

## minutes



Meeting      **COMMUNITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

Date            Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 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
	Peter Barnes		Jim O'Riordan
	Jen Cole	A	Mrs S Saddington
	Alan Davison		Mark Spencer
	Albert Haynes		Brian Wombwell

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor M Brandon-Bravo  
" J Cottee

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Select Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2005 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Peter Barnes  
" E Llewellyn-Jones (on other County Council business)  
" S Saddington

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

None.

The Chair referred the Select Committee to the Archives visit that was taking place on Monday, 21 November and reminded them to let Members' Services know if they would be attending.

Due to a technical error it was agreed to take agenda item No.5 as the first item of business on the agenda.

### **CULTURE AND COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE JULY – SEPTEMBER 2005**

David Ellis introduced the report that advised the Select Committee on the Department's service performance for the first half of 2005/06. In doing so he reported that the Department was on track so far during the year on the key performance indicators (KPIs) measured quarterly, with 70% of its KPIs on or above target at the half year stage.

Mr Ellis referred to the areas of concern for the Department that had been below target. He said that young people gaining recorded and accredited outcomes was below target for the second quarter and that it was felt that this was probably due to the way in which anticipated performance was being profiled. Performance had deteriorated from 83% in the first quarter to 73% in the second quarter in terms of the number of disabled people entering supported employment. The reward grant that would start to become payable at 60% was expected to be achieved. Mr Ellis pointed out that crime indicators were always a concern for the Authority and that although they were below target, they were in a better position than last year.

The Select Committee also learned of the progress made in terms of the departmental business plan that was built around the four Corporate Health indicators.

In terms of the crime reduction indicators, it was recognised that crime was an issue high on everyone's agenda and that the authority was doing what it could in its role as a supporting player. Councillor Brandon-Bravo felt that the performance indicators did not reflect the authority's position since the Police Authority was the key player. Concern was also expressed that the authority does not receive a black mark against itself once the regionalisation of the Fire and Police has taken place.

The Select Committee noted the report.

### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S GREAT LIBRARY DEBATE – PRESENTATION BY DAVID LATHROPE**

David Lathrope gave a presentation to the Select Committee on the Great Nottinghamshire Library Debate that was designed to find out what the public wants from libraries in the future and enable the County Council to build a framework for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Mr Lathrope focused on the key elements of the debate and outlined the results of the 2005 research phase that had taken place between March and October 2005. He highlighted the key findings in

terms of what was working well and what would need to be developed. He also referred to the important partnership the County Council has had over the years and continues to have with Boots books for babies.

He explained that core research had been undertaken by Bright Sparks Research. The programme also involved the use of opinion polls, local events and postings on the Nottinghamshire County Council public website to encourage public participation. A full analysis of all of its activities was expected to be delivered in January 2006. It had emerged so far from the research that many people in the county do not know what is currently provided and that libraries in the future would be different.

Mr Lathrope outlined the findings of the independent review carried out to evaluate experiences and usage levels, people's opinions, reasons for not using the service and likely usage if changes were to be made to the service. The methodology applied was focused on both qualitative and quantitative data that had included 600 county wide responses selected to be representative of the population. The research had revealed that 85% of those interviewed had been very satisfied with the service they had used, 26% did not enjoy reading and 21% did not have the time to visit a library.

In terms of current service provision the areas that were working well included the range of loan material, the wide selection of books available, and children's areas. Those areas that needed to be developed further seemed to be around the actual image of libraries, bookstock and communications.

Mr Lathrope also referred to the top five sources of information, information requirements and the suggestions found to encourage the usage of public libraries. The priorities that were being seen for the library service were focused around making improvements to the services offered, (including bookstock), buildings and improved marketing.

In terms of the future, Mr Lathrope said that there was still some way to go to embed the services and that it was vital to continuously develop for the next generation. He was pleased to note that recent changes and improvements had been positively received. In terms of access he added that location was a key factor with great interest being noted in relation to the concept of a New Civic Landmark model.

Councillor Spencer was pleased to note the success of mobile libraries, in particular, within rural areas. Mr Lathrope pointed out that the library management system had been introduced onto mobile libraries during the last six months. He also said that it was acknowledged that there were still some people who did not have access to a computer at home where this was a particular disadvantage for those living in remote areas. It was hoped that a feasibility study would be carried out in the future to look at the introduction of public access technology.

In response to a question, Mr Lathrope said that it was worrying to note that 9% did not feel safe in terms of the location of their library. He added that

most of the libraries were safe and improvements would be addressed over time when the opportunity presented itself.

Mr Lathrope responded to a number of questions regarding the programme for refurbishment. In terms of the Worksop it was explained that an active project was being pursued in the capital programme for a replacement of the existing library.

Mr Lathrope also responded to questions regarding book stock and the service's links with other institutions.

### **MEETING THE NEEDS OF DISABLED CHILDREN: A STRATEGY TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY IN CULTURE AND COMMUNITY**

Steve Morley, Assistant Director (Policy, Performance and Development) informed members of the Culture & Community Department's strategy and framework for improving services for disabled children and young people. In doing so, he explained that the strategy was the outcome of a six month project in 2004/05 to review services for disabled children and young people.

The work was influenced by national policy and legislation, including the Children's Act 2004, Disability Discrimination Act 2005, and the Prime Minister's Strategic Unit Report "Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People". He said it was also informed by local work including the Best Value Review "Promotion of Independence of Young Disabled Adults" and Children's Fund Disabled Children Workstream "End of Project Learning".

It was explained that that a cross service group of officers had developed a vision for the services to provide, enable and develop opportunities for all disabled people within Culture and Community Services through a co-ordinated approach. Research had found that some of the department's services make a big impact on disabled young people's lives whereas others barely touched them. He explained that some of the difficulties were due to the limited knowledge of each other's work across services and unsystematic monitoring method and the narrow work experience opportunities for disabled young people and the need for cross service learning and accessible and available information about what they actually do. The project had also concluded that Culture & Community gave real opportunity for disabled children and young people to experience independence through freedom of choice. Mr Morley also referred the Select Committee to the good progress that was being made on a number of actions in the improvement plan.

In response to question regarding peer-mentoring, Mr Morley said that he would report back to the Select Committee on the small peer-mentoring project that was taking place in Foxwood School during September 2005 to March 2006.

The Select Committee noted the report.

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

The revised programme of work was noted.

The meeting closed at 12 noon.

## **CHAIR**

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