

Minutes of: POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 12 June 2007

**Present: Councillor J Farquharson (Chair)
Councillors L Barnes (for F Lynskey), A Cheetham (for
M Ormerod), C Pilling, T Swain (for P Steen)**

**In Attendance: Ilona Snow-Miller, Head of Community and Partnerships
Martin Kay, Healthy Lifestyles Manager, Rossendale
Leisure Trust
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer**

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, indicating that like most members of the Committee she too was new to Scrutiny and looked forward to working with Members over the next 12 months.

The Chair informed Members that training for new members would be held prior to the Council Meeting on 27 June at Hardmans Mill. Additional training would be held for those members unable to attend on the 27th June.

Members were informed that the Task and Finish Group set up to look at Public Conveniences would be holding its first meeting shortly.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Haworth, A Hewlett, F Lynskey, M Ormerod, P Steen.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd February 2007 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4. URGENT ITEMS

There were no items of urgent business.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In response to a question about funding for leisure facilities, the Head of Community and Partnerships indicated that the Council had paid consultants to undertake a fundamental review of leisure and that they had carried out demographic research which had evidenced that we have the correct number of, and locations of, facilities in the Borough for the population and the topography of the Valley.

Councillor Swain highlighted that the Council would take a strategic approach to leisure to ensure provision for everyone in the Borough.

7. SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY

The Committee considered a joint report of the Head of Community and Partnerships and the Head of Lifestyles Team of Rossendale Leisure Trust. The Head of Community and Partnerships indicated that there was general poor health within the Borough.

The Cultural Theme Group of the Rossendale Partnership had been developing a Sports and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) over the past two years. The purpose of the SPAA was to encourage more people into physical activity and thereby improve health and well being across the Borough. The Council was one of a number of key players within the SPAA, however the main membership was from across the sporting clubs within the Valley.

The Council's aim was for 30% of the Borough involved in some form of activity for 30 minutes three times a week by 2012. The Sports and Physical Activity Alliance's aim is a 1% increase year on year.

Through having a SPAA the Council had been awarded £21,000, which could lead to an additional £150,000. A proposal would be presented to the Cabinet that the £21,000 should go direct to the SPAA to help bring in the additional money.

Members provided very positive comments in relation to the Strategy and asked a number of questions in relation to:-

- a) The need to ensure that the more mature groups were able to access these services.
- b) The need to include disabled groups in activities
- c) The need to include indoor sports
- d) The need to explain the purpose of CRB checks, as this could be a barrier for volunteers

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The Head of Community and Partnerships and the Lifestyle Manger provided answers to the above questions.

Resolved: That Members support the proposal for the £21,000 to be made available direct to the SPAA.

8. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the items detailed in the Forward Plan and whether they wished for any Policies to be submitted to the Committee prior to a decision being made by the Cabinet.

It was agreed that the Sustainable Community Strategy be brought to the next meeting of the Committee and that the Chair and Scrutiny Support Officer identify two existing policies which could be presented to the next meeting in order that Members can review the policies to ensure recommendations have been implemented.

Resolved:

1. That contact be made with the relevant Head of Service when a decision has been made as to which existing Policies the Committee would like to review
2. That the Head of Community and Partnership be invited to attend the next meeting of the Group to present the Sustainable Community Strategy.

9. WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08

Members considered the Work Programme for 2007/08 which had been agreed at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 24 May 2007.

The report included current/ongoing work to include in the 2007/08 Work Programme as detailed below.

- The Management of Car Parks in the Borough
- Review of Public Conveniences in the Borough
- Community Cohesion
- Enforcement
- Review of Polling Station

The following areas were identified as priority areas for the next 12 months.

- Risk Management
- Review of the Council's Partnership Register
- Road Safety around the Borough
- Review of Accrington and Rossendale College
- Council's position on Wind Farming

Members raised concern that Town Twinning and the Irwell Sculpture Trail had only been scored with an 'amber' rating and felt that both these areas were important in promoting the Borough. The Scrutiny Officer explained that although 'amber' they were identified as 'reserve' items which could be looked

at during the year. It was agreed to discuss this further with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

Resolved:

That the Work Programme be noted.

10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented the Annual Report for 2006/07. This was a combined report which was also being presented to the Performance Scrutiny Committee and Audit Scrutiny Committee.

She reported that the Council's Constitution required Overview and Scrutiny to produce an annual report outlining their work and the report had been prepared in consultation with the Chair.

She indicated that the work of the Committee should be celebrated as members had positively contributed and played a key part in the improved performance within the Council.

Resolved:

That any comments be forwarded to the Scrutiny Support Officer, following which the report would be recommended for approval to Full Council.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.05pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date