

# minutes



Meeting	COMMUNITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE
Date	Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2005 (commencing at 10.30 am)

## **membership**

Persons absent are marked with `A`

## **COUNCILLORS**

Joyce Bosnjak JP (Chair)  
Richard Butler (Vice-Chair)

	Mrs Sue Bennett		R Needham
A	John Cottee		Peter D Prebble
A	Alan Davison		R S Robinson
	Andy Freeman	A	Maureen Tewson
	John Hemsall	A	A Woodward
	E D W Llewellyn-Jones		

## **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor M M Brandon-Bravo  
Councillor Roy Barsley.

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Select Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **Tourism Destination Management Partnership**

The Select Committee raised a number of concerns relating to the logo that had been designed for Experience Nottinghamshire. These included the process involved in reaching the decision of its design. It was agreed to invite the Cabinet member for Culture and Community, Councillor Chris Baron and Steve Bradley to its next meeting to answer questions on the matter.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor John Cottee  
“ Alan Davison

“ Maureen Tewson  
“ A Woodward

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

None.

### **THE CIVIL CONTINGENCIES ACT UPDATE**

Sue Storey Emergency Planning Manager gave an update on the Civil Contingencies Act and the implications arising for Nottinghamshire County Council.

The Act had become law in November 2004 following which consultation had taken place up to 3rd March 2005 on the draft regulations and guidance to accompany the Act. The likely implications for Nottinghamshire relate to the new duties, the adequacy of funding for the service, and the relationship with other Category 1 responders, particularly the Borough and District Councils.

The new duties will begin in October this year with the new civil protection funding for local authorities commencing in April 2005. She said that although funding had increased it would no longer be ring-fenced but provided within revenue support grant. The Notts Emergency Planning Team was very fortunate that Nottinghamshire County Council had agreed that all the additional funding would be passed directly to the Emergency Planning Team. The Team was considering its action plan to meet the requirements of the Act.

In terms of Category 1 responders, it was explained that negotiations had taken place to determine the best possible way forward in terms of best value for money. Mr Hodge pointed out that there had been a lot of agreement overall. Work was continuing with the District and Borough Councils to try and resolve some of the issues such as staff training.

The Select Committee had concern that it had not been consulted on during the consultation period. Mr Hodge gave details of the regional resilience forum, and agreed to report further to the next meeting.

It was agreed that the Director of Culture and Community be asked to arrange for the Select Committee to attend a future emergency planning exercise.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY PROGRESS REPORT APRIL 2004 – MARCH 2005**

Chris Walker and Cathy Harvey from the Culture and Community Department presented the progress report on Community Safety that informed Members of the key achievements and milestones of the County Council around the Community Safety agenda for the current financial year. The Select Committee was informed of the key achievements within the 4 key areas of work; health inequalities, community safety, domestic violence and substance misuse. Community safety remains a key priority for the County Council and the residents of Nottinghamshire. New strategies covering the period 2005-

2008 are currently in preparation. It was explained that a lot of the violent crime was alcohol induced and that diversionary projects were being looked into. It was also recognised that this was not just a problem involving younger persons. It was noted that the granting of new licenses for pubs and clubs was adding to the problem.

It was explained that during 2004/2005 the County Council had played a considerable part in contributing to the reductions in the levels of crime and disorder, offering diversions to crime and criminal activity. Work had also included reducing the fear of crime especially amongst the most vulnerable member's of the communities.

The Select Committee were informed about the Jupiter in Nottinghamshire project that allows the crime reduction partnerships to undertake a comprehensive audit of crime and disorder issues, which would lead to their new strategies in April 2005. The Select Committee felt that it would be useful to receive a report on this at a future meeting.

Councillor Llewellyn-Jones was pleased to note the research into men's domestic violence. Mr Walker agreed to provide the Select Committee with a copy of the Guidance on good practice.

It was agreed that:-

1. The Select Committee would be provided with a copy of the guidance on Good Practice.
2. A report on Domestic Violence be presented to a future meeting.
3. A report on the Jupiter in Nottinghamshire project be presented to a future meeting of the Select Committee.

### **CULTURAL SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

David Ellis from the Culture and Community Department introduced the report to the Select Committee that presented the draft improvement plan for its comment following the cultural services inspection. He referred to the background to the inspection the results of which had been presented to the Select committee in Nov 2004.

Since the last update he explained that the process of enquiry during the on-site week had helped to identify 5 further areas for improvement;

- Measuring Impact,
- Improving our performance,
- Meeting changing customer expectations,
- Releasing our people's potential and
- Developing a coherent marketing strategy.

He gave details on the development plan for improving these areas and said that the next stage would be to refine the areas and undertake more formal project planning. During the development stage he said that it might be appropriate to consult more widely and develop a range of options for consideration. The Select Committee would be updated as appropriate.

### **THE ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING SERVICE “BRINGING LEARNING TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES”**

Councillor Richard Butler declared a personal interest in the report on the Adult and Community Learning Service (ACLS).

Sue Green, Adult and Community Learning Services Manager introduced the report that informed the Select Committee of the work of the Adult and Community Learning Service (ACLS) and of the forthcoming inspection in April 2005.

It was explained that until 2001 the County Council held a dedicated budget for the provision of adult learning when, with the creation of Learning and Skills Council adult learning funds were transferred from local authorities to the learning skills council national network. The Adult and Community Learning Service was established in order for the County Council to secure funding from the Learning and Skills Council to provide continued delivery of an adult education service to Nottinghamshire residents.

Ms Green pointed out that the engagement of new and reluctant learners was central to the culture and operation of the service, addressing the learning needs and skill levels in areas of the County which have low basic skills; adults in low skill and low paid work and lower than average business start ups. The vast majority of provision through Adult Community Learning Service is in the Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield, and Newark and Sherwood districts. Some of the other priorities of the service included that of ethnic minority groups, ex offenders and adults isolated by geography or caring responsibilities.

The Select Committee learnt that the service has a variety of funding streams that its providers can access and that the vast majority of the service's provision is delivered free of charge to its learners. As the majority of funding comes from the Learning and Skills Council, the service was subject to its first inspection by the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI). This is to take place from 25-29 April 2005. The results were expected to be public about 6 weeks after the inspection.

In response to a question from Councillor Freeman, Ms Green said that 73% of the returns have come from the most deprived areas which suggested that the service was focusing in the right direction. She added that the ISC had said that the service's returns have been much fuller than the FE colleges.

It was agreed that the Select Committee would receive a copy of the Inspection report for consideration.

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Select Committee noted the work programme and also agreed that the following items be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

- Update on the Select Committees achievements
- Tourism Destination
- Update on rural issues.

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.

## **CHAIR**

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