

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12th May 2010

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Jones (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Farrington (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Mrs. Hood and Mrs. Plenderleith.

Labour Group

Councillor Lane.

Councillors Mrs. Brown, Lemmon and Mrs. Patten were also in attendance at the Meeting and, with the authority of the Chairman, spoke to item No. 6 – Etwall Leisure Centre – Community Use (Minute No. OS/33).

OS/31. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Bambrick and Mrs. Mead (Labour Group).

OS/32. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Special Meeting and of the Ordinary Meeting, both held on 24th March 2010 were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chairman.

OS/33. **ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE – COMMUNITY USE**

Members of the Committee had undertaken a tour of Etwall Leisure Centre's facilities immediately prior to the Meeting. Members were reminded that, under Minute No. OS/13 (2) of 9th December 2009, it had been agreed to undertake a six monthly review of the community's use of Etwall Leisure Centre.

A presentation was provided by Stuart Batchelor, Head of Leisure and Community Development, Hannah Barradell-Smith, Support and Youth Development Manager and Steve Wright, Leisure Centre Manager, outlining the results of a recently undertaken customer satisfaction survey. Details were provided of responses to the survey; leisure centre users; frequency of customer visits; facilities used; customer travel arrangements; rating of services provided, including areas of strong performance and those requiring improvements. It was concluded that the respondents were generally of the opinion that the Leisure Centre was performing well, and several areas had been identified with specific good performance. Further areas had been identified where enhancements could be made to improve users' perceptions

of the Leisure Centre. As requested by the Leisure Centre Manager, customers had also expressed a preference regarding the swimming pool lane layout.

The usage figures identifying the various categories of activity and the total number of participations for the last two quarters, together with total usage figures since the new Leisure Centre opened on 5th August 2009 were provided. Further details then provided on membership; use of changing facilities; notable achievements; partnership working and award recognition. Programming of a variety of classes and schemes was discussed, together with future events.

The Committee had previously been advised that the Leisure Centre's budget was projected to be overspent by £100,000. However, the outturn was expected to be closer to the original budget expenditure, equating to an approximate cost to the Council of 55p per user. The tremendous effort by Leisure Centre staff to increase income levels and control costs was acknowledged.

Arising from the presentation, Members of the Committee and those in attendance raised a number of issues, to which detailed responses were provided. The areas discussed included hours of opening for community use; the possible provision of user loyalty cards; additional activities for the over 50's, young mums and pre-school children and teenage boys; further negotiation with John Port School to access additional daytime community use; car parking issues and public access in the day to changing room facilities during term time.

At 6.45 p.m., Councillor Atkin left the Meeting.

It was agreed:-

- (1) To note the detailed report provided, together with Members' comments.**
- (2) To receive the budget outturn figures for the Leisure Centre with the end of year accounts at the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 30th June 2010.**
- (3) That a further review of the community's use of Etwall Leisure Centre, together with an update of the Centre's progress at a national level, be undertaken in six months time.**

OS/34. **BROADBAND – REVIEW REPORT**

Under Minute No. OS/28 of 24th March 2010, it had been agreed that Officers revisit the wording of some of the recommendations within the Broadband Review report. The document had been updated for the Committee's final consideration. The Chairman raised the issue of external funding. In considering the updated report, it was noted that there was no inclusion of the commitment by BT to upgrade broadband within the Swadlincote area. The possibility of acquiring funds from Section 106 payments; the provision of

superfast broadband to rural communities in line with existing facilities for some schools and encouraging parish councils to begin raising funds towards improved broadband provision, were also discussed.

Nigel Glossop, Head of IT and Business Improvement and Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith were thanked for their work on this review area.

It was agreed:-

- (1) That the Committee approves the Broadband Review Report and agrees the recommendations contained within it, subject to Members' comments as detailed above.**
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, to approve any further, minor amendments to the report within the next few days.**
- (3) That the review report be submitted to the next Meeting of the Environmental and Development Services Committee for its consideration.**

OS/35. **CRIME AND DISORDER – UPDATES FROM TASK GROUPS – REVIEW OF SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS FUNDING SCHEME**

Under Minute No. OS/25 of 24th March 2010, the Committee agreed a series of recommendations. Task groups were appointed to review the Safer Neighbourhood Funding Scheme's current application form, guidance notes and associated correspondence. Other areas for review comprised existing quarterly/annual deadlines; the maximum amount of funding per project; the post-christmas big pot and advance payments of grants. The task groups had now met and their findings were reported. Members were apprised of the recommendations that had arisen from the review in relation to each area. It was suggested that the term "capital expenditure" in paragraph 9 (1) on page 4 of the applicant's guidance notes, required further detailed explanation.

Chris Smith, the Safer Communities Manager, thanked the Committee for its support in the exercise.

It was agreed that the Committee accepts the review of the Safer Neighbourhood Funding Scheme and recommends to the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership the proposed amendments to the Scheme, the associated application form and guidance notes.

OS/36. **ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10**

Members received a copy of the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which had been presented in draft form to the previous Meeting (Minute No. OS/29 refers). It was suggested that Members advise Officers of any final amendments considered necessary to the Report within the next few days.

It was agreed:-

- (1) That delegated authority be given to Officers in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, to undertake any final minor amendments to the Annual Report.**
- (2) That, subject to (1) above, the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2009/10 be approved and submitted to the Annual Council Meeting.**

OS/37. **WORK PROGRAMME**

It was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed an annual work programme, which was reviewed at each Meeting. A copy of the Committee's final work programme for the current municipal year was submitted for Members' consideration.

It was proposed to hold a focus session on Tuesday, 15th June 2010, to enable Members to discuss the proposed review areas for the year ahead, to scope reviews and to consider the requirements for task group working. The outcome of the focus session would be reported to the first Meeting of the new municipal year for formal approval.

It was agreed:-

- (1) That the work programme report attached at Annexe "SMB1" to the Signed Minute Book be received and noted.**
- (2) That the focus session proposed for Tuesday, 15th June 2010, to discuss review areas for the following municipal year, be approved.**

The Chairman thanked all Members of the Committee and Officers for their efforts on Overview and Scrutiny reviews throughout the year.

C. JONES

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.45 p.m.