

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leisure Sub-Committee

At a Meeting held on 5th January 2000. Present: Councillors D M Ford (Chairman), P A Beckers, J E Grey, N Harris, D R Helson, Mrs S J Lemon, Mrs M J Webster and Mrs M A Weir.

Apologies: Councillors J M Dickson, K A Gibbs and Mrs. A R Hutchings

Visiting: Councillor P F A Webster

63. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 November 1999 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

64. **LEISURE CONNECTION MANAGEMENT REPORT (Minute 430/99)**

The Sub-Committee noted the report of the Head of Leisure and Client Services with regard to the latest Leisure Connection Management Report. Mrs Wendy Edwards from Leisure Connection attended the meeting to answer Members' questions relating to the report. The following points were clarified during discussion:-

Pricing

Members were advised that Leisure Connection did not feel that stating "Prices were not endorsed by Rochford District Council" was appropriate and may give the impression of disassociation between the Council and its contractor. Concurring with this view, Members considered a small item should be prepared for Rochford District Matters advising of the recent merger of Circa Leisure plc with Relaxion and stating the contractors role in delivering the Authority's Leisure Management function.

Reduced Pricing for Residents of Rochford District

Mrs Edwards advised that this matter had been raised previously. A clause for such would need to be written into the Leisure Contract, for which a cost would be attached.

Mindful of both the above points Members considered that they should be brought to the attention of the CCT Panel to be considered as part of the process for the next Leisure Contract.

Park School

Noting the point relating to fire regulations at the above site, Members questioned the Authority's liability with using the facilities at Park School. The Chairman moved and Members agreed for the matter to be investigated further with it being reported back to the next meeting.

Christmas Parties

Members were disappointed to note the cancellation of two Christmas parties at the Freight House, Rochford and were advised that this was due to lack of bookings. Mrs Edwards undertook to continue with such events although Members were reminded that many similar events were held at Clements Hall.

Customer Survey Questionnaire

Members noted the outcome of the customer survey undertaken in October 1999 and the key strengths and weaknesses identified.

RECOMMENDED

That the report be received and the points outlined above be actioned. (131) (HLCS)

65. ARTS AUDIT AND A DRAFT ARTS STRATEGY (Minute 351/99)

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Leisure and Client Services which apprised Members of the results of the public consultation on the draft Arts Strategy and sought approval for a way forward.

In noting the details of the consultation and its results Members were divided as to the most appropriate way forward given the Authority's financial position. Members took each recommendation separately and on a show of hands it was:-

RECOMMENDED

(1) That the Arts Strategy be adopted in principle subject to appropriate funding being available.

(2) That an Arts Development Officer be employed to develop the action plan within the Strategy, subject to appropriate funding being available, (HLCS)

66. LEISURE STRATEGY (Minute 430/99)

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Leisure and Client Services which provided Members with update information relating to the Leisure Strategy action plan. During discussion the following points were clarified.

Key Area 1 – Facilities

Point 5. Members noted that under the heading Performance Indicator, the report should state “in process of securing Blatches Farm” and not purchasing.

Point 6. Whilst considering the matter of Cycle Paths, Members requested that an invitation be sent to Essex County Council for them to attend a future meeting of the Transportation Sub-Committee on the matter of creation, funding and signage etc of Cycle Paths throughout the Rochford District. Whilst discussing this matter a Member expressed concern at the number of bicycle racks within the recently enhanced Rayleigh Town Centre.

Point 8. Members were advised that the provision of an indoor bowls facility in the District would be a full sized bowls rink. Short mat bowling facilities were already provided throughout the District.

Point 19. Whilst considering the matter of wheelchair access/exit in all Council buildings, a Member expressed concern at disabled access arrangements for Civic Suite Meeting rooms. The Sub-Committee were advised that the matter had previously been considered by the Planning Services Committee and that a progress report on the matter of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and its implications for the Authority would be brought to a future meeting of the Planning Services Committee.

Key Area 2 – Participation

Point 4. Members noted that under the heading Performance Indicator reference should have been made to the “Drugs Reference Group Roadshow”.

Key Area 3 – Young People in Sport

Members requested a feedback report on the matter of Youth Sports Development Group Meetings to a future Meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Whilst considering this key area Members questioned what impact Greensward College’s recent departure from the three term school year would have on summer holiday Playscheme activities.

RECOMMENDED

That the report be received and points outlined above be actioned. (HLCS)

Meeting closed at 9.55pm

Chairman

Date