



Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Report of: Councillor A D Williams
Date: 17th May 2006
OPEN

Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel - Annual Report 2005 - 2006

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides a comprehensive update on work undertaken by the Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel during the 2005/2006 municipal year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Panel has met five times during the 2005/2006 municipal year.
- 2.2 The Panel agreed its Work Programme and topics for future scrutiny with regard to the Council's Community Strategy, Corporate Plan and Key Commitments at its first meeting on 14th July 2005.

3. Scrutiny Review Topics And Work Areas

- 3.1 The Panel's formal work programme included the following Scrutiny exercises.

3.1.1 Skateboarding

At the Panel's first meeting on 14th July 2005, the Panel considered a Briefing Paper on the Council's Skateboarding facilities. The key issue in this particular exercise was to ascertain the need for any further skateboarding facilities within the District, and to examine general trends.

The Panel agreed to appoint two Task and Finish Groups to undertake the review, one to focus on Skateboarding and the other to consider Youth Provision within the District. The Skateboarding Group met five times in

total and made several comprehensive recommendations to the Panel at its meeting on 17th August 2005, which were agreed and reported back to the Cabinet at its meeting on 27th April 2006.

There was also a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services relating to funding which had been allocated to the Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) 8 Share of the Reward Grant. This related specifically to Target 8 'Active Communities through Sport and Recreation'. The Council had reached its targets and received the reward grant, which comprised 50% capital and 50% revenue. The capital element had been earmarked for use on recommendations from the Skateboarding and Youth Provision Task and Finish Groups and amounted to approximately £70,000.

At the Cabinet meeting on 27th April 2006, the Cabinet approved several of the recommendations, and the remainder were noted to be considered further by the Cabinet when information becomes available.

3.1.2 Youth Provision

The Youth Provision Task and Finish Group has currently met four times. At the time of writing this report, the Task and Finish Group has not had an opportunity to finalise the review and the exercise will therefore be continued in the new municipal year.

3.1.3 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

At the Panel's meeting on 17th November 2005, a Task and Finish Group was appointed to look at the effectiveness of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders in the District. The Group met on two occasions and was pleased to note the excellent work being undertaken by the relevant stakeholders in addressing Anti-Social Behaviour issues.

The Task and Finish Group made recommendations to the Panel on 9th March 2006, before being considered and noted by the Cabinet at its meeting on 27th April 2006.

3.1.4 Police and Communities Together (PACT)

The Joint Community and Leisure Services and Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panels on 23rd March 2006 received a presentation from the Police on the history and development of the PACT project.

It was recognised that PACT was still in its infancy and that existing arrangements would continue to be rolled out across Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove and Redditch.

On this basis, it was agreed that a further joint meeting of the Community and Leisure Services and Environment and Economic Regeneration and

Policy and Scrutiny Panels would be held in June 2006, when more information would be available.

4. Other Topics Covered by the Panel's Work Programme

4.1 The Panel also received updates on the following:

- Verbal update on the Leisure Tour
- Community Safety - Section 17 Audit 2005
- Kidderminster Town Centre CCTV

5. Conclusions

5.1 Successful outcomes

As Chairman of the Community and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Panel, I am most pleased with how Members have worked together and showed so much dedication and determination in tackling the task and finish group projects. It was most satisfying to have last brought the skateboarding task and finish to a conclusion, with the Cabinet agreeing to new facilities to be sited at Stourport On Severn.

5.2 Areas Identified for Improvement

It has been a little disappointing that more progress has not been made in the other Task and Finish Group, Youth Provision, and that the conclusions won't be reached until the next municipal year, but I know the Group is tackling some very difficult areas with no fixed solutions.

5.3 Finally, I would like to pass on my grateful thanks to all Members of the Panel for their contributions and assistance in the various Scrutiny exercises. I would also like to thank, on behalf of the Panel, the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services for his active support during the year. I would also like to thank those officers who attended the meetings and/or the Task and Finish Groups.

6. Appendices

None.

7. Background Papers

Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel Agendas:

14th July 2005
8th September 2005
17th November 2005
5th January 2006
9th March 2006