

Minutes of: **PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (LEISURE)**

Date of Meeting: 19 October 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Sandiford (Chair)
Councillors Crawforth, Lamb, Neal (part of the meeting),
and Stansfield (part of the meeting)

IN ATTENDANCE: Phil Seddon, Head of Finance
Mike Riley, Communities Manager
Carolyn Sharples, Acting Committee and Member
Services Manager
Martin Kay, Acting Chief Executive, Rossendale Leisure
Trust
Norman Hauserman, Chair, Rossendale Leisure Trust
Kris Barker, Collaborative Research and Consultation
Service (CRACS)
Councillor Brian Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and
Resources
Councillor Jason Gledhill, Portfolio Holder for Leisure
Councillor Aldred

ALSO PRESENT: 2 members of the public
1 representative of the press

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L.Barnes and Thorne, Bernard Divine, Co-opted Member and Ian Cameron, invitee.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 6 August 2009 be approved as a correct record.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lamb declared a personal interest as she was a Member of the Bacup Leisure Hall Review Panel.

5. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to report.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were raised.

7. 2009 LEISURE REVIEW

The Communities Manager presented an update on the key tasks of the 2009 Leisure Review. He highlighted the continued work on each of the key actions under the review and updated members on the progress of the review panels as detailed in the appendices.

The Communities Manager welcomed Kristian Barker of the Collaborative Research and Consultation Service who would be presenting the findings of the culture survey to members.

At the previous meeting it was reported that Knight, Kavannagh and Page (KKP) consultants would be attending to report on their findings, however this had been moved to the next meeting where a more robust report would be available. This was to allow additional meetings to take place with key agencies and partners.

The Communities Manager informed the committee that this would not delay the delivery of the final report to Cabinet on the 17th December, and that the Cabinet would be making their recommendations on the report at this meeting with the final decision to be ratified at Full Council in February.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure noted the work and efforts to advertise and support ideas for Bacup Leisure Hall. The process for investing in the ski slope had started and would take course over the next few weeks.

In response to a question from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources the Chair of Rossendale Leisure Trust and Acting Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust confirmed that staff pay rises followed in line with those of the Council.

Members of the public asked questions in relation to the following:

- Linking expenditure to income and looking at profit to offset costs
- At what point CLAW would be involved

In response to these questions the Communities Manager confirmed that the KKP report would present a number of options and will cover issues such as expenditure and income, and CLAW would also be incorporated into the report.

The Chair of Rosendale Leisure Trust questioned at what point they would see the report to which the Communities Manager confirmed that the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Leisure) would get the report at the next meeting and that he would be liaising with the Leisure Trust prior to that on the report.

The Chair asked a question regarding the Prior Information Notices (PIN). The Communities Manager confirmed that the PIN notice was a requirement which was part of the European Union treaty to allow other EU countries to bid into the process.

Resolved:

- That the contents of the report be noted as well as the work undertaken to date in delivering Option H.

8. CULTURE IN ROSSENDALE PRESENTATION

Kristian Barker of the Collaborative Research Consultation Service delivered a presentation on the Leisure and Culture Review 2009. He informed members of who had taken part in the review and gave an overview of the breakdown of participant in relation to the profile of the population. He also detailed the responses on questions concerning outdoor activities, arts and culture, taking part and impact.

The Chair thanked Mr Barker for giving the presentation and informed that at a recent democracy event there had been an emphasis on outdoor activities similar to the findings of the survey.

Members of the public asked questions in relation to the following to which Mr Barker responded:

- How the statistics were used and view from different areas of the valley
- The percentage of the population surveyed
- Investment or cost

Members of the committee asked questions in relation to the following:

- The statistics on page 15 in relation to Bacup Leisure Hall
- How surveys were delivered
- Types of activities listed in the survey
- Validity of the survey and number of responses
- Returns on behalf of groups/ group responses

In response to questions Mr Barker confirmed that there had been enough responses for the survey to be valid and that area specific results could be found if the survey was analysed in more detail. The Communities Manager confirmed that the survey had been delivered in

number of ways including by email, on the web site, to citizens panels, notice boards, Members Bulletin and through the various partner organisations as well as in the press. The Portfolio Holder for Leisure informed that this would be just one aspect of the consultation process and that there were lots of other opportunities to participate in the consultation process which would feed into the final report in December.

9. ROSSENDALE LEISURE TRUST: HIGHLIGHT REPORT

Martin Kay, Acting Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust updated members on the current position in relation to the short-term action plans for each of the Trust's facilities. As part of the update he informed members that they had a new venture at Haslingden with Alliance Leisure regarding toning beds, the opening hours of Ski Rossendale had been extended and they were also looking for support for walking schemes.

Norman Hauserman, the Chair of Rossendale Leisure Trust updated members on the finances for each of the Trust's facilities. He informed members that although the ski slope was making a profit in 2005, it was now making a loss and there were issues in relation to investment and value for money. He updated members of the good work that was being achieved through GP referrals and also coaching sessions. He also reported that there had been an impact with the opening of the Chill Factor and that staff motivation was low due to the uncertainty of the facility.

Members of the committee raised questions and discussed the following to which the Acting Chief Executive and Chair of Rossendale Leisure Trust responded:

- Assumptions made on the first draft of the budget
- Summer activities programme and attendances
- Percentage used in this year's budget for staff pay rises
- Bookings at Bacup Leisure Hall
- Council had stated they had no plans to close the ski slope
- Added value of healthy lifestyles and employment
- Capacity of schemes
- Staff morale
- Good work commended

In response to a question on staff pay rises the Acting Chief Executive agreed to forward details of the percentage used in this year's overheads figures to the Head of Finance. The Chair of Rossendale Leisure Trust responded to a question raised at the previous meeting in relation to Capital Expenditure.

The Chair informed that the next meeting would be the final meeting of the Leisure Scrutiny Committee and would commence at 6.00pm on 2nd December at Hardman Mill.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed
(Chair)

Date.....