

COMMUNITY AND LEISURE SERVICES POLICY & SCRUTINY PANEL
EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET, KIDDERMINSTER
THURSDAY 14TH JULY 2005

PRESENT:

Councillors: A D Williams (Chairman), J Baker (Vice-Chairman), Mrs P V Hayward, Mrs L Hyde, Miss M A Mason, M J Shellie, R Wheway.

OBSERVERS:

Councillor N J Desmond (Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services), Councillors Mrs H E Dyke and P Dyke.

CLS.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A J Buckley.

Members noted that Councillor N J Desmond had advised the Panel in advance that he would be a few minutes late.

CLS.2 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

No substitutes were appointed.

CLS.3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

CLS.4 MINUTES

AGREED: The minutes of the meeting held on the 10TH March 2005 be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

CLS.5 SCOPING – SCRUTINY OF SKATEBOARDING

Members considered a briefing paper from the Cultural Services Manager on a review of skateboarding within the District.

The Chairman reminded Members that copies of the following reports had been made available in Group Rooms:

- A report by Tribe Enterprises Ltd, which assessed various locations in the District for permanent skateboarding facilities.
- The 'Youthinks Survey' dated October 2004, which gave a wide perspective of young people's thinking on a number of quality life issues.
- Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership's Key Achievements Report for 2002-2005 which outlined a number of projects that had focused on young people's activities and their participation in community life.

Councillor N J Desmond joined the meeting at 6.05 pm.

During the discussion, the following points were raised.

- a) A recommendation from the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 26th January 2005 requested that further consultation be undertaken by the Skateboarding Task and Finish Group (Minute CM.686 refers).
- b) The Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services explained that the Cabinet had agreed there had been insufficient information in the original report. A more in depth Scrutiny had been requested so it was referred to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee who consequently passed it back to the Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel to consider. It was noted that the Task and Finish Group had been short of time and had been unable to look at the issue in great depth and a strategic overview had been undertaken.
- c) The Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services also explained to the Panel that there were no strict deadlines for this information so the Group would have plenty of time to investigate each issue carefully.
- d) A member stated that skateboarding had been discussed many times over such a long period of time and he feared that they would never reach a conclusion. The whole point of the Task and Finish Group report would be to discuss this issue and investigate the demand.
- e) A Panel Member mentioned that usually when children were questioned as to whether they would want a skate-park, they would say yes even if they were not going to use it. Her opinion was that the Council should not always give too much weight to the responses of children.
- f) The Cultural Services Manager suggested that the brief be widened to include youth activities generally as skateboarding only appealed to approximately 10% of the youth population.

- g) The consensus of the Group was to identify the need for a skate-park in the District in order for future funding to be secured. The Group would need to investigate the popularity and actual demand for skateboarding, what size skate-park would be needed and what the end-users' requirements would be.
- h) The Panel discussed the scoping form in detail and agreed that it would be feasible to have two task and finish groups, one to concentrate on Skateboarding and the other to look at Youth Provision in general.

AGREED:

- **A Task and Finish Group be formed to reconsider Skateboarding in the District, comprising Councillors Mrs J Fairbrother-Millis, Mrs P V Hayward, Mrs R L Lewis, M J Shellie and K J Stokes.**
- **A Task and Finish Group to consider Youth Provision in the District, comprising Councillors J Baker, Mrs H E Dyke and R Wheway be appointed for the duration of the exercise.**
- **A meeting between members of the 2 Task and Finish Groups and relevant officers be convened as soon as possible.**

Councillors Mrs H E Dyke and P Dyke left the meeting at this point 6.55 pm.

CLS.6 WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered its draft work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Community Strategy, Corporate Plan, Forward Plan, Key Commitments and Improvement Plan.

AGREED:

The work programme for the current municipal year be approved.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm.