

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON CULTURE AND RECREATION**

Tuesday, 22nd July, 2003, at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor Tyler (Chair)
Councillors Crumpton, Kettle, Ms Nicholls, Simms, Southall, Tomkinson, Waltho and Woodall, together with the Assistant Director, Law and Property - Lead Officer, Assistant Director of Culture and Community Services, Mr Webb (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mr Jablonski and Miss Stephens (Directorate of Law and Property).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Allen (Peter Mann Partnership) for agenda item 6.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11th June, 2003, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Sheppard.

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MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Arising from a query raised by Councillor Kettle, the Lead Officer informed the Committee that the quorum for its meetings was three members.

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF LEISURE FACILITY PROVISION AND OPTIONS APPRAISAL

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the strategic review of leisure facility provision and options appraisal.

Arising from a brief introduction given by Mr Webb, a detailed presentation was given by Mr Allen of Peter Mann Partnership Consultants, updating Members on the progress of the project to date, as well as highlighting emerging issues resulting from the consultation process and facility audit reviews.

During the presentation given members asked a number of questions and raised several comments regarding in particular;

- the use of user forums, how to engage with non-users of services, the need to link with other agencies and Directorates for example Neighbourhood Officers, Education, the Housing Directorate, the Primary Care Trusts, General Practitioners and Centro,
- the reporting on and circulation of questionnaires at meetings of area committees, the inclusion of the questionnaires on the intranet and on the web site and to all Council employees
- the need to plan to ensure every child learns to swim, the need to ascertain who is using the facilities
- the need to ensure social inclusion and engaging with local communities so that cultural considerations were recognised, the need for facilities to be locally based and inclusive
- the need for an analysis of income verses expenditure as there appears to be high expenditure and staff costs in respect of current facilities and low income
- the fact that the cost of transporting children mitigated against most schools making greater use of the Dell stadium
- the need to look behind the statistics as regards when facilities were used and the part that public transport plays in this and the use of available resources and the need to plan how to use them.

Arising from the comments and questions raised, the Chair indicated that because of the further work to be done, further meetings would be held to consider the final report, hopefully before the end of this calendar year. It was requested that colour paper copies of the report be provided and that it would also be produced electronically.

It was also agreed that a visit to leisure centres would be arranged before the next meeting of the Committee for members, especially those new to the work of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the presentation would be circulate. Further work is to be undertaken on the review and that a further presentation be made at a special meeting of the Committee on this matter.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was noted that no questions had been received from members of the public.

The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

CHAIR