

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

2nd September 2008

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman), Councillor Grant (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Harrison, Hewlett, Murray, Mrs. Patten and Roberts.

**Labour Group**

Councillors Dunn, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lane, Rhind and Shepherd.

**In Attendance**

Councillor Mrs. Farrington (Conservative Group) and Councillors Lane and Richards (Labour Group).

HCS/14. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th June 2008 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman reported the success of 'Get Active in the Forest', based at Rosliston Forestry Centre for receiving the 'Best Sports Project Award' from the National Lottery, and also the 'Green Flag Award'. He expressed his appreciation and thanks on behalf of the Committee to all officers, volunteers and supporters of this project.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

HCS/15. **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (1st APRIL 2008 – 30th JUNE 2008)**

A report was submitted detailing performance levels and achievements for the year ending 30th June 2008, in relation to this Committee's contribution to the four key strands of the Council's Performance Management Framework. The detail of the report looked at the key achievements made in the last quarter. Actual/outturn performance was reported, together with Best Value Performance Indicators.

Members asked questions on item 1.10 under the sub-heading 'Tackling Anti-social Behaviour'. It was confirmed that Safer Neighbourhood Wardens could issue enforcement notices. Further information was given on this item, including the current staffing situation.

Further information was requested on duties and levels of training that the District Council's Park-keepers had received. The Head of Leisure and Community Development agreed to provide this information directly to Members of this Committee.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) ***That the key achievements and performance for the quarter ending 30th June 2008 within the Committee's areas of responsibility be noted***

- (2) That Members note where performance has failed to achieve the specified target and accept the responses submitted.**

HCS/16. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee was asked to consider the introduction of a work programme. This was to enable Members to discuss and shape future agenda content, whilst ensuring that they received reports in a timely manner, to comply with statutory and other obligations. A draft work programme was submitted as an Annexe to the report.

**RESOLVED:**

***That a work programme approach be adopted to shape agenda content and that reports be submitted to each Meeting to update the work programme.***

HCS/17. **FREE SWIMMING OFFER**

A report was submitted advising Members that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) had released details on the Government's proposed 'Free Swimming Scheme'. This aimed to increase participation in physical activity by both older and younger people. The scheme was fully summarised within in the report.

It was also confirmed that this scheme was only funded for two years and no decision would be made on future funding until after the Government's next Comprehensive Spending Review. Consequently, it was important that the scheme was only promoted as a two year programme with an expectation that changes might have to be introduced after 2011.

Members asked if any reciprocal arrangements could be made with neighbouring authorities, to ensure that all areas within the District could take advantage of this offer. The Head of Leisure and Community Development confirmed that he had a meeting arranged where this would be considered.

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Council's involvement in the offer of free swimming for over 60 year olds and the expression of interest in the offer of swimming for under 16 year olds be approved.***

HCS/18. **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE ARTS PROJECT**

A report was submitted advising Members that both the Council's Corporate Plan and the Local Strategic Partnership's Community Strategy contained aims, references and actions indicating the importance of artistic and cultural opportunities to South Derbyshire. In addition, Leisure and Community Development service planning had been informed by a series of needs analysis studies. These included the junior needs survey, which highlighted dance and drama as a requirement in rural locations, the youth needs survey which highlighted dance as an activity that teenage girls wished to take part in, plus the early results from the elderly peoples' survey, which supported anecdotal evidence from the Over 50's Forum, that the

development of dance and music activities were needed by this sector of the population.

South Derbyshire was currently the only district within Derbyshire that did not benefit from a dedicated post supporting arts development. Despite this, the Leisure and Community Service had commissioned or supported several arts-based projects for the benefit of local residents. Based on the evidence, need, demand and strategic context, an application was made for £35,000 for arts lottery funding in 2007 and notification of a successful bid was received in June 2008. The proposed project had three main strands:-

- Dance and young people.
- Combined arts.
- Arts-based activity for older people.

The overall project budget of £151,000 included contributions from the School Sport Partnership, Derbyshire PCT, Safer South Derbyshire Partnership, the Youth Opportunities Fund, anticipated income from events, and revenue and in-kind support from the Council. The Arts Council funding of £35,000 would specifically support the employment of a part-time temporary post of Arts Development Officer.

Members asked, with regards to the £151,000 overall project budget, if a breakdown of this figure was available. The Head of Leisure and Community Development agreed to circulate this to Members of the Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

***(1) That the award of £35,000 from the Arts Lottery Fund be noted.***

***(2) That Finance and Management Committee be recommended to approve the appointment of a temporary part-time Arts Development Officer.***

HCS/19. **ENERGY PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES**

A report was submitted informing Members of the actions being undertaken to comply with the legal requirement to produce Energy Performance Certificates.

Background information was given on the introduction of Energy Performance Certificates and a full implementation timetable was also included. Further details were also provided on the requirements for rented domestic properties, right to buy properties and public buildings.

**RESOLVED:-**

***(1) That the report be noted.***

***(2) That a further report be submitted if necessary, based on the experience of operating the scheme.***

HCS/20. **BRETBY CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:-**

*That the Open Minutes of the Bretby Crematorium Joint Committee Meeting held on 6th November 2007, be received.*

HCS/21. **ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:-**

*That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee held on 28th April 2008 be received and noted.*

HCS/22. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RESOLVED:-**

*That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.*

**MINUTES**

*The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th June 2008 were received.*

**EMPLOYMENT OF TEMPORARY PRINCIPAL QUANTITY SURVEYOR (Paragraph 1)**

*The Committee made a recommendation to the Finance and Management Committee to approve, for a temporary period (up to 12 months) the post of Part-Time Principal Quantity Surveyor.*

**BEST VALUE REVIEW OF STRATEGIC HOUSING SERVICES (Paragraph 3)**

*The Committee noted the result of the Audit Commission's Best Value Review of Strategic Housing Services and approved the delivery of the Improvement Plan.*

**ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (Paragraph 1)**

*The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting of the Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee held on 28th April 2008 were received and noted.*

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN