

LEISURE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Wednesday, 9 January 2002 at 2.00pm

PRESENT –

Councillor Bloxham (Chairman) (Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder);
 Councillor Stevenson (Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder);
 Councillor Dodd;
 Councillor E Mallinson;
 Councillor J Prest;
 Councillor J Guest;
 E Cartwright (Director of Leisure and Community Development);
 T Nicholson (Head of Legal Services);
 S McGregor (Corporate Finance Manager);
 M Horne (Recreation Manager, The Sands Centre);
 P Armstrong (Operation and Premises Manager, The Pools)
 J Shires (Labour Group Political Assistant);
 A Pateman (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Political Assistant);
 S Halstead (Senior Committee Clerk).

LCG.4/01 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor McMillan.
 Councillor Guest was allowed to participate in the meeting on behalf of the Liberal Democrat and Independent Group.

LCG.5/01 LEISURETIME COMPETITIVE PROCESS DOCUMENTATION

The Director of Leisure and Community Development submitted Report LCD.96/02 providing the detailed documentation which would be issued to contractors tendering for the Leisuretime Competitive process.

In addition, the following documents were also submitted:-

- (a) the Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Consultative Group held on 4 December 2001 together with the Director's comments on the points raised at that meeting;
- (b) the views of the City Solicitor and Secretary with regard to the contract conditions.

Officers presented and explained the documents referred to above and the following points were raised by the Consultative Group:-

Minutes and Director's Comments

- (1) That the proposal to introduce a standard concession across the board on the Leisure Access Card be drawn to the attention of the Officer responsible for submitting a report to the Community Overview and

Scrutiny Committee on the review of SMART Cards operating within the Authority in order that any implications can be taken into account.

- (2) With regard to the Director's comments on the specification to guide the sports/entertainment split, it is recommended that Paragraph 2.2.12.7 of the "Specification" document (Page 11 refers) be amended by the deletion of all wording after "place" in the second paragraph.
- (3) With regard to the Orchestral Subscription Series, it is recommended that the second option requiring the contractor to provide a series in agreement with the Council be adopted.

Section One - Prospectus

- (4) Discussion arose on the Council's duty to undertake Best Value reviews every five years and the implications this would have on a contract for the provision of Leisure services for a fifteen year period. Officers outlined the actions which had been taken to address, as best as the City Council was able, the issues within the current Best Value regime, and on the possibility of Government changes to the Best Value requirements to deal with this particular situation. In particular, the Head of Legal Services referred to the City Solicitor and Secretary's comments which dealt with this issue in the passages dealing with the requirements for Best Value (including benchmarking and customer surveys and contract change mechanism) and the advice on break clause.

Section 2 – Specification

- (5) The requirement in Paragraph 2.1.3 to programme a minimum entertainment programme as listed was recommended for amendment to allow for subsequent negotiation with the contractor over the specific number of particular types of entertainment per year.

Contract and Comments of the City Solicitor and Secretary

- (6) With regard to Clauses 6 (Management Fee) and 8 (Review of Management Fee), it was recognised that the Executive would have to decide how to proceed as regards the Management Fee when it undertakes the evaluation of the bids it receives from contractors.

Lease

- (7) No particular recommendations were made on the lease proposals.

Evaluation Method and Matrix

- (8) The Consultative Group considered the weighting factors taken into account in the Evaluation Matrix to be satisfactory.

Contract Monitoring

- (9) It was recognised that contract monitoring arrangements were intended to move away from the CCT style of monitoring and would instead focus on outcomes for users, quality assurance, continuous improvement and externally verified self assessment.

RESOLVED – That the above points be referred to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive for consideration.

(The meeting ended at 3.55pm)