

## Scrutiny Task and Finish Panel Agenda



### **Leisure Task and Finish Scrutiny Panel Thursday, 9th August, 2007**

**Place:** Training Room, 25 Hemnall Street, Epping

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Democratic Services Officer:** Adrian Hendry, tele. 01992 564246  
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**Members:**

Councillors Mrs H Harding (Chairman), K Chana (Vice-Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, S Murray, Mrs P K Rush, P Turpin, Mrs R Gadsby, Mrs A Haigh, Ms J Hedges, P House, G Pritchard, B Rolfe and H Ulkun

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW VENUE FOR THIS MEETING:  
THE TRAINING ROOM, LEISURE SERVICES, 25 HEMNALL STREET – ADJACENT TO  
EPPING SPORTS CENTRE**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)**

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To declare interests in any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a personal or a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview & Scrutiny members are asked pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter before an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub Committee in which the Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a

matter.

**4. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING - 5 JULY 2007 (Pages 5 - 26)**

To consider and agree the notes of the meeting of the Panel held on 5 July 2007.

**5. TERMS OF REFERENCE (Pages 27 - 28)**

At the Panel's initial meeting, Members agreed their proposed Terms of Reference, which have subsequently been endorsed by the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

The Terms of Reference are attached to this Agenda. At each Panel Meeting Members will be required to review the Terms of Reference to ensure continuing relevance.

**6. FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF WALTHAM ABBEY SPORTS CENTRE (Pages 29 - 34)**

As reported at the initial meeting of the Panel, the Final Report of the Leisure Task and Finish Panel 2006/07, (previously circulated), contains, background information regarding Waltham Abbey Sports Centre and the steps taken to date to determine future management arrangements, post the termination of the current Dual Use Agreement in September 2007.

Since the Task and Finish Panel Report was considered by the Cabinet in March 2007, further meetings and dialogue have taken place, with the Headteacher and Bursar of King Harold Secondary School.

The school seem to now have a better understanding of the implications of a third party Leisure Management Contractor, being appointed to undertake the day to day operation of the site and appear more open to this approach. However, the school have also confirmed their desire that any direct contractual relationship is between the Council and any Contractor, the school being reluctant to enter into any contract management scenario. The School would therefore prefer a new Dual Use Agreement with Epping Forest District Council.

Officers within Leisure and Legal Services have been developing a proposed Dual-Use Agreement for consideration by the Task and Finish Panel and King Harold School's Governing Body, on this basis. The main document itself, is still in Draft. However, attached is a breakdown of the main heads, of the proposed Agreement, which Officers will take Members through, highlighting the main practical and potential financial implications for the Council.

Also, attached is an indicative timetable outlining the various stages of discussion and permissions necessary, if the Panel are minded to recommend that the Council enter into a new Dual Use Agreement, to ensure ongoing Community Use of Waltham Abbey Sports Centre. Members will also be asked to reaffirm their views on whether an External Management Partner be sought to undertake the operation of the Centre in future.

## **7. EVALUATION OF YOUTH INITIATIVES SCHEME**

The Panel's Terms of Reference include responsibility for evaluating the success of the Youth Initiatives Scheme (1 (iv) refers). At the meeting on 5 July 2007, Members received details of the criteria on which the award of the grant to Town/Parish Councils had been determined and a breakdown of the projects completed so far (there are also a number of other schemes where works are ongoing or scheduled). In summary these are as follows:

- Refurbishment of Recreation Area, Parklands, Coopersale.
- Provision of Youth Shelter, Chigwell Row.
- Installation of Sports System – Rear of School, Fyfield.
- Provision of Teen Shelters, Roding Valley and Willingale Road, Loughton.
- Games Area Resurfacing, Town Mead, Waltham Abbey.
- Renovation of Skateboard Area, Stonnards Hill, Epping.
- Provision of Teenage Youth Facilities, Epping Upland.
- Provision of Youth Shelter, Ninefields, Waltham Abbey.
- Refurbishment, Skateboard Area, St Peter's Avenue, Shelley.
- Youth Facilities, Upper and Lower Sheering.

Chris Overend, Policy and Research Officer, and officer responsible for the Scheme, who will be in attendance at the meeting, has identified a number of aspects which might be used as a means of gauging the success of the scheme. These are set out below and can be expanded on at the meeting. Members of the Panel are asked to comment on these and put forward suggestion of their own:

- Use of the facilities over a period of time
- A survey of young people in the parishes/towns concerned to obtain their views about the facilities
- Obtain views of residents about the success or otherwise of the schemes
- Ask Parish/Town Councils for comments regarding the effect of the schemes
- Ask Parish/Town Councils about how accessible they found the funding process for the schemes.
- Compare figures for 'anti-social' activities for before and after the implementation of the schemes

In making an assessment, it might be useful to take account of the type and cost of the scheme concerned. Are some schemes more successful? Comments have been made and, in some instances, concerns expressed, regarding the youth shelters, which have been introduced at certain locations. But are these comments valid or are they merely to do with the perceptions? What are the views of young people regarding youth shelters?

## **8. ARTS PRESENTATION**

As discussed at the Panel's initial meeting, in order to assist particularly new Members of the Task and Finish Panel, Julie Chandler, Community and Cultural Services Manager, will present an overview of the current work of the Council's Arts Service. This should provide useful context in relation to the review of the feasibility of third party involvement, in the delivery of arts development work in the District.

**9. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 35 - 36)**

To consider the Panel's Work Programme attached.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the dates of the next scheduled meetings:

- 18 September 2007 (to be held at the Waltham Abbey Sports Centre);
- 31 October 2007; and
- 27 November 2007.