

**CHILDREN'S AND CULTURE SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2016

Present – Councillors Dean (Chairman), Wild (Vice-Chairman), Gillies, Graham, Haworth, Hornby, Iqbal, Jones, Kirk-Robinson, Martin, Murray, Shaikh, Sherrington, Spencer and Watters.

Also in attendance

Councillor Mrs Thomas	-	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor Cunliffe	-	Cabinet Member for Education, Schools, Safeguarding and Looked After Children
Mr. J. Daly		Acting Director of People
Ms. S. Schofield		Assistant Director Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services
Mr. A. Birch		Assistant Director Education and Learning
Mr. J. Gorton		Partnership Manager Leisure Trust
Mr. Y. Islam		Head of Service (ACIS)
Mr. D. Singleton		Chairman of Bolton Community Leisure Trust
Mr. E. Jankowski		Democratic Services Apprentice
Mr. I. D. Mulholland		Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J. Byrne (as Cabinet Member for Culture, Youth and Sport) and Hall.

Councillor Dean in the Chair.

## **23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Children's and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be received and signed as a correct record.

## **24. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which set out details of the updated work programme for the Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

## **25. BOLTON COMMUNITY LEISURE TRUST**

(Councillors Gillies and Spencer declared an interest in relation to the following item as Governors of Harper Green School)

Mr. D. Singleton, Chairman of Bolton Community Leisure Trust, gave a presentation which informed members of the progress of the Bolton Community Leisure Trust.

Information was provided in relation to the following, viz:-

- reduction in the grant from the Council of £1,200,000 (45% of operational fee);
- seven facilities now existed – down from 13;
- investment was in excess of £2,500,000;
- income had increased by £500,000;
- increased patronage despite reducing facilities and increased competition;
- Sharples Academy transfer;
- Harper Green transfer at the end of March;
- sweating the assets was becoming more difficult;
- the Contract ended in three years;
- Horwich Leisure Centre redevelopment; and
- the partnership approach to support the Community

Strategy.

Following the presentation, members asked a range of questions and made observations in the following areas, viz:-

- Horwich Leisure Centre works and closure and re-build plans;
- plans for Harper Green and use of the leisure facility;
- Westhoughton plans and linking to the work of the Trust;
- links with Serco;
- income for schools;
- matters around being competitive and remaining so;
- activities geared around families; and
- pricing and free activities.

Resolved – That Mr Singleton be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **26. PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

Mr. J. Daly, Acting Director of People, gave a presentation which updated members on Child Protection Issues.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- children missing from home and care;
- developing a co-ordinated and more coherent response;
- current data relating to missing children;
- areas for development;
- developments and challenges;
- the Phoenix Peer Challenge, 2015 – developments;
- Bolton multi-agency screening and safeguarding service;
- child protection plans; and
- Development of the Looked After Children Reduction Strategy.

Members in their deliberations referred to the following:-

- the reasons young people run away;
- high and medium risk cases and the interventions;
- the threat of exploitation in Bolton;

- matters around successful prosecutions;
- grooming on line and changing technologies and the difficulty in identifying the criminals;
- matters around all forms of harm;
- child protection re-registration rate; and
- sexual slavery matters and interventions.

Resolved – That Mr. Daly be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **28. COMMUNITY IN COHESION IN SCHOOLS**

Mr. Yousif Islam, ACIS Head of Service, Manager (Collection Access), gave a presentation which outlined Community Cohesion developments.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) & British values;
- schools Linking;
- holocaust project and memorial service;
- Black History Month;
- Governor Training; and
- prevention and the reporting process.

Members in their deliberations referred to the following:-

- a prevent session for head teachers;
- governor training; and
- matters around the many aspects to persecution.

Resolved – That Mr. Islam be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **29. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

The Committee received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

The Executive Cabinet Deputy Leader's Portfolio held on 14th December, 2015 and 11th January, 2016

Resolved – That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(The meeting started at 5.30pm and finished at 7.25pm)