

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,  
KIDDERMINSTER

7TH JANUARY 2009 (6:00 PM)

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**Present:**

Councillors: Mrs H E Dyke (Chairman), J Phillips (Vice-Chairman), J Baker, A J Buckley, G H Eeles, Mrs P V Hayward, Mrs S M Hayward, C D Nicholls and G C Yarranton.

**Observers:**

Councillor: M J Hart.

**CMS.59 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Mrs J Fairbrother-Millis.

**CMS.60 Appointment of Substitutes:**

No substitutes were appointed.

**CMS.61 Declaration of Interests:**

No declarations of interest were made.

**CMS.62 Minutes:**

**Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**CMS.63 Partnership Activities related to health, jointly provided by DC leisure, Wyre Forest District Council and other partners**

Members considered a briefing paper from the Cultural Services Manager which detailed the joint activities and initiatives relating to health which were provided by the Council and other partners.

Members' attention was drawn to the Activity Referral Scheme detailed in the report, Members noted that the Council had tried to progress this initiative for several years, however GP's had not been keen to commit to the scheme.

Moreover, the Cultural Services Manager advised that the scheme would be launched in February 2009 and had received external funding.

The Contracts Manager of the Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre added that the Council had a strong partnership with DC Leisure and other local partners. He

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advised that an excellent example of partnership working was the Mind Exercise Nutrition Do it (MEND) programme.

Members noted that the MEND programme, aimed at reducing obesity amongst young people, was a ten week programme to educate young people and their families on exercise, nutrition and how to lead a healthy life.

Furthermore, Members noted that MEND in the community would be delivered in Birchen Coppice as feedback had been received indicating that a barrier to participation in the scheme was transport. It was noted that a high proportion of young people in Birchen Coppice were obese.

Members congratulated staff on their achievements in this area.

### **Agreed:**

- 1. The content of the briefing paper be noted.**
- 2. The two Member Representatives on the Board of DC Leisure be advised of the Committees' comments regarding the activities and initiatives run in partnership between the District Council & DC Leisure.**

## **CMS.64 Countryside Service and Implications of taking on Additional Land**

The Committee considered a briefing paper from the Cultural Services Manager which highlighted resource implications for the Countryside Service taking on additional land.

Members noted that a high proportion of land had been placed with the Countryside Service through Section 106 agreements and that the Council continued to take on land without increasing staffing levels.

The Cultural Services Manager advised Members that by utilising Section 106 monies a post could be funded to appoint a member of staff to the Countryside Service to produce a management plan for the sites managed by the Countryside service and co-ordinate the required maintenance, under the terms of the S106 agreements.

The Committee noted that the Council had a statutory duty to maintain the land that it owned and that it was inspected by Natural England who monitored the management of the land. Furthermore it was noted that the Countryside Service had been successful in gaining awards for the land it managed, most recently for the grazing animals project.

### **Agreed:**

- 1. To note the potential options available for development in this area.**
- 2. Recommended to Cabinet to progress option 2, as detailed in the briefing paper.**

**CMS.65 Police Call Centres**

Members considered a draft scoping form for a review panel to be established to scrutinise public satisfaction with the service provided by police call centres.

Following discussion Members concluded that, as the Council did not have any powers to influence service delivery at Police Call Centres, to establish a review could raise the expectations of the public.

**Agreed: No review panel be established to scrutinise Police Call Centres.**

**CMS.66 Kidderminster Arts Centre**

Members considered a proposal from Councillor Mrs Oborski requesting that the need for an arts centre in Kidderminster be scrutinised.

Following discussion Members concluded that, as this area had been previously scrutinised, it would be helpful if Councillor Mrs Oborski could attend the next meeting to ensure that any work undertaken in this area reflected her original intent.

**Agreed:**

- 1. The item be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009.**
- 2. Councillor Mrs Oborski be invited to attend to discuss the proposal.**

**CMS.67 Work Programme**

The Committee considered its work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Community Strategy, Corporate Plan, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.

The Chairman advised that, as per minute no. CMS.56, the Head of Property & Operational Services had advised that the Council was awaiting information from outside organisations, and so was not in a position to bring the item forward to scrutiny at present.

**AGREED:**

**The work programme for the current municipal year be approved subject to:**

- 1. The Scrutiny / Committee Officer continue to liaise with the Head of Property & Operational Services to establish when the item on the Council's methods of waste collection will be presented to the Committee.**

The meeting ended at 7:05pm.