

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet **Date:** 14 December 2010
Subject: Leisure & Wellbeing Portfolio
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Brian Rolfe **Item:** 7(g)

Recommending:

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

Sports Leisure Management (SLM)

Work on the contract extension from January 2013 to January 2016 is now well advanced, awaiting final documents for signature. Alongside this the plans for the new sports hall at Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool are nearing completion and submission for pre-planning, but Members are reminded that until financial circumstances improve, the scheme itself will not proceed. Works have also commenced at Loughton Leisure Centre to provide enhanced fitness facilities.

Olympics

As the 2012 Games get ever closer a lot of work is being undertaken in respect of the White Water Centre (WWC), located just across the border of Waltham Abbey with Broxbourne, as well as consideration of the legacy benefits of the Games as a whole and the WWC as a leisure facility for many years to come. Key issues at the present time are centred around the operation of the WWC, access to and from it during the Games, street scene improvements and the degree to which local communities can engage and benefit from the Games, particularly in legacy.

District Museum Service

The District Museum was recently assessed by the VAQAS quality assessment scheme for Visit England. The Museum was deemed to merit the award of a 'Quality Assured Visitor Attraction' and a number of aspects of the service we provide were commented on as excellent examples of practise.

The VAQAS scheme operates as a nationally recognised standards scheme for the overall quality of visit. The Museum is delighted to receive this recognition.

Touring Exhibitions Programme: In recent years the Epping Forest District Museum has been receiving £29,500 per annum to develop a programme of touring exhibitions for a Regional Programme called 'Renaissance in the Regions', these

exhibitions are first shown at the Epping Forest District Museum before going on to tour to other Museums across the East of England. This funding supplements the core budget of £6690 that the Museum has to produce new exhibitions.

Although the Comprehensive Spending Review has seen a reduction in overall Renaissance funding, the Museum has been awarded £24,000 for 2011 -2012 to continue to administer this programme.

Cultural Olympiad: The Museum has also been asked to lead on an exhibition for the Eastern Region as part of the National Cultural Olympiad Programme. The exhibition 'China in the East' has already been allocated some regional funding and the Museum is part of a group of Museums bidding for additional resources from the heritage Lottery Fund for this project.

New Social History Gallery: The Museum is unveiling its new and completely refitted 'social history' gallery on Friday 3 December 2010. The new look gallery explores a range of themes from home life, the Forest, shopping and work, to costume styles in a redesigned space which allows for display of a greater range of items than previously on show. While largely funded from our own resources, this project received two external funding grants to the value of £1542.

Octavius Deacon Sketchbooks: The Museum has worked in partnership with the Loughton and District Historical society to publish a selection of watercolours from the sketchbooks of a nineteenth century Loughton based amateur artist Octavius Deacon. The sketchbooks were acquired by the Museum in 1999, with support from the MLA / V&A Purchase Fund. The sketch books will be on display at the Museum in December 2010.

Community Development

Youth Council and Young People: A "Speed Meeting" event to mark Local Democracy Week was held on 19 October. This enabled members of the Youth Council to meet with their adult counterparts to discuss the issues of the day. The event is available to view on "You Tube."

A presentation evening was hosted by the Youth Council on 26 October to mark the end of their "Mystery Shopping Youth Club Project". Every Youth Club in the district was visited and assessed by Youth Councillors "under cover" over a three month period. Clubs were given a star rating and representatives from all 12 settings invited to attend a celebratory event in the Council Chamber. Certificates, feedback sheets and trophies were awarded.

The Community Development Team organised an extremely well received visit by pupils from West Hatch School on 5 November. Pupils were welcomed by the Chairman of the Council and Leader, along with their local Chigwell Councillors and the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Young People. The young people were able to question Council Members on a range of issues and enjoyed a tour of the Civic Offices, including a trip to the top of the observation tower.

Community 'Safe and Sound': The Community Development Team provided a series of informative workshops between 15 and 26 November focussing on safety issues. The "Safe & Sound" programme provided workshops on topics such as internet safety advice for parents, home safety advice for older residents and practical personal safety sessions for all ages. The programme culminated in a public

debate at Epping Forest College on 25 November where members of the public were able to pose questions direct to members of the responsible authorities which make up the Safer Communities Partnership.

Sports and Health Development

HealthWorks Project: Sarah Belliars has been appointed as the HealthWorks Project Co-ordinator and is working as part of the Council's Sports and Health Development Team. Sarah has a wealth of experience and expertise in project management and working with young people and will be employed for 18 hours per week over the next two years.

HealthWorks is externally funded by Harlow Health Centre's Trust who have awarded £90,000 to the District over the next two years. The project will utilise a holistic approach to improving the health and wellbeing of young people aged 11 - 19 years living in Waltham Abbey, using innovative ways of engaging and supporting them. The project aims to encourage young people to adopt healthier lifestyles and positive attitudes towards their local community and their role within it. It is anticipated that this will be achieved through developing young people as role models, and providing them with mentoring and training to enable them to become local HealthWorks leaders.

