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**Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2006**

**Report of the Lead Officer**

**Recommendations from Meetings of Working Groups held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To refer to the Committee the recommendations from the Select Committee on Economic Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education (Economic Regeneration) and the (Culture and Recreation) Working Groups from the meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2006.

**Background**

**Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education (Culture and Recreation) Working Group – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

2. At the meeting of the Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education (Culture and Recreation) Working Group held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2006, an item regarding the Dell Stadium – UK Athletics Certification was considered. The report that was considered by the Working Group is attached as Appendix 1.
3. During consideration of the item concern was expressed that the Dell Stadium was currently running at a deficit of approximately £45,000. Members suggested that commercial partnership options with companies holding “team building” events should be investigated. It was considered that the issue should be referred to the Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education (Economic Regeneration) Working Group, as it was within their remit.

**Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education (Economic Regeneration) Working Group – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

4. At the meeting of the Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education (Economic Regeneration) Working Group held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2006, a report, together with a presentation was received regarding the Orchard Partnership. The report and slides of the presentation are attached as Appendices 2 and 3.
5. Arising from the presentation it was agreed that, on behalf of the Working Group, the Lead Officer should write to the Orchard Partnership and Kids (West Midlands), thanking them for all the good work undertaken in working with disabled children, young people and their families.
6. It was also suggested that the Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education be recommended to refer the presentation regarding the Orchard Partnership to the other Select Committees, particularly the Select Committee on Children’s Services, with a view to including it into their work programme and receiving the same presentation to generate interest and to spread an awareness of their good work.

## **Finance**

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report at this stage.

## **Law**

8. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

## **Equality Impact**

9. The report takes into account the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and every effort is made to ensure that the facilities at the Dell Stadium are accessible to the widest possible range of uses. Young people and children are well represented among the membership of many of the user clubs and organisations.
10. Whilst the Orchard Partnership caters for disabled children, young people and their families, there are no direct implications for children and young people in noting and referring the report to other Select Committees.

## **Recommendation**

11. It is recommended:-
  - That approval be given to the referral of the matter regarding the Dell Stadium currently running at a deficit to the Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education (Economic Regeneration) Working Group, with a view to investigating options such as a commercial partnership.
  - That approval be given to the presentation regarding the Orchard Partnership being referred to the other Select Committees, particularly the Select Committee on Children's Services, with a view to including it into their work programme and receiving the same presentation to generate interest and to spread an awareness of their good work.



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**Ron Sims, Lead Officer to the Committee**

Contact Officer: Josef Jablonski  
Assistant Principal Officer  
Telephone: 01384 815243  
Email: [josef.jablonski@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:josef.jablonski@dudley.gov.uk)

### **List of Background Papers**

Culture and Recreation Working Group Minutes – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006  
Economic Regeneration Working Group Minutes – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006

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**Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education**

**Working Group**

**Tuesday 5 December 2006**

**Report of the Director of Urban Environment**

**The Dell Stadium – UK Athletics Certification**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Elected Members of the successful achievement of UK Athletics certification at The Dell Stadium in Pensnett.

**Background**

2. The Dell Stadium in Pensnett has to be inspected by UK Athletics (UK-A) on a regular basis and issued with a certificate to permit its use for athletics activities. There are currently six classifications for track and field facilities and these are outlined below:

**UK Athletics - Certification Classifications**

<b>Class 1</b>	Meets the specification and requirements for all competition under UKA rules including Women's steeplechase, having adjustable barriers.
<b>Class 2</b>	Meets the specification and requirements for all competition under UKA rules excluding Women's steeplechase, not having adjustable barriers.
<b>Class 3</b>	Meets the specification and requirements for all competition under UKA rules including Women's steeplechase, having adjustable barriers. Not having a valid survey, performances are not acceptable for record purposes.
<b>Class 4</b>	Meets the specification and requirements for all competition under UKA rules excluding Women's steeplechase, not having adjustable barriers, performances are not acceptable for record purposes.
<b>Class 5</b>	Restricted certificate
<b>Class 6</b>	Non standard track

3. In May 2006 inspectors from Midland Counties Athletics Association (MCAA) working on behalf of UK-A inspected The Dell Stadium. As a result of the inspection a restricted Class 5 certificate was issued for the venue. The inspectors determined that the throwing circle was not up to standard and that the pole vault equipment did not conform to the revised UK-A specification for such equipment.
4. Contractors were recalled to undertake works to the throwing circle and new pole vault equipment was ordered from specialist manufacturers. The work to the throwing circle was completed in June but delivery of the new pole vault equipment was delayed as there was a high demand for this equipment as a consequence of all facilities needing to replace landing beds.

5. A re-inspection by MCAA was initiated in late November 2006 and the inspection team revised their previous classification, issuing a Class 1 Certificate for The Dell Stadium. The facilities now meet the specification and requirements for all competition under UKA rules and the Certificate will be in place until 2010.
6. The resident athletics club, Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers AC, will be able to host competitions in the coming seasons for other clubs in the particular competitions in which they compete. Other organisations will also be able to make use of the facilities.
7. The inspectors from MCAA commented that the surface of the track is in good condition for a facility that is 19 years old. Consideration will be given to the future refurbishment of the surface which would include re-marking. An independent professional assessment of the track will be arranged in the New Year.

### **Finance**

11. The cost of MCAA inspection is met from within The Dell Stadium revenue budget as are the costs of equipment upgrades and replacements to meet the requirements of the governing body of athletics. A modest grant of £5,000 was attracted from the Community Athletics Refurbishment Programme (CARP) in 2005 and this has offset some of the equipment costs that have been incurred.

### **Law**

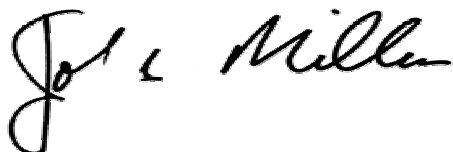
12. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972, enables the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its statutory functions.
13. Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976, empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.
14. There is a duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to account for the implications of the impact on community safety of actions and decisions relating to service areas.

### **Equality Impact**

15. Every effort is made to ensure that the facilities at The Dell Stadium are accessible to the widest possible range of users. Young people and children are well represented among the membership of many of the user clubs and organisations.

### **Recommendation**

16. It is recommended that:-
  - Members scrutinise the content of the report and comment accordingly



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**John Millar**  
**Director of Urban Environment**

Contact Officer: Andy Webb  
Telephone: 01384 815579  
Email: [andy.webb@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:andy.webb@dudley.gov.uk)

### **List of Background Papers**

MCAA Inspectors Report – May 2006  
MCAA Inspectors Report – November 2006

**Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education – Economic Regeneration Working Group – 5 December 2006**

**Report of the Lead Officer**

**Work of the Orchard Partnership**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report gives a broad outline of the work of the Orchard Partnership in response to a request from the Working Group.

**Background**

2. The Work Programme for this Working Group makes reference to the Orchard Partnership in Lye. This forms part of a wider concern of the Select Committee that the issues of economic activity and aspirations for vulnerable clients in Dudley is fully explored.
3. Whilst there is a national agenda for ensuring work place opportunity is available to all, Dudley Council has long been in the forefront of promoting to all its people the opportunities for advancement.
4. During discussions about the wider local agenda about the employment of its citizens who have disabilities and health problems, a positive member reference was made to the work of the Orchard Partnership work.
5. Attached as Appendix 1 is a copy of a presentation that will be given to the next working group which attempts to capture the excellent service given and its aspirations for the future.
6. This scheme is at the very heart of partnership and harnesses the tremendous powers of parents, carers and staff working together in a common aim.
7. It is worth emphasizing that as yet the 2007/2008 budget has now been finalised and this working group with its economic regeneration focus would be a further partner in looking to ensure the good work continues.

**Finance**

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report at this stage.

**Law**

9. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the borough.

### **Equality Impact**

10. This report complies with the Council's equality and diversity policy.

### **Recommendation**

11. It is recommended that Members note the report



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Ron Sims  
Lead Officer

Contact officer: Ron Sims  
Telephone: 01384 815005  
e-mail: [ron.sims@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:ron.sims@dudley.gov.uk)