

To Executive Board – 12 September 2005

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Community Scrutiny Committee – 18 August 2005

30 LEISURE SERVICES PROVISION AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Scrutiny Officer had submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended,), which detailed a review into leisure services provision and young people.

Julia Woodman introduced this item. The Chair, Councillor Sinclair, asked members to pay especial attention to the long list of recommendations outlined in the report.

Councillor Pressel raised the following issues:

- There is a need to do some capacity building in the local community – there are many voluntary groups who could become involved in running things like summer play schemes, for example.
- The lack of organised summer play schemes is a problem.
- The question of the best use of Section 106 Planning Agreements must be examined; since these are means by which extra facilities could be obtained for the benefit of local residents.
- The Government Green Paper “Youth Matters” presents the option of becoming a pilot authority for “Opportunity Cards” – Councillor Pressel urged members to accept this with all haste.
- Such activities as are organised by the City Council must be advertised properly and early; information should be disseminated to schools well before the end of term.
- Publicity is very important if schemes are to be taken up and used properly.

Jan Banfield informed members that it was hoped to have the Leisure Strategy out to consultation by the end of the year. The Social Inclusion Officer posts, and two posts in Neighbourhood Renewal have been advertised, and it was anticipated that interviews would take place at the end of September.

The Committee agreed to RECOMMEND TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD the following, which are aimed at achieving better co-ordinated services and the targeting of resources towards the County’s priorities:

A The Sport & Leisure Strategy

1. Mapping of City -wide private / public sector leisure provision, to identify gaps in leisure market and areas of need.

2. Further consultation on the strategic positioning of Leisure Services to include the role of leisure in the council's social inclusion agenda and the balance between sports / community development and provision of facilities.
3. Addressing leisure recommendations contained in the Government Green Paper 'Youth matters'. In particular investigating the possibility of Oxford City becoming a pilot for 'Opportunity cards.
4. A review of leisure provision around the 11 –16 years age group aimed at minimising the decline in sport & physical activities.
5. A review of the programming & activities across all leisure sites & facilities is undertaken with the aim of maximising public access.
6. It is understood that the Sports and Health Development Strategy will outline work around the development of sport and health programmes. Resources for this work need to be identified and matched with current staff resources.
7. The feasibility study for free swimming for young people, considers best practice features of other authorities such as Manchester City Council.

B Co – ordination of leisure services

1. Joined up planning and co-ordination of young peoples leisure activity provision is needed. A nominated City Council co-ordinator could help to facilitate early planning and ensure the publication / wider dissemination of a 'What's on guide' for young people.
2. Gaps in provision need to be identified by early joined-up planning. This would allow a proper needs analyses to be carried out and alternative funding streams to be explored.
3. Identification of how Regeneration Arc and 'Active England' funding will be targeted towards leisure activities for disadvantaged young people.
4. All relevant agencies to be consulted on S.106 community access packages, to ensure they reflect local needs and are feasible. In regard to City Council usage, packages could contain free coaching / training options, given the lack of staff resources in this area.
- 5 All relevant agencies need to consulted on the development of community access packages and links should be made to Area Committee plans.

- 6 106 and Joint Use Agreements should include more flexibility for use, apply to all relevant business units and be regularly reviewed.
- 7 The David Lloyd agreement regarding 500 hours court time per annum available to youth / community groups to be available for wider service use e.g. The Active Communities team in Neighbourhood Renewal.

The Committee further agreed to RECOMMEND to the Strategic Development Control Committee that it examine the implementation and monitoring of Section 106 agreements.

NOTE: The Scrutiny Committee made this final recommendation to the Strategic Control Committee but in fact it is outside that Committee's remit to do anything other than determine particular categories of planning application, as set out in the Constitution. Therefore, although the recommendation will be reported to the next meeting of the Strategic Development Control Committee, the Executive Board is asked to consider whether it wishes to take any action in response to this recommendation.

Housing Scrutiny Committee – 22 August 2005

50. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (a) Minute 26(b) (Alpha Research into Homelessness in Oxford – Action Plan)

The Committee agreed to note that due to an administrative error the following recommendation from the Housing Scrutiny Committee held on 27th June 2005 had not been submitted to the Executive Board on 8th August 2005, but would be submitted to the next scheduled meeting.

“To INFORM the Executive Board of the Housing Scrutiny Committee's concern over whether value for money was being achieved when Consultants were commissioned to carry out surveys/research”

Environment Scrutiny Committee – 31 August 2005

(NOTE: The minutes of this meeting were not available at the time the agenda was printed. Further details may be provided at the meeting.)

Barton Pool

Members heard how decision on Barton Pool had been made in 2003 based on available information including design options and costings. Members noted that the works were at an advanced stage but, amongst other things, asked if it was not too late to include solar panels and approach the County Council for a contribution (further detail in the minutes).

Resolved

1. To ASK the Executive Board to ask the Thames Valley Energy Centre (or another appropriate organisation) to provide costings for the inclusion of solar panels at Barton Pool to provide hot water and electricity for the building;

2. to ask the Scrutiny Officer to write to the County Council to contribute to the cost of providing solar panels in their role as public health promoters.

Flash Flooding

Members noted the issues set out in the report (attached) particularly relating to dealing with draining surface water during flash flooding. Discussion included the suitability of the sewerage infrastructure and also the need for additional gullies to help drain surface water in those parts of the City which were particularly affected.

Resolved to ASK the Executive Board to make provision in next year's budget for additional gullies to be provided as part of the ongoing work to deal with flash flooding.