

meeting **COUNTY COUNCIL**

date **21 October 2010**

agenda item number **7(a)vi**

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2010

1. The following are summaries of work relating to my portfolio. This report reflects the wide range of initiatives being undertaken across my portfolio, all of which help improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people.

COUNTRYSIDE AND CONSERVATION

One World, One Sky Event

2. Rufford Country Park hosted the One World, One Sky event with Midland Kite Fliers earlier this month. All 2,240 visitors to the Park, irrespective of age and kite flying abilities were welcomed with the option of bringing their own kites, buying one at the event or making one on the day. This is another example of the many diverse events organised by staff at Rufford Country Park offering great days out for families and friends.
3. Creswell Crags Museum has won 3 prestigious awards - the Renaissance East Midlands Award for Best Museum on 16 September and the East Midlands RIBA Awards for Architecture and Low Carbon respectively on 30 September.

LIBRARIES

Summer Reading Challenge 2010

3. At our July meeting I announced the launch of this year's Summer Reading Challenge – 'Space Hop' which ran over the summer in libraries around the county. Children were challenged to read six books during their summer holiday and were given incentives to encourage them to complete the challenge. I am pleased to say that almost 10,000 children took part in the challenge this year with 52% completing the challenge, a 12% increase from last year.
4. Twenty nine young people volunteered to help staff run the challenge in 15 libraries, which gave them a unique opportunity to gain experience of working with children, to pass on their love of reading, meet new people and work as part of a team. Altogether the volunteers gave over 375 hours of their time. I would

like to thank everyone who worked on the challenge over the summer and congratulate all the children on their reading achievements.

Mansfield Library

5. On Monday 20th September a temporary library opened in Mansfield whilst work to refurbish the library in the Four Season shopping centre commenced. The temporary library opened with the introduction of a self service kiosk, allowing library customers to choose and take out items more quickly than previously.
6. The refurbishment of the library will take 14 months to complete providing a total refurbishment of the public areas, increased study space and improved Local Studies and children's library service. The infrastructure of the building will also be improved with better heating and ventilation and much improved access.

Workshop Library

7. The new library at Workshop opened to customers on the 20th September and was an immediate success. On Tuesday 21st, I met a number of customers and staff all of whom were very enthusiastic and appreciative of the new facility. The initial levels of use have improved by well over 50% compared to the old library. The introduction of self service technology has also gone very well with over 90% of all transactions undertaken through the kiosks. This allows staff to spend more time on other duties such as answering queries from library users. An official opening is planned for the New Year.

Adult and Community Learning

8. ACLS courses provide opportunities for Nottinghamshire residents to increase their knowledge, broaden their horizons, develop their skills, and provide personal fulfilment and I am pleased to report that the Adult and Community Learning Service has exceeded its targets for the year ending in July 2010.
9. The Service delivered courses to 8202 learners against a target of 7600 and over 64% of those learners were 'new', that is learners who had not previously participated in education for at least 3 years, against a target of 60%. Over 88% of all learners reported that the courses had met their expectations, with over 97% reporting that the level of support received was either good or excellent.
10. Overall some 2037 courses were delivered in over 300 venues across the county by 354 tutors. I look forward to sharing further details with you following publication of the ACLS Annual Report in November 2010.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES

Autumn lecture series

11. This year's autumn lunch time lecture series begins in October and will promote the diaries held by Nottinghamshire Archives.
12. The programme includes Dr Richard Gaunt of the University of Nottingham and Mr John Tallents speaking on *Attorney At Large: Godfrey Tallents, Diarist, 1829 – 1839*; research assistant Peter Hammond on *Joseph Woolley: Diary of a Frame work knitter*; former member of staff Kathryn Rooke on *The Life and Loves of Billie Richards* and the series concludes with Valerie Henstock on *Lucy Hutchinson: Governors Wife*.
13. This lecture series is always a huge success, appealing to a diverse audience who want to discover more of Nottinghamshire's unique documentary heritage.

