

SPORTS, LIBRARIES AND CULTURE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 9TH JANUARY, 2013

Present – Councillors S. Harkin (Chairman), Peacock (Vice-Chairman), J. Byrne, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Hayes, Kellett and Peacock.

Also in Attendance

Mr. K. Davies	-	Director of Development and Regeneration
Mr. J. Gorton	-	Partnership Manager Leisure Trust
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Councillor S Harkin in the Chair

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 11th December, 2012 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

5. SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCIES – LEISURE PROVISION

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which advised members of the proposals being developed to achieve the savings target for 2013-15 financial years in relation to the Leisure Budgets.

As part of the identified savings target the Development and Regeneration Department had been requested to progress the corporate target of £400,000 in 2013-15 from the Council's budget to support leisure provision.

The report set out the proposals for development, consideration and approval in principle as follows:-

- Bolton Community Leisure Trust (BCLT) - £300,000;
- Bolton Middlebrook Leisure Trust - £80,000; and
- Bolton Council's Leisure Budget - £20,000

The report explained that, as the most significant amount of savings were to be delivered by BCLT, the main focus was the options BCLT and Serco have been examining, although reference was made to the subsidy reduction to Bolton Middlebrook Leisure Trust.

A range of proposals had been developed and agreed by BCLT to meet the £300,000 reduction in grant commencing 1st April 2014 and these focused on investing in facilities in order to continue with the rationalisation of the leisure

portfolio and to generate and sustain income levels over the remaining period of the contract. The proposals were as follows which were detailed in the report:-

- Revised Management Arrangement at Ladybridge Dual Use Centre - £130,000;
- Revised Management Arrangement at Little Lever Dual Use Centre - £40,000;
- Expansion of Fitness Facilities at Leverhulme Park Community Club - £75,000; and
- Expansion of Fitness Facilities at Farnworth Leisure Centre -£55,000.

The investment in facilities would be spread over three financial years, 2011-12 to 2013-14.

BCLT had agreed in principle to funding £300,000 of the proposed £890,000 investment and if additional BCLT surpluses became available, a further £95,000 could be made available and therefore increase the investment programme to £985,000.

The proposed investment programme would therefore be funded as follows:

Investment	£'000
BCLT	300
Bolton Council Capital Contribution	510
Bolton Council Additional Revenue Contribution to BCLT	80
Sub-Total	890
Potential Additional BCLT Surpluses	95
Total Investment Programme	985

Serco were responsible for all staff which may be affected by any of the proposals and any changes will be dealt with by Serco in line with their HR policies and procedures.

This report also contained details of other investment opportunities within the Borough's leisure portfolio which would complete BCLT's rationalisation programme to provide appropriate borough wide access to sport and leisure facilities of a consistent standard. The investment programme would be dependent on funding becoming available.

The Bolton Middlebrook Leisure Trust and the Council had agreed, under the Managing Agency Agreement, to reduce the subsidy payable by £40,000 in 2013-14 and a further £40,000 in 2014-15.

Furthermore, a fund to provide one off activities was included within the Council's Leisure budget and it was proposed that this would be reduced by £20,000 from 2014-15.

Following the necessary approvals from the Council and BCLT further communication would take place with staff, schools, governing bodies and customers to ensure continuity of access and clear communication of alternative offers where appropriate.

It was agreed that the report and recommendations be approved by the Cabinet at its meeting on 14th January, 2013.

(The meeting started at 5.00 p.m. and finished at 5.20 p.m.)