

minutes



Meeting **COMMUNITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

Date Monday, 3rd October 2005 (commencing at 10.30 am)

membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

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

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor C Baron

MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Select Committee held on 18th July 2005 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Peter Barnes

“ Alan Davison

“ A Haynes

“ J O'Riordan

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

Councillor Baron, Cabinet Member for Culture gave a presentation to the Select Committee on the current and forthcoming issues affecting his portfolio.

The Select Committee heard about the plans for the County's libraries and the proposals for the national stock procurement which the County Council would be objecting to.

Councillor Baron gave an update on the country parks, where the issues included the bid for the conversion of the Rufford Mill and the relocation of Sherwood Forest Visitors Centre. In doing so he pointed out that the bid for the conversion of the Rufford Mill had passed the first stage.

There is to be a review of grant aid to the arts and elite athletes, as well as an overall review of arts services led by David Lathrope.

There would be an examination of the Youth Service's capacity to meet the implications of the Youth Matters Green Paper. The Select Committee would be kept informed as the final implications became clear. Councillor Baron also drew attention to low usage of the **NOTTS Connect** contact centre and **e-government** developments. Councillor Baron explained the Gershon savings being made. He referred to the implications of the Children Act for Culture and Community.

Councillor Adair referred to the need for more youth work support in the Ruddington area. Councillor Jen Cole referred to a review that had been undertaken by Gedling Borough Council to gain the views and aspirations of its young people and suggested that it be used as part of the examination of the Youth Services.

The Select Committee asked questions following the presentation.

SCRUTINY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES

Adrian Dudley, Development Officer, Safer Communities, introduced the report that gave suggestions to the Select Committee on 3 areas of work, the Neighbourhood Wardens in Ashfield, the Activate Project and Anti-Social Behaviour. In doing so, he gave a summary of each and asked the Select Committee to consider which one they would like to scrutinise. He explained that it might best be approached by a small study group of 6 members supported by officers from the safer Communities team. It was anticipated that the study group undertake the work over a fairly intensive period, with an interim report being presented to the Select Committee meeting on 19 December 2005 and a final report on 13 February 2006.

The Chair suggested that the initiatives be put to the vote to determine which one it would consider first.

Following a show of hands it was agreed that the Activate Project would be the first of the three initiatives to be scrutinised.

The Select Committee agreed to establish a study group to undertake a review of the Activate Project as set out in the report.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 2005

Anthony May, Assistant Director of Culture and Community (Young Persons Division) introduced the report that set out the context and overview of the annual performance assessment on the services provided by Nottinghamshire County Council for children and young people.

It was explained that the inspection framework consisted of 2 main parts – a joint area review (JAR) and an annual performance assessment (APA) and that the inspection process brought together ten different inspectorates. This was the first time that the annual performance assessment (APA) had been introduced. Mr May added that the APA assessed the council's specific contribution through education and social care functions to improving outcomes for children and young people. It would test the means of the quality of the provision and how well the services had been and was responding to the Childrens Act.

The Select Committee heard about the self assessment in terms of the process involved and of the strengths that had been identified and the areas prioritised for improvement.

Mr May was pleased to inform the Select Committee that Nottinghamshire had graded itself at the highest grade (grade 4) for each element of the self assessment and now awaited the final judgement from the DfES, which was expected in November 2005. Initial feedback from inspectors had been positive.

The Select Committee noted the annual performance amount and it was agreed to receive regular updates on the progress with those priorities concerned with Community Services.

WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair informed the Select Committee of a proposed visit to the Archives Service on Monday, 21st November 2005.

The work programme was noted.

The meeting closed at 12 noon.

CHAIR

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