

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday 22 April 2013

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Price (Leader), Turner (Deputy Leader), Cook, Coulter, Curran and Tanner.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Peter Sloman (Chief Executive), Lois Stock (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer), Lindsay Cane (Law and Governance), Ian Brooke (Head of Leisure, Parks and Communities) and Lucy Cherry (City Leisure)

122. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Lygo, Sinclair and Smith.

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received

124. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Questions were submitted from Mr Gibson in relation to agenda item 5 – Fusion Lifestyle Annual Service Plan 2013/14.

His written questions with answers were distributed at the start of the meeting. These are attached to the minutes as appendix one.

125. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS

None submitted.

126. FUSION LIFESTYLE ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN 2013/14

The Head of Leisure and Parks submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning Fusion Lifestyle's Annual Service Plan for 2013/14. Councillor Van Coulter, Board Member for Leisure Services presented the report to the Board and provided some background and context.

He asked the Board to note that:-

- (1) The contract with Fusion will deliver savings of £7 million (over base budget) over ten years;
- (2) To date it has delivered £3.5 million in investment and has increased participation in sports and physical activities;

- (3) There were 1.1. m recorded visits to leisure facilities in the past year, with the subsidy per visitor dropping to 57p for the year to date.

Councillor Coulter congratulated both Fusion and the leisure staff for their hard work. He noted that there was a need to drive up participation, especially from the more deprived areas of the City. He commended the report to City Executive Board.

Ian Brooke added that the Council and Fusion were keen to rise to the challenges, and that whilst many sports nationally were having difficulties with participation levels, Oxford had seen a 40% increase since 2009. In answer to a question, Lucy Cherry reported that there had been an 85 tonne carbon saving in the past year, and that savings in water usage were expected.

Resolved to endorse Fusion Lifestyle's Annual Service Plan for the management of the Council's leisure facilities for 2013/14.

127. YOUTH AMBITION STRATEGY

The Head of Leisure and Parks submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the Council's Youth Ambition Strategy. Ian Brooke presented the report to the Board and provided some background and context. He emphasised the following points:-

- (1) Oxford has an above average number of young people living in the City – almost 60,000 aged between birth to 24 years;
- (2) The diverse nature of Oxford is expected to continue, with almost half the births in the City being to mothers from outside the UK;
- (3) Almost 6,000 children in Oxford live in poverty and over 2,500 households with dependant children have no adult in work;
- (4) There are 250 people in Oxford defined as "NEET" (not in employment, education or training);
- (5) It can be seen that there are some significant challenges for young people living in Oxford.

Councillor Curran, Board Member for Young People, Education and Community Development added that young people in Oxford were especially affected by unemployment and cuts to services. Oxford was right to be concerned. To make its work successful, the City Council needed to work with other agencies.

Ian Brooke confirmed that the consultation would start at the end of April, run throughout May, and report the results to a meeting of CEB in the summer – probably early July.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Thank Ian Brooke and his team for their work on this issue;

(2) Approve the Youth Ambition Strategy for consultation.

128. FUTURE ITEMS

Nothing was raised under this item.

129. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

None.

The meeting started at 2.30 pm and ended at 2.51 pm

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APPENDIX 1

Questions to CEB – Monday 22nd April.

Questions from Mr Nigel Gibson, with answers printed in *italics*:-

1. What was the total value of the ten-year contract signed with Fusion Lifestyle that commenced in March 2009?

Please see the council's website – the pages for Business and Licensing, selling to the Council, current contracts hold this information.

<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Library/Documents/Procurement/Contract%202%20Leisure%20Services.pdf>

2. Clearly conditions and requirements have changed since the commencement of the contract, and as a consequence the contract value will have changed - what is the latest forecast of the total value of this contract over ten years?

This information is commercially sensitive information.

3. Can you please provide a breakdown of the current contract value by year, as an update to the table previously published in the annual accounts?

This information is commercially sensitive information.

4. The granting of permission for the Town Green Campaign in Blackbird Leys to take their appeal to Judicial Review will clearly have an impact on the contract. How will the contract value be affected by the delay?

There will be no effect to the contract value.

5. What is the value of the 'surplus share' (ie profit) that has been paid back to the Council to date?

Nil

6. What value of surplus share (ie profit) to be returned to the council was forecast when the Fusion contract was signed?

This information is commercially sensitive information.

7. How does Fusion's 'registered charity' status link with its re-investment to 'improve the sport and leisure offer' in Oxford's community?

In line with Fusion's Memorandum of Association and charitable objectives this is;

- a) To provide or assist in the provision of facilities and services for the public benefit for recreational, sporting or other leisure time occupation in the interest of social welfare*
- b) To promote community participation in healthy recreation*
- c) To advance the education of the public in the benefits of healthy lifestyles.*

8. The report talks about improving the sport and leisure offer – what is the Council doing to measure whether the improvement in the “offer” is matched by real improvements to sport and leisure felt by the people of Oxford?

Sport England's Active People survey is an annual survey that measures the percentage increase in numbers of adults taking part in regular sport. The interim result of 26.4% places Oxford City in the top quartile of all districts within the Country and is a 5.7% increase from the baseline figure of 20.7 which was recorded in 2006.

There are a host of different measures including customer satisfaction, user and non-user surveys, mystery visits, participation, carbon, visits to targeted activities, National Benchmarking and Quest UK quality award scheme for Sport and Leisure.

9. What will be the value of the annual payment by the Council to Fusion for the new pool in Blackbird Leys if that goes ahead?

This information has previously been responded to and can be found on the council's website.

<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Direct/CompetitionStandardPoolPublicQuestionsandAnswersCEB21July2011.pdf> (affordability)

10. You state that the Annual Service Plan builds on your approach to “delivering world class leisure provision” – can you please provide some examples of what you consider “world class leisure provision” that you are using as a benchmark for leisure facilities in Oxford?

High quality, accessible, well-used and sustainable amenities that meet the needs of the communities they serve.

11. Why have you not implemented the carbon reduction measures at Temple Cowley Pools recommended in the August 2010 MACE report that could have been improving the electricity efficiency by up to 20%?

The return on investment exceeds the lifespan of the facility.

12. You should be well aware (as I exposed in an address to council in July last year) that the comparison of “subsidy per visit” from before the Fusion contract with now is not comparing like with like. Why does the report persist in claiming a reduction from £2.14 to 57p a visit, when the real cost has actually increased to over £2.14?

The calculation is explained in question 14.

13. Why does your Leisure Partnership Board only include a single user of leisure facilities? How do you ensure that the views and needs of all types of user (and potential user) are properly and correctly represented on the Board

Each facility has their own user group forum and communication from these is fed into the Leisure Partnership Board and contract meetings between the Council and Fusion Lifestyle. It would be unmanageable to include representation from clubs, facilities and every user type at each Leisure Partnership Board meeting.

14. Can you please explain how you calculate the “subsidy per user”?

Value (£) of the management fee paid to Fusion Lifestyle and cost of utilities divided by the number of total visits to all centres. This is in line with national guidance.