

# **CHILDREN'S AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD**

8 January 2013

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

**Present:**

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's and Community Services Portfolio Holder)

Also Present: Councillor Chris Simmons

Officers: Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer  
John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)  
Sally Robinson, Assistant Director (Prevention, Safeguarding  
and Specialist Services)  
Rachael White, Democratic Services Officer

## **44. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to serve on School Governing Bodies** *(Assistant Director (Child and Adult Services))*

**Type of decision**

Non-key decision

**Purpose of report**

To request consideration and approval of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school governing bodies where interest has been expressed in the vacancies.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Governor Support Officer submitted a schedule setting out details of current Governing Body vacancies together with applications received in respect of those vacancies which was considered by the General Purposes Committee at the meeting on 10 December 2012.

**Decision**

That the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school Governing Bodies be approved.

**45. Fees and charges increase 2013/14** (*Assistant Director (Child and Adult Services)*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To provide the annual review of fees and charges proposed for 2013/14 and provide commentary upon those pricing categories which are demonstrating a significant increase or change.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Assistant Director (Community Services) reported that Community Services and Parks and Countryside were heavily reliant upon earned income from a wide variety of fees and charges to maintain service levels and opportunities across Hartlepool. The current list of charges was over 700 strong and was reviewed regularly. Fees and charges were generally increased by inflation and rounded up. The fees and charges proposed for 2013/14 showed a combination of a difficult trading environment, a need to maintain market share and attraction of additional footfall. The Assistant Director (Community Services) reported that this applied to many of the sporting venues, cultural venues and facilities and that many of the prices in these areas were frozen for the forthcoming year. Where prices were increased, it was inline with the 2.5% inflation trend.

The Portfolio Holder expressed the importance of trying to keep prices as low as possible in the current economic climate. The Portfolio Holder also highlighted that facilities such as the Historic Quay's Maritime Experience needed to be reinvested in if possible in order to continue to attract visitors. The Assistant Director reported that the facility had been refurbished in 2009 which gave a short term spike in interest and that the department were looking to make further changes. However this would be very costly and would not be viable in the near future. The Officer also advised that the department were looking into the possibility of having more events in the Historic Quay, especially education based.

**Decision**

That the revised schedule of fee and charge increases for 2013/14 be approved.

**46. INSPIRE** (*Assistant Director (Child and Adult Services)*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key decision

### **Purpose of report**

To inform of the intention to submit a grant application to The Big Lottery – Reaching Communities England in respect of the Inspire project – a joint project between the Culture and Information and Youth Services sections of Hartlepool Borough Council.

To request endorsement for the young people to lead a bid to the Young Roots strand of Heritage Lottery in relation to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War I.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Assistant Director (Community Services) gave details of the plans to expand the INSPIRE brand used by the sport and physical activity team into a wider jointly delivered programme. 180 young people had been consulted with a 14 strong core representative group developing funding and organising events. Details were given of the proposed projects which would be based over a 3 year period. An outline proposal requesting £308,686 had been prepared for Reaching Communities England while £40,000 was expected to be sought from Young Roots.

The Portfolio Holder welcomed the potential of the INSPIRE project and highlighted the importance of individuals being acknowledged for their hard work and development within the town.

### **Decision**

That the project was to be endorsed.

## **47. Short Breaks (previously Aiming High for Disabled Children) Capital Funding** *(Assistant Director (Child and Adult Services))*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval for Short Breaks Capital Funding to be spent on redesigning space at Exmoor Grove to provide a private area for children permanently living there and to support refurbishment of Stockton Road Children's Home to ensure it meets Disability Discrimination Act requirements.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Assistant Director (Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services) advised that £64,970 worth of capital funding had been made available to Short Breaks, a programme designed to give families with disabled children

support to live ordinary family lives. A request was made to allocate £31,100 to Exmoor Grove to fund internal and external alterations and extensions. Approval was also requested from the allocation of £33,870 to Stockton Road Children's Home to improve disabled access.

The Assistant Director (Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services) explained that there was a young person currently living at Exmoor Grove receiving long term care and that some of the alterations to the building would be to accommodate his individual situation. The Officer reported that the department considered it was adequately preparing for any increase in the need to provide long term care and that it was investigating the possibilities of permanent care provision.

The Portfolio Holder welcomed the report and acknowledged the work of the staff in this area.

### **Decision**

That the spending of the Short Breaks Capital Funding on Exmoor Grove and Stockton Road Children's Home be approved.

## **48. Sport and Physical Activity Team – six month progress report** *(Assistant Director (Child and Adult Services))*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To inform and update on the work of the Sport and Physical Activity Team, part of the Council's Sport and Recreation Service.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Assistant Director (Community Services) gave details of the work programmes and key achievements of the Sport and Physical Activity team between April 2012 and September 2012.

In reference to the Street League Football project, the Portfolio Holder queried why this project was held at Grayfields Recreation Ground. The Assistant Director (Community Services) advised that the project was initially set up to target a specific group of children and young people with the aim to keep them off the streets and provide activities for them to take part in. It was also queried why there were only 9 schools involved in the Learn to Swim Programme and clarification was sought as to whether all primary school children were given the opportunity to learn to swim. The Assistant Director (Community Services) advised that all primary schools provided this service however they were able to use different facilities such as leisure centres and also some secondary schools who would often allow the use of the school swimming pool, especially for their feeder schools. It

was hoped that in the coming year, some primary schools will be returning to the Council's scheme again.

The Portfolio Holder welcomed the report, expressing that all the people involved in the projects and schemes should be congratulated on their efforts.

**Decision**

That the work of the Sport and Physical Activity Team be noted.

The meeting concluded at 11.00am

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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