

Scrutiny Committee

- Venue: Committee Room 2
- Date: 21 June 2011
- Present: Councillor Mrs W Nichols (Chair), Councillor I Chilvers, Councillor M Dyson, Councillor K Ellis, Councillor D Mackay, Councillor C Pearson and Councillor R Price
- Apologies for Absence: Councillors D Peart and M Hobson
- Also Present: Councillor M Crane, Councillor Mrs G Ivey, Councillor Mrs D Davies, Martin Eden, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, Alan Stewart, Principal Selby College and Vernon Wells, Chair of Board of Governors Selby College
- Officers Present: Karen Iveson, Executive Director; Keith Dawson, Director of Community Services, Sarah Smith, Business Manager (for agenda item 4); Glenn Shelley and Richard Besley, Democratic Services

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair welcomed councillors to the first meeting of the new Scrutiny Committee. The Committee would have a busy and varied Work Programme to progress in the coming months. In light of this it was agreed that the provisional meeting scheduled for 27 July 2011 would go ahead.

The Committee considered the start time for meetings and agreed 5pm for a period of six months.

The Committee agreed that Agenda item 4,- Call In of Executive Decision E/11/6 be dealt with at the end of the Agenda so that persons invited to address the Committee may be present.

RESOLVED:

That Scrutiny Committee meetings commence at 5.00pm for a six month trial period.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To accommodate councillors with work commitments.

3. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME – SC/11/2

The report was presented by Glenn Shelley, Democratic Services Manager. He outlined the constitutional requirements for the Work Programme and the need to present it to both the Executive and Council. It was stressed that the Work Programme was owned by the Committee and was presented for councillor input.

The Committee raised the use of Working Groups to consider items in depth and the level of officer input that would be required. Councillors discussed the breadth of topics that could be included as part of the item on Transport Provision in the programme for the July meeting. It was agreed that the item should concentrate on the impact on our communities of the cuts in bus services.

The New Homes Bonus was also on the programme for July. However it was felt that further consideration with the Executive was required to identify the most appropriate time to consider the issue.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the report.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

The Committee ensures the contribution of Scrutiny is effective in supporting service improvement and delivery against district wide and Council priorities.

4. YEAR END PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REVIEW 2010/2011 – SC/11/3

The report was presented by Karen Iveson Executive Director and outlined the Council's 2010/2011 year-end performance on key performance indicators.

The Committee discussed the results from the report and in particular those which were below target. The Executive Director highlighted the performance targets for leisure services and the impact of the refurbishment works at Abbey Leisure and the essential maintenance at Tadcaster Leisure. On a positive note, councillors heard that gym memberships at Abbey Leisure were exceeding the targets set.

Waste collection was an item within the report and the Committee felt that this was a matter to be discussed under the Access Selby Service Provision topic on the work programme for 20 September, this was agreed.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the report.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

To ensure the scrutiny of ongoing management of performance and improvement data assists the Authority in achieving its strategic themes and priorities.

5. CALL IN EXECUTIVE DECISION (E/11/6) SELBY COLLEGE SPORTS PITCH – SC/11/1

The report was presented by Karen Iveson, Executive Director. It provided details of a Call In request that had been received in respect of Executive Report E/11/6.

The Committee considered the reasons for call in. It was agreed to first hear the views from the persons invited to the meeting.

First to address the Committee was Mark Crane, Leader of Council, who provided the background to the report and the reason for the decision. The Executive felt that their decision to switch the location of the pitch from Selby College to Abbey Leisure Centre offered greater reward to Selby District Council and residents.

Next to speak was Martin Eden, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT), who highlighted the deterioration of the existing all-weather pitch at Abbey Leisure Centre and how the Council funding would provide a much improved facility. WLCT estimated an income of £40k from the improved facility and would be prepared to underwrite that value of income. Martin Eden advised councillors that the current pitch would soon reach the end of its lifespan and would be unfit for use. This would create an income shortfall of £17k which WLCT could seek to recoup in a renegotiated contract with Selby District Council.

Mr Eden was asked how WLCT had arrived at their income projections for a new pitch. The Committee heard that they were based on the viewing of similar facilities elsewhere and the utilisation of the facility as three pitches instead of the current practice of two.

He also informed the Committee that the introduction of a 3G pitch would expand current usage to Rugby and, in addition, of negotiations with the Rugby Football League (RFL) for the introduction of a Rugby League Development Officer, funded by the RFL, that would benefit the community.

Mr Alan Stewart, Principal of Selby College addressed the Committee and gave the background to the original scheme going back to 2002 and the plan to develop a premier facility by Selby College, Selby District Council and Sport England.

Mr Stewart informed the Committee that, had they been aware that Selby Council was considering working with WLCT, they would have been happy to consider a number of options including a facility, administered by WLCT, using College land and facilities.

Vernon Wells, on behalf of the Board of Governors, supported the views of Mr Stewart and felt disappointed by the withdrawal of Council funding.

The Committee asked if the College were in a position to move forward independently with alternative funding. Mr Stewart explained that funding from the Football Foundation may be an option, however given the current economic climate it was unlikely the College would be able to raise the funds required.

Having heard from all parties invited to the meeting, the Chair thanked them all for valued input and the Committee returned to the matter of the validity of the Call In. Following a vote, the Committee accepted the Call In as valid. The Committee then voted on the options available and the decision was made to refer the matter back to the Executive further consideration.

RESOLVED:

- i) Executive Decision E/11/6 – Selby College Sports Pitch is accepted as a valid Call In;**
- ii) Executive Decision E/11/6 – Selby College Sports Pitch is referred back to the Executive for further consideration.**

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

The Committee considered that all matters had not been taken into account in reach a decision.

The meeting concluded at 6.30pm.