SPORTS SERVICE

Sports media competition

14. The Sports service has launched a sports media competition. Groups of volunteers aged between 11–19 years old have been encouraged to create a live action, animated fiction or creative documentary about the Olympics or Paralympics.
15. To take part, groups will be creating a series of up to 12 storyboard pictures for the film along with a 200-word summary of the content. A panel of local experts, including representatives from our partners at the BBC East Midlands, Broadway Cinema, and V, the youth volunteering charity, will choose the winning idea. The winning group will have access to training provided by the Broadway Cinema to create their Olympic or Paralympic-inspired DVD.

Nice Try Rugby Projects

16. With partners including the Rugby Football Union (RFU), Sport Nottinghamshire, and the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, taster sessions have been run during the past month promoting Nice Try rugby sessions. The sessions aim to encourage people with mental health problems to get involved in the sport in order to improve their symptoms, get fitter and build new friendships. There have been encouraging regular attendances and it is hoped that these sessions will develop into a league as they have done in the Positive Goals football project.

Championing Notts

17. The Championing Notts volunteering project has been re-launched this month with the aim of signing up more sports volunteers to help at major sports events or in sports clubs across the county. There have been substantial promotional efforts at the Fresher's Weeks for Nottinghamshire's two universities and stalls at the further education colleges as new students arrive. This has resulted in a database of well over 200 people wanting to give some time to support sport in the county.

National Governing Bodies (NGB)

18. 53 primary schools are now signed up for coaching and clinics in mini basketball. These sessions will provide an introduction to the sport for over 7,000 young people who will then be encouraged to join local clubs.
19. Three Nottinghamshire volunteers won their categories at the England Basketball Volunteer Awards. The Brian Dobson Award for Volunteer Team Manager of the Year went to Anita Aslam from our Nova squads for her work with the Under 16 squad. The Young Volunteer of the Year award was won by Sarah Wood of the Mansfield Giants and the Volunteer Statistician of the Year award was presented to Joanne Richards also of the Mansfield Giants.
20. Three talent assessment days took place for the Coach Academy Golf Project and as a result of these days, 48 participants have been invited to join the programme. The County Golf Partnership has obtained a grant of £9,350 from Sport England to run a community coach and coach education programme which will ensure a supply of quality coaches to support people playing the game.

Sport for Disabled People

21. The service supported a sports day at Gresham Sports Centre in Rushcliffe at which 80 adults with various disabilities took part. The event was run in partnership with Nottinghamshire Football Association, Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, the Thera Trust group which runs care homes for people with disabilities, and Rushcliffe Borough Council's sports development team.
22. Another sports project has been running at Festival Hall in Ashfield at which 15 volunteers with various disabilities are training as sports leaders. Working in partnership with Community Access Workers in Mansfield and Ashfield, this project also provides weekly sessions for 20 participants and will run until 14 December.

Commonwealth Games

23. Nottinghamshire athletes have put in some fine performances in these Games and I am delighted to report on our medal successes to date, including Nova swimmers coached by County Council staff and supported by the County:

Rebecca Adlington - Gold 400m & 800m Freestyle, Bronze 200m Freestyle and Bronze in the 4x200m Freestyle Relay.

Jessica Sylvester - Silver in the 4x100m Freestyle Relay.

Sasha Matthews - Bronze in the 4x200m Freestyle Relay.

Nathan Robertson – Bronze in the Badminton Mixed Team Competition

Danny West - Silver in the F32/34/52 Paralympic Shot Competition with a throw of 10.78 metres.

Andy Turner - Gold in the 110m Hurdles.

Men's Hockey Team – In Gold play off against India

Jocelyn Rae – Gold in Tennis Mixed Doubles representing Scotland.

ECONOMIC REGENERATION

The Economic Regeneration Service Annual Report

24. I am pleased to report that the Economic Regeneration Service recently published its annual report which outlined achievements in 2009/10 and key priorities for the current year. The service is involved in a number of initiatives designed to help our local business community thrive, to improve access to better quality jobs and to promote Nottinghamshire as a place in which to invest and do business.
25. Key priorities for the service include:
- Leading measures to drive economic growth in Nottinghamshire. This includes the development of a Local Enterprise Partnership and establishing priorities from the Local Economic Assessment.
 - Developing enterprise skills and entrepreneurial aspirations in the next generation of young people
 - Labour force interventions and promoting new skills, contributing to new strategic plan objectives to improve educational attainment and skill levels;
26. The report can be accessed on the County Council's intranet via the Communities pages.

Making the Connection

27. Making the Connection is the County Council's flagship activity in terms of preparing adults for work. It receives external funding with a contribution from the County Council of £40,000 in 2010/11. The project is now fully staffed and I am pleased to report that performance is well above target in all areas of activity. In the first quarter of this year, the project worked with 325 individuals, of whom 35% entered employment and 31 of those employment opportunities were within newly established jobs.
28. Making the Connection has recently worked with Tesco to recruit to two new stores in Beeston and Bulwell. Two Gateway selection days were held with some 550 people attending, 200 of whom were successful in obtaining places on the pre-employment training Gateways. In addition, 100 people were offered support via an on-line application process. Interviews are currently taking place and 11 people going through the Gateway have already secured employment with Tesco at Beeston.

Business Engagement

29. I am pleased to report that in his role as the County Council's Business Engagement Champion, Councillor Keith Girling spoke at the meeting of the Newark Business Club on the 17th September. The meeting was well attended and Councillor Girling reflected on a range of economic regeneration matters currently facing the local economy. Reference was made to the challenges

facing the County Council in particular, the work of the Improvement Programme and how that might impact upon relationships with business.

30. In addition Councillor Girling has attended a number of business networking meetings, the Ethnic Business Awards and the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce's Nottinghamshire Business Awards.

Innovation Centres in Nottinghamshire

31. The proposal to outsource the combined management arrangements for the Mansfield i-Centre, Newark Beacon and Turbine at Worksop innovation centres from April 2011 is proceeding according to timescale. A notice was published recently in the Official Journal of the European Union inviting expressions of interest for the provision of facilities management and innovation business support services. The contract is for a five year period with a possible extension of two years. Supplementary innovation and enterprise centres may be added to the contract in the future. Tenders are due by 19 November.

Welbeck Colliery, Meden Vale, Notts

32. After almost 100 years of operation, Welbeck Colliery at Meden Vale ceased mining in May 2010. A planning condition requires the site to be restored to a greenfield condition following the end of mining operations. However, it has become clear that the local community wishes all parties to explore whether the site has further potential for alternative employment uses and discussions with Bassetlaw District Council and the County Council are being held to support this approach.
33. There have been some local discussions around the potential of the site to be used for businesses operating in the field of low carbon technologies and waste management/recycling. The County Council has engaged Nottingham Regeneration Ltd to undertake a study of the accommodation needs of low carbon economy businesses and the findings are expected by the end of this year.

The Access Alliance Programme

34. I am pleased to report that earlier this month, my Deputy, Councillor Girling, chaired the Access Alliance Programme Conference where he heard the positive economic impacts being achieved through a collaborative approach to provide improved sustainable transport solutions for our communities. This project, which is delivered in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, supports our accessibility and regeneration strategies by filling gaps in local services, through the promotion of public transport use and 'green' travel solutions.
35. The programme brings together private sector operator and community based transport providers with local employers, helping them to attract and retain the skilled workforce they need. Recently the programme, in conjunction with the

Making the Connection project, supported Laing O-Rourke at Steetley. It has also resulted in a local initiative with Stagecoach to provide reduced fares for unemployed jobseekers. These are just 2 of 60 supported initiatives which range from cycling and car-sharing schemes to a scheme providing a mobile training suite that visits local communities.

Councillor John Cottee
Cabinet Member for Culture and Community