

Leisure Task and Finish Panel 2007/08

| Recommendation Agreed by Overview and Scrutiny in April 2008 | Progress to Date |
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| <p>FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE WALTHAM ABBEY SPORTS CENTRE</p> <p>The Panel recommended:</p> <p>1. That the Council enter into a holding agreement with King Harold School on the existing terms of the current Agreement, up until the 31 March 2009.</p> <p>2. That, dependent on the outcome of the feasibility of the provision of a new Sports Hall at Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool, the Council should either</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2 (a) Decline to enter into a new long term Dual Use Agreement for Waltham Abbey Sports Centre, and withdraw from the site at the time of any new Sports Hall at the Swimming Pool becoming available; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2 (b) (i) That a new Dual Use Agreement is entered into with King Harold School for the future management of Waltham Abbey Sports Centre.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2 (b) (ii) That the Council seek an external management contractor to undertake their management responsibilities under the new Agreement.</p> | <p>A holding Agreement had been entered into until March 2010, pending the results of the outcome of the provision of the new Sports Hall at the Swimming Pool.</p> <p>The present Leisure Task and Finish Panel are currently considering these options.</p> <p>There is to be a report to Overview and Scrutiny committee recommending that the feasibility of the scheme is pursued and a request is made to Cabinet for up to 10k capital monies to be allocated to enable this to be carried out. The fee will enable a report to be completed as to whether the extension could be built, an estimate of how much it will cost including a fee estimate and also highlight any planning issues /concerns. This will then inform the Members of the Task and Finish Panel so that they can make recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny for the final decision on this project.</p> |

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| <p>2 (b) (iii) That the Contract period be in line with the existing contract for the Council's other four Centres.</p> | |
| <p>REVIEW OF ARTS DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT:</p> <p>The Panel Recommended:</p> <p>1. That in future the Key Objectives for the Council's Arts Services should be:-</p> <p>(i) To ensure that the Arts Services make a contribution to wider social objectives, including crime and disorder and health improvement.</p> <p>(ii) To continue to promote and deliver the Council's adopted Arts Policy.</p> <p>(iii) To increase access to and participation in the Arts, for people of all ages and abilities;</p> | <p>(i) Arts are developing their work in this area, following the successful Homelife project at Limes Farm which provided dance and parkour workshops for difficult to reach young people, and which led directly into work being developed by Community Development and Sports Development. Arts have recently completed the first phase of the Fashion Project which worked with young people from WAY2000, and which will be developed in 2009 to include young people from Loughton Youth Club</p> <p>(ii) Arts are currently reviewing and developing the new Arts Policy</p> <p>(iii) Over the last year Arts have delivered workshops and projects with the following groups; day centres for the elderly (aged 65yrs +), students with special needs (aged 15 to 70 yrs), children (2 to 13 yrs), young people (aged 14 to 20 yrs). Arts have delivered work in the following areas: Debden, Limes Farm, Waltham Abbey, Ongar, Sheering, Nazeing, Loughton, Theydon Bois, Chigwell and Epping</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iv) To ensure that the current strong and effective network of partnership working is retained. (v) To ensure that equality of access to the Arts is maintained and that targeted work is continued with groups at risk of social exclusion. (vi) To ensure that the Arts Service is delivered by the most cost effective means possible and that Value for Money is optimised whilst maintaining a creative and forward thinking arts programme. (vii) To ensure that the District continues to benefit from investment in the Arts through the maximisation of External Funding opportunities. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. That the transfer of Community and Cultural Services (including Arts) as a result of Senior Management Restructuring, to a more Corporate position under the Deputy Chief Executive, is the most efficient means of delivering the Key Objectives, outlined in Recommendation 1. 3. That whilst a transfer of responsibility for Arts Development to a third party is not recommended, this should not preclude the pursuit of further opportunities for joint working and the sourcing of external funding. 4. That an evaluation is undertaken on an annual basis to ensure that the Arts Service is achieving its Key Objectives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iii) Arts continue to develop and work with a range of partners including: Essex Youth Services, CYPSP, education sector at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, local artists, EFDC departments, WRVS, parish and councils (iv) Arts work actively with partners to ensure that specific projects target specific groups – this work includes projects undertaken at Limes Farm, Waltham Abbey and Debden (v) The Arts programme delivered by EFDC is highly regarded by professional arts practitioners regionally and nationally, and consistently delivers within budget, and cost effectively through its use of in-house artists. (vi) Arts are in the final year of Border Dialogues (externally funded by ACE, ECC) and are currently developing a number of funding bids for future projects. They remain in receipt of funds from Essex Music Services for the district's 3 music schools |
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MONITORING OF THE YOUTH INITIATIVES SCHEME;

The Panel Recommended:

1. That the overall success of the Youth Initiatives Scheme be noted.
2. That the following specific areas for improvement be taken on board with respect to further phases of the scheme.
3. That the evaluation of the 2007/08 schemes be carried out in the autumn of 2008 and thereafter the outcome reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
4. That the 10 Year Play Strategy produced to support the successful "Big Lottery Fund" funding application, be used to identify priority for future investment in outdoor facilities, over the period 2007-2017.
5. That the next two financial years 2008/09 and 2009/10, the Play Strategy external grant-aid of £244,000 be utilised to continue the programme of playground improvements.
6. That a future Capital Bid be made for 2010/11 to fund a further phase of the youth initiatives scheme, for the period 2010-2013, at a level to be determined by the circumstances prevailing at the time.
7. That alternative sources of external finance for youth initiatives are kept under review and applications submitted where appropriate to assist in the delivery of the long-term programme.

The current Leisure Task and Finish Panel are awaiting a final report on the outcome of the Youth initiative Scheme. In the meantime they receive regular updates on the initiatives.

The consultation on this is delivered into three parts. Consultation with Town/Parish Councils and the Police is now complete. There may also be issues emerging from the 'Big Youth Debate' on 19 November and results from the survey carried out in July, August, following which an overall analysis of all the results will be carried out in due course.

LEGACY FROM THE OLYMPIC PARALYMPIC GAMES

The Panel Recommended that:

1. The Council facilitates a District-wide “Cultural Olympiad” to run from 2008-2012.
2. That the “Cultural Olympiad” is a celebration of Life in Epping Forest, incorporating activities, and programmes of work with people of all ages and abilities, within local communities in the District, culminating in a “mini-Olympics” for young people in May 2012.
3. That a DDF Bid of £50,000 be made for 2012/13, to support the funding of the Epping Forest Cultural Olympiad.
4. That the Council welcomes the construction of the White Water Canoe Course in close proximity to Waltham Abbey, and seeks to maximise the economic legacy benefits to the locality, as well as the benefits for sports participation.
5. That a corporate Working Group be established, with participation by relevant external stakeholders, to keep abreast of opportunities to bring benefit to the District from the 2012 Games.
6. That the Council’s Economic Development Staff, in conjunction with Business Link East, continue to promote opportunities for local companies to bid for games related business/contracts.

The Cultural Olympiad Programme has started with the handover from Beijing being celebrated by an official flag-raising event ceremony including local young athletes. Planning for the mini-Olympics has started in liaison with local primary schools.

The Council is represented on the White Water Canoe Course Stakeholder Group and attended Broxbourne’s Planning Committee seeking to ensure that concerns around construction traffic were addressed.

A Business Breakfast to provide procurement opportunities for the 2012 Games was held and well attended.

An equestrian centre at High Beech has been awarded the status of an official preparation camp venue.