revised opening hours. These were detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and would be advertised to avoid confusion for members of the public.

It was clarified for the Portfolio Holder that members of staff who did not have holidays left to cover this period would be deployed elsewhere.

## **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder approved the proposed opening and closure hours to operate for the Christmas and New Year holiday period 2010/2011 at the Department's sport and recreation facilities.

### **13. Community Pool – 2010/2011 – Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre – Assistant Director (Child and Adult Services)**

This item had been dealt with at the last portfolio holder meeting.

### **14. Mill House Leisure Centre – Review of Swimming Admissions Policy for Children – Sport and Recreation Manager**

#### **Type of Decision**

Non key.

#### **Purpose of Report**

To request the Portfolio Holder to approve a revision to the Swimming Admissions policy for children at Mill House Leisure Centre.

#### **Issues for Consideration**

The existing Swimming Admissions policy for children was originally set at the time in relation to available industry standard guidance provided by the Institute of Sport and Recreation Management (ISRM) in 2002.

However, since the changes to the operation of the pools, new changing village and the availability of more recent guidance documentation from the ISRM, the opportunity to review the admissions policy had been taken and proposed amendments were :-

*A responsible person must accompany all children under the age of eight years as follows:-*

- *Between the ages of four and seven years, children must be accompanied by a minimum of one adult to two children*
- *In the main pool, children aged under the age of four years must be accompanied on a one to one basis*
- *In the learner pool only, children under the age of four years can be accompanied on a one adult to two children basis, but both children must wear flotation devices.*

The Portfolio Holder stated that it would be helpful for parents to be able to take two small children into the learner pool and changes to the policy

assisted by the upgrading of the facilities, may encourage more use of the pools.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder approved the revised Swimming Admissions policy for children at Mill House Leisure Centre and further approved the immediate implementation of the policy.

## **15. Coastal Access – Durham Coastline – Countryside Access Officer**

### **Type of Decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of Report**

To brief the Portfolio Holder of Natural England's decision to place the fifth Coastal Access Pilot Lead Scheme along the Durham Coastline – from Sunderland (south of the River Wear) to Hartlepool (Seaton Carew).

### **Issues for Consideration by the Portfolio Holder**

Natural England had recently informed the local authorities of Sunderland City Council, Durham County Council and Hartlepool Borough Council of the decision to award the fifth (of five) Coastal Access Lead Pilot Scheme, jointly, to the Durham Coast following the decision of East Yorkshire Council not to join the scheme as a pilot area. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 was made law to allow the provision of a coastal access path around the whole of the English Coastline and there was funding of between £20 and £25 million pounds for the national project unaffected by the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

It is envisaged that the Hartlepool coastal path would stretch from Crimdon Beck to the North Gare car park south of Seaton Carew. There is to be a meeting of all representatives of the five pilot lead authorities planned for 30 November 2010 and the scheme would commence in April 2011. Natural England would use professional assistance from the Local Access staff on a pay as you go basis.

The Portfolio Holder queried whether gates and stiles would be upgraded because of the scheme and was informed that where possible, stiles would be replaced by self closing gates or 'kissing gates' to ensure easier access. It was clarified that the path did not go through any farm land on which livestock was kept.

The Portfolio Holder stated that this would be an asset to local communities, the economy and tourism.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio noted the contents of the report.

## **16. Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2010/2011 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Monitoring Report – Assistant Director (Child and Adult Services)**

### **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 2010/11 in the first two quarters of the year.

### **Issues for Consideration by the Portfolio Holder**

The report outlined the progress against the actions contained in the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2010/11, the second quarter outturns of key performance indicators and associated risks.

Of the 15 Actions, 2 had been completed and the rest were on target to be completed with the agreed timescale. In relation to the Performance Indicators, none were expected not to be achieved.

### **Decision**

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

The meeting concluded at 10.20 am.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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