

## minutes



Meeting      **COMMUNITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

Date            Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2006 (commencing at 10.30 am)

### **membership**

Persons absent are marked with `A`

### **COUNCILLORS**

Y Davidson (Chair)  
Richard Butler (Vice-Chair)

A	Reg Adair	Edward Llewellyn-Jones
A	Peter Barnes	Jim O'Riordan
	Jen Cole	Mrs S Saddington
A	Alan Davison	Mark Spencer
	Albert Haynes	Brian Wombwell

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor J Cottee

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Select Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2006 were confirmed and signed by the Chair, subject to Councillor Cottee's attendance being noted.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Reg Adair  
"      Peter Barnes  
"      Alan Davison

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None.

## **PRESENTATION BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE PORTFOLIO**

Councillor Baron reported on the activities and progress to date in relation to the culture portfolio.

In terms of the Libraries, Archives and Information, Councillor Baron was pleased to report that the capital programme included 3 new builds and 15 refurbishments. A lot of work was being done around the (DDA) Disability Discrimination Act to improve access for disabled people. Although there was a £10,000 reduction in stock replacement, he pointed out that he would try to vire some of this back. This would be dependant on the findings of the Great Libraries Debate which were to be reported on in April.

The Archives service faces continuing pressure on space both for historical archives and records management of the County Council. Work was in its infancy to find a suitable replacement.

With regard to Young People, the Select Committee heard that the Mill Centre was now complete and that Members would be invited to attend its open day. Funding had been earmarked for a new build to replace the Valley Youth Centre at Worksop. The Mansfield Old Library project would be taken over by the youth service to develop an innovative youth arts project.

Reference was made to the future of the Connexions service that is to become a private independent company in 2008.

The Select Committee was also informed of the current situation relating to the County's country parks. Funding had been secured for the Bestwood Winding House. Phase 1 of the County's living landmarks bid had now passed. It was hoped that the County Council will secure £50,000 to develop the bid. Inspectors would be assessing the quality of the bid in June.

Councillor Baron referred to the County Council having been let down by Sport England who had been considering its future plans for Holme Pierrepont to which its proposals could incur a loss of £1.4m revenue each year for the County Council. He explained that he wanted to try and ensure the future use of Holme Pierrepont would not be a burden to the tax payer. On a positive note Councillor Baron was pleased to inform the Select Committee of the award of Beacon Council status to the Sports Development Team.

Councillor Spencer asked about the safety aspects of the proposed country park on the former Gedling Colliery tip site. Councillor Baron said that he believed this was the responsibility of the Environment Department.

In response to a question from Councillor O'Riordan regarding the limited space at Carlton library, Councillor Baron said that there was no single solution to cope with this because of the limited space available in the building. He agreed that he would present the matter to a future meeting of the Gedling Members Forum.

Councillor Davidson congratulated the Sports Disability Team for their Beacon Award and welcomed the Select Committee's visit to the Bestwood Winding House.

### **CRIME AND DISORDER STUDY**

Councillor Davidson, Chair of the Select Committee introduced the report that summarised the considerations of the Study Group on community safety initiatives to date.

In doing so, it was explained that the work of the Study Group had focused in particular on youth work and through discussions with the Crime and Disorder Team and observing the team at work they felt that they had identified a number of issues that needed to be addressed.

The Study Group had been unable to find any evidence as to the effectiveness of crime and disorder work in preventing young people offending or re-offending. There also did not appear to be a system in place for identifying the impact of their work. The Study Group was concerned that young people might be slipping through the net.

Councillor Davidson explained that, Jo Baker, Operations Director (County) from Connexions Nottinghamshire and had been invited to give evidence to the Select Committee on the Connexions Service's work with young persons at risk of offending and the possible alternatives on offer and about the progress and challenges in joint working and information sharing. Anthony May, Assistant Director, Young People's Division had also been invited to talk to the Select Committee on his involvement in the Council's planning for integrated children's services.

Jo Baker, Operations Director gave a brief overview on the work of the Connexions service in relation to the crime arena. These included:-

- A Crime Diversion Team that gives access to records and included seconded Police Officer.
- A PAYP (Positive Activities for Young People) programme across the County for young people involved in crime or at risk of falling into crime.
- Junior crime stoppers to provide young people with a route to tell anonymously of any crime.
- Youth Offending Service personal advisors working to move young offenders back into education, employment and training. This was being implemented in all schools and connexions centres.

In terms of joint planning, Ms Baker referred to a joint review they had undertaken with the Youth Service Crime and Disorder Team that would be developed into an action plan, copies of which had been made available.

It was acknowledged that measuring impact was difficult. Ms Baker explained that all of their work had impact measures and targets and that these could only work if there were effective recording systems in place.

Examples included:-

- Young offenders moving to EET ( Education, employment and training)
- Reductions in exclusions – both fixed and permanent
- Recidivism i.e. repeated offences via the Young Offenders Service.

An issue faced by the Connexions Service was that the number of offenders in EET (education, employment and education) was only 40% and that the figure for pre 16 was much higher. Another concern for the service was the lack of appropriate provision for young offenders in some areas at level 1 and 2. A solution was still to be found. It was acknowledged that this was a significant problem and one that would have to be addressed at a national level. In response to a question from Councillor O’Riordan, Ms Baker agreed to look into specific data on re-offending.

Anthony May outlined where the Young People’s Division (YPD) was in terms of its integration with Children’s Services. In doing so, he explained that steps had been taken to integrate the department’s services in the YPD well before going into one department. There was still a long way to go in terms of the issues created by young people and all of the agencies joining up to deal with them. Mr May said that the next stage would be for the County Council to engage its partners and to work towards multi agency agreements to ensure that everything remains intact as much as possible.

The Select Committee wondered how the departments might come together. It was acknowledged that some partners, i.e. critical partners such as the police would find it very difficult given their own issues.

The Select Committee also recognised the challenges faced by some professionals on the ground in relation to information sharing, in particular, in relation to protecting individuals’ families. Mr May said that clearly there was a lot more work to be done on the issue of confidentiality and disclosure. He said that what was happening now was important. There was now a common assessment framework so that individuals only have to tell their story once.

Mr May agreed to have a look at the Connexions and Youth Service agreement for the Select Committee and look into a matter raised by Councillor Llewellyn-Jones regarding anti-social behaviour in Sutton.

The Select Committee agreed for the Anthony May to report back to a future meeting to give an update.

It was also agreed that the Study Group meet at the rising of the Select Committee meeting to discuss today’s presentations.

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Select Committee noted the work programme, and asked for a future update on the Arts Review and on information sharing in relation to the youth work.

The meeting closed at 12.05 pm.

## **CHAIR**

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