

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 28 July 2009

Subject: Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Brian Rolfe

Item: 6(h)

Recommending:

That the report of the Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder be noted

Since my appointment on 13 July 2009, I have been taking the opportunity to bring myself up to speed on the range of services, within the scope of the Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio.

Whilst the previous focus for the role was largely on young people and the range of sports, arts, museum and community services provided by the Council, this has been expanded on in the recent Cabinet re-organisation, to include Grant Aid, Health Inequalities, Voluntary Sector Liaison and a lead role in Equality and Diversity.

I have been fortunate enough in my first two weeks to attend a number of events which have demonstrated the value of the work undertaken. As a result of the development of a District-wide Play Strategy and the successful submission of a bid to the Big Lottery Fund, £247,000 was secured to upgrade playgrounds across the District. The latest completed project which was officially opened by the Chairman on 16 July 2009 was at Hoe Lane, Nazeing. Judging by the local children and parents I spoke to, I am sure it will be a great success.

On Friday, 17 July 2009, I was also pleased to be present at the opening of the latest Museum Exhibition, "The Great War". This exhibition illustrated the important role that local people played in the defence of the realm. I would recommend all Members to visit.

Over the summer, I will also be visiting the extensive range of Summer Holiday Activities for Young People, provided by the Council.

If any Member has any issues that they would like to raise regarding my new Portfolio, I would be happy to hear from them.