The funding will also pay for a part time Project Assistant who will be appointed by Christmas 2010.

Community Services – External Funding Schedule 2009/10

The following list details the external funding secured via competitive bidding processes over the last 2 years.

Amount	Funding Body	Purpose of Award	Date
£244,000.00	Big Lottery Play Strategy Fund	To improve play and youth facilities in Epping Forest District	2008/9/10
£103,000.00	Renaissance in the Regions	Funding for Touring Museum Exhibitions	2008/9/10
£28,000.00	Essex County Council	To provide Music Schools across Epping Forest	2008/9/10
£21,000.00	Performance Reward Grant (LAA)	Targeted Trampolining programme for disadvantaged children and children with additional needs	2009
£26,000.00	Performance Reward Grant (LAA)	For provision of positive activities for young people	2009
£270,000.00	Essex County Council	Contribution towards Limes Farm Hall redevelopment for Extended School activity	2009

Amount	Funding Body	Purpose of Award	Date
£16,500.00	Community Cashback – Criminal Justice	Improvement of Ninefields Community Centre	2009
£13,000.00	Regional Museums Libraries & Arts	For 1 yr appointment of a Museum apprentice	2009
£26,000.00	Sportsex – Sport Unlimited programme	To provide a range of sports and dance courses for children, young people and adults	2009/10
£1,200.00	Sportsex – Get Back Into Sport	To provide opportunities for adults to get back into sport	2010
£90,000.00	Harlow Health Centre’s Trust	For development of HealthWorks Project for young people in Waltham Abbey	2010
£3,000.00	Local Schools Delivery Group	Support towards HealthWorks project	2010
£48,000.00	BLF via Essex County Council Play Builders	Towards the provision of a Skate Park in Town Mead Waltham Abbey	2010
£10,000.00	BLF via Essex County Council Aiming High For Disabled Children	For provision of a disabled hoist for trampolining and new coaching provision for children with disabilities	2010
£7,000.00	Local Schools Delivery Group	Towards ‘special’ trampolining programme	2010
£45,000.00	BLF via Essex County Council – Aiming High For Disabled Children	For provision of improved access to play facilities in Waltham Abbey and installation of new play equipment in Loughton	2010
£8,500.00	ECC Youth Opportunities	For development of Youth	2010

Amount	Funding Body	Purpose of Award	Date
	Fund	Council initiatives	
£1,600.00	ECC Museum's in Essex Fund & Renaissance In Regions (Govt Funding Scheme)	Towards renovation of the Museum's Victorian Gallery	2010
£800.00	Beyond The Frame – Project Fund	Educational Work	2010
£600.00	Renaissance in the Regions	Early Years	2010
£10,000.00	Renaissance in The Regions	Stories of the World Olympiad Project	2010
£13,600.00	Local Schools Delivery Group	For provision of free playscheme places for disadvantaged children	2010
£1,900.00	Rural Local Schools Delivery Group	For provision of free playscheme places for disadvantaged children	2010
£1,000.00	North Weald Parish Council	For Stay & Play provision at Norway House	2010
£400.00	Metropolitan Police Sports Club	For equipment purchase for playschemes	2010
£990,100.00	Total Funding Secured		

Community Arts

Cripsey Brook: A family event was held on 30 October to mark the creation of the new conservation area in Ongar. Epping Forest Arts worked with children from Chipping Ongar Primary School and residents from Finch Court Sheltered Accommodation to create a dance performance and a film to celebrate Cripsey Brook. The event was presented in partnership with Countrycare and Chipping Ongar Town Council

The Drawing Project: Over the year, Community Arts has been working with people with learning disabilities from Loughton Resource Day Centre, on a special drawing project. The drawings that have been made, represent visual conversations between the two parties and students from Davenant School and Loughton Youth Theatre

have also taken part in the project which culminated in an 3 week long exhibition at St Marys Church, Loughton

Loughton Youth Theatre: Participants have worked with Epping Forest Arts to create an installation of a miniature 'lit up Loughton' in cardboard for the Light Up Loughton event on Friday 26 November

ReAction – Girls Day of Dance: A day of workshops providing the opportunity to experience Street dance, African and Contemporary dance styles for students from schools across the district, was held at Debden High School on 23 November

Fusion – Boys Day of Dance

A day of workshops providing the opportunity to experience Hiphop, Capoeira and Contemporary dance styles for students from schools across the district, was held at Roding Valley High School in late October.

London 2012: Meetings have been held with Broxbourne Borough Council, Waltham Abbey Town Council, Hertfordshire County Council and Essex County Council to discuss partnership events and activities for 2012, including a cross border Film Festival, and a competition for local young film makers.