

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 5TH JANUARY, 2009

Present – Councillors Ibrahim (Chairman), J. Byrne, Fairclough, Higson, Mistry, R. Ronson and J. Walsh (as deputy for Greenhalgh).

Also in attendance

Mr. J. Rutherford	Director of Adult Services
Ms. S. Crossley	Assistant Director, Adult and Community Services
Ms. C. Forster	Albert Halls Manager
Ms. E. Tatman	Bolton Little Theatre
Mr. A. Scott	Policy Accountant
Mr. J. Kerambrum	Democratic Services Officer

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Greenhalgh.

Councillor Ibrahim in the Chair

9. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 3rd December, 2008 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

10. FEES AND CHARGES FOR CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 2009/2010

The Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report which set out the proposed fees and charges for Culture and Community Services for 2009/2010.

Members were informed of the annual review of fees and charges covering the services for Culture and Community Services within the Adult and Community Services portfolio. The increases for the financial year 2009/2010 should cover a minimum inflationary increase of 4%. The proposals for 2009/2010 had been developed in accordance with the Audit Commission guidance the “Price is Right”.

The report proposed change to charges for services delivered by the Albert Halls, Food Safety and Health and Safety, Bolton Libraries and Bolton Museum and Archives Service.

A full list of the proposed changes was appended at appendices A – E of the report.

Members queried whether the fees charged for Food Safety and Health & Safety Licences fully covered the costs involved in providing the licence.

It was agreed that this information would be circulated to members.

Members discussed the loans of DVDs and CDs that were provided by the library service.

It was agreed that a report would come back to a future meeting of this Policy Development Group that fully scoped the service currently provided including the impact of downloading.

Members discussed the need to collate all complaints the Authority had received regarding Victoria Square and pass these on to the new Town Centre Partnership.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

11. CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES STRATEGIC RESOURCE OPTIONS AND PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/2010

The Assistant Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report which outlined the resource option proposals and the proposed Capital Programme for 2009/2010 relating to the Culture and Community Services.

The report outlined for the Policy Development Group a range of budget options to deliver efficiency and savings targets for 2009/2010 within Culture and Community Services. Options were originally presented to the Policy Development Group meeting on 3rd November, 2008 and, again, on 3rd December, 2008 where members had further discussions on the options and the opportunity to put forward other options for consideration and further investigation. The Executive Member, at his meeting on 15th December, 2008, approved further work and consultation on the options.

The report stated that for the 2009/2010 CBPP, the Executive at its meeting on 27th October, 2008 resolved that Council Services be asked to prepare budget saving options of 5% for 2009/2010 to contribute to the corporate savings target/ value-for-money efficiency savings, and also to prepare options to contain any demand led growth. The Executive also agreed that savings of at least 3% per annum were likely to be required for the following 2 years.

Members were informed that the 5% savings target to meet the corporate requirement equates to £348,000 in Culture and Community Services (based on a budget of £6.95 million). The £348,000 includes £62,000 savings relating to the Welfare Rights and Food Safety and Health and Safety services, which were managed by Culture and Community Services, but were within the portfolio of the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care.

The options to meet the 5% requirement were detailed in Appendix 1. The options identified in the Appendix totalled £399,000, which was in excess of the £348,000 target.

The 3% per annum savings requirement for the following 2 years was, at this stage, planned to be identified through a programme of Value for Money and Efficiency Reviews of individual services.

The proposed Capital Programme was set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

Members displayed concern over the disestablishment of the vacant Food Safety Officer post.

The Director of Adult Services assured members that through a change in working practices and with the assistance of new technology the work previously covered by this post could be managed within the Food Control Service.

Members discussed the planned investment in the music lecture theatre and it was agreed that a report explaining what was planned would be submitted to a future meeting of this Policy Development Group.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 12.00 noon and finished at 12.40 p.m.)