

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

Date of Meeting: 23 June 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Stansfield (Chairman)
Councillors Crawforth, L Barnes, Lamb, Neal, Steen
(substituting for Sandiford) and Thorne
Bernard Divine, Co-opted Member

Ian Cameron, Invitee
Adrian Leather, Invitee

IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Lockwood, Chief Executive
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance
Mike Riley, Communities Manager
Gina Fletcher, Service Development Officer - Culture
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Gary Hood, Chief Executive, Rossendale Leisure Trust
Norman Hauserman, Chair, Rossendale Leisure Trust
Councillor Brian Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources
Councillor Jason Gledhill, Portfolio Holder for Leisure
Councillor Janet Graham, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Neighbourhoods
Councillor Aldred

ALSO PRESENT: 2 Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sandiford.

The Chair asked that the Committee send its best wishes to Councillor Sandiford following a recent car accident.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 April 2009 be approved as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Neal commented that all Councillors have an interest in the subject as they all live in the Borough.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to report.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised under this item

6. LEISURE REVIEW 2009

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 to ensure the delivery of Option H, which was the preferred option agreed at Council in February 2009.

To consult with residents on what they feel is a priority, a Culture and Leisure questionnaire would be conducted with the Citizen's Panel and would also be available to the wider public via the Council's website. The timescale for this was approximately five weeks.

The tender documentation for consultants to complete an Options Appraisal for the delivery of leisure services was complete and the deadline for responses was 29 June 2009.

The Committee received an update from the Pool Review Panel and the Bacup Leisure Hall Panel Meetings. A Member of the Pool Review indicated that they were now looking at pools around the area. The Panel was on track to feed their views into the review planned for December.

In relation to Ski Rossendale, and in order to ensure all potential private sector investment opportunities are explored, it was proposed that an exercise be undertaken to establish the level of interest that might exist within the wider private sector to invest in the facility and maintain its use. It was intended that the process would include the establishment of a user group panel to provide feedback on the proposal and ensure that existing users were kept fully informed.

The Chair asked that an update on the consultation review be presented to the next meeting of the Leisure Performance Overview and Scrutiny Meeting.

Resolved:

1. That the information be noted.
2. That That the Committee receives from the Council updates from the Pool Review, Bacup Leisure Hall and the Ski Slopes Group, together with update on information in relation to the consultation.

7. Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT)

The Chief Executive of RLT provided an update on a number of reports which had been requested by Members of the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their last meeting. These were as follows:

Financial Monitoring of RLT

The report highlighted the budget for the year to April 2009, for each of the Trust's facilities, which shows that there was only a small variance to the budget. Ski Rossendale continues to be a worry for the Trust and they are looking at different ways of bringing innovations for this facility.

A number of questions were raised in relation to the budget figures including impact of staffing following the redundancies and marketing strategy, to which the Chief Executive responded.

Passport to Active Living

The report provided an update on the Passport to Active Living Scheme which commenced in 2006. The Chief Executive indicated that it had been proposed by the Trust Board to implement a one membership type passport at a cost of £1.50 for each child, OAP or adult. When asked if there would be financial implications, the Chief Executive indicated that these would only be marginal.

Sickness Absence

The Chief Executive was complimented for the low sickness absence figures for 1 February – 30 April 2009, which had been presented in the report.

It was agreed that a 12 month sickness absence report be presented to the next meeting.

Action Plan 2009/2010 and Key Assumptions and Risks

The Chief Executive presented a detailed short term action plan for its facilities.

A number of questions were raised to which the Chief Executive responded.

RLT Grants Received

The Chief Executive gave a brief updated on the grants achieved by the Leisure Trust. He informed Members that this was money received over the last five years and included funds yet to be drawn down.

When asked about how those who provide the grants monitor how the money is spent, the Chair of the Leisure Trust gave an overview of the

vigorous monitoring process to satisfy that the money was being spent appropriately.

Benchmarking Report

As requested by the Committee at the last meeting, Members received price comparison of sport facilities from neighbouring authorities.

Resolved:

1. That Rossendale Leisure Trust be thanked for providing the information.
2. That the Committee receive from the Leisure Trust an updated action plan and a highlight report, which summarised any progress made over the next two months, which also highlights any areas of risk.
3. That the Trust provides a 12 month sickness absence report be to the next meeting.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on 18 August (time to be confirmed) at Hardman Mill.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Signed
(Chair)

Date.....