

**COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (SPECIAL MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2001 AT 2.00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Ellis (Chairman), Councillors Collier (substitute for Councillor Knapton), Crookdake (substitute for Councillor J Mallinson), S Fisher, McMillan, J Prest (substitute for Councillor Toole), Southward (substitute for Councillor Boaden) and Weber.

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Firth, Jefferson, McDevitt and Pattinson attended the meeting as observers.

**COS.15/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Boaden, Knapton, J Mallinson and Toole.

**COS.16/01 AGENDA**

With regard to Agenda item A.2 (Shifting the Balance – NHS Reform) it was noted that the Chief Executive of North Cumbria Health Authority would now be attending the special meeting of this Committee to be held on 24 October 2001 and consequently would not be present at this meeting.

**COS.17/01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING DECLARATIONS OF "THE PARTY WHIP")**

There were no declarations affecting any item on the Agenda.

**COS.18/01 INVITATIONS TO COMMITTEE**

Following discussion on how invitations to Executive portfolio holders and others to attend meetings of this Committee to answer questions, etc, should be dealt with, it was

**RESOLVED** – That invitations to attend the Committee be left to the discretion of the Chairman, in consultation with the Committee.

**COS.19/01 LEISURETIME DRAFT REVISED IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Director of Leisure and Community Development submitted report LCD.88/01 encompassing a draft revision of the Improvement Plan which had flowed from the

Leisuretime Best Value Fundamental Performance Review undertaken in 2000/01.

The report comprised three sections:

**Section 1** – explained, more comprehensively than did the Final Report, the national, regional and local strategic and policy framework within which the service was currently delivered. From that, material conclusions regarding the key factors which should influence future service delivery had been drawn, the aim of which was to better deliver key elements of those strategies and policies and improve customer satisfaction. It also demonstrated how present operational policies were already contributing to those strategic objectives.

Section 2 – set out the revised Action Plan. It included all the elements of the Action Plan as originally approved, incorporated new elements which flowed from consideration of Section 1, assigned responsibilities and SMART targets for each element of the Plan, and showed how each element contributed to key strategic objectives.

Section 3 – dealt with how the Action Plan would be delivered, including implications relating to resources and the Council's financial policy. The report reiterated the conclusions of the previous Action Plan with regard to the adoption of a competitive process to select a partner for the future delivery of those services.

The objective in producing the revised Action Plan was to ensure enhanced service delivery to customers, over and above the improvements which had already been built into the original Action Plan, together with a strengthening of the Council's key objectives.

The Director of Leisure and Community Development tabled at the meeting a revised Leisuretime Action Plan chart and accompanying Appendices.

The Committee gave detailed consideration to the Director's report, raised a number of issues on which the Director provided further clarification, made a number of decisions for changes to the content of the report and also made certain references to the Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

A Member considered that the Committee should be recommending that an in-house bid should be invited as part of the competitive process for the future operation of Leisuretime services.

The Chairman pointed out that the City Council had previously resolved that no in-house bid would be submitted as it would not release funding needed to complete the improvements recommended in the Action Plan.

**RESOLVED** – (1) That the following items be referred to the Director of Leisure and Community Development for consideration/insertion in the Leisuretime Draft Revised Improvement Plan Report:-

(a) With regard to Action Plan Ref No 11 on the Leisurecard take-up, the Director be requested to investigate options for promoting an increased take-up of the Leisurecards. The potential for introducing SMART card technology, having regard to the fact that the City Council issued other cards for various services, be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for consideration.

(b) The Director be requested to include an additional item in the

Action Plan recommending that investigations be made into ways to improve catering facilities at The Sands through possible environment changes and also by introducing a quality threshold in the catering contract.

(c) That Reference LS1 on page 16 of the report be amended to include public transport in the urban area.

(d) That the Director address in the Action Plan issues relating to budgetary implications of paragraph 3.5.4 of the Sports Facilities Strategy on page 23 of the report, i.e "Enhance and promote Carlisle as a venue for County, Regional and National competition."

(e) That item SF2 on page 24 of the report be amended to read "To improve access for all, examine the problems of public transport in the urban and rural areas".

(f) That with regard to user consultation, the Committee supports the proposed introduction of User Forums to provide a structured approach to feedback on service delivery.

(g) That in relation to Action Plan Ref No 9 concerning parking on The Sands Car Park for users, Councillor G Prest, Executive Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure, Environment and Transport be requested to attend the next meeting of this Committee to discuss current Council policy and the various issues involved.

(h) That with regard to Action Plan Ref No 13 regarding signage to leisure facilities, the Committee supported the proposed action to review signage which would assist in particular new users and visitors who may currently have difficulty finding certain facilities.

(2) That the following items be referred to the Executive for consideration:

(a) That the Executive be requested to make representations to the Government that Carlisle should revert to the Northern Area rather than, as at present, being part of the North West Cultural Consortium.

(b) That with regard to the Young Peoples Sports Development Strategy (page 22 of report LCD.88/01) it is recommended that the following wording:

"The aim of the Plan is to establish a co-ordinated framework that will provide sporting opportunities for young people to progress in sport regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability or any other characteristic"

should be amended to also make reference to the young, unemployed, over 50's, women, low income groups and the disabled.

(c) That the Executive be requested to clarify the position regarding funding for Leisuretime facilities as stated at paragraph 5.5 of report 32 and FP4 on page 33 of report LCD.88/01.

(3) That further consideration of the Director's report, amended to take account of the decisions taken at this meeting, take place at the special meeting of this Committee on 24 October 2001 and the Overview and Scrutiny Officer be requested to invite the following Executive Portfolio Holders to attend:

(a) Councillor Bloxham, Executive Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, who would be requested to answer questions relating to the Leisuretime Improvement Plan and on the Executive's principles of budgeting for the service in future years.

(b) Councillor G Prest, Executive Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure Environment and Transport, who would be requested to answer questions on the current charging policy for car parking at The Sands, given the implications for users of the Centre.

(4) That the Director of Leisure and Community Development be thanked for his comprehensive report.

(The meeting ended at 3.55 pm)