

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 APRIL 2008

Present: Councillors Mrs Y R T Clarkson (Chairman); G Garrity; A Jacob; J Kane; M McVeigh; C Whiteside; J Park; D Wilson and Mrs M Docherty.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Mossop and P Tyson.

Officers: N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; J O'Reilly, Environmental Health Manager; G Ayling, Interim Head of Finance and Business Development and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

P Robson, Accountant, for Agenda Item 5 only.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CYPHC 20/07 Arrangement of Agenda

RESOLVED – that Agenda Item 6 be taken first due to Mr Mills (Project Manager, Whitehaven Youth Project) being present.

CYPHC 21/07 Youth Facilities in Whitehaven

The Committee received a presentation from Mr M Mills, Project Manager, Whitehaven Youth Project. Members were provided with an overview of the work of the Whitehaven Youth Project who are shortly to move from Pears House to new premises at the Lonsdale Centre.

The project works in partnership with many agencies including Connexions, Fast Forward, Cumbria Youth Alliance and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for the benefit of young people mainly between the ages of 11 and 18 years.

The Committee was also advised that the activities run by the project included outdoor activities (eg Camping Trips), Charitable Works, projects within the Community and having fun in safety.

Following a question and answer session, Members were further advised of the project's plans for the future; that schools put forward individuals and groups for activities; and that 720 young people from all parts of

Copeland and Allerdale have participated in the projects activities so far this year.

Mr Mills was thanked for his presentation and Members were invited to visit the Lonsdale Centre after the Whitehaven Youth Project had settled in, to see their work in action.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the presentation be noted and
- b) the invitation to visit the Lonsdale Centre be taken up.

CYPHC 22/07 Summary of Action for Smokefree Implementation

The Environmental Health Manager provided Members of the Committee with a summary of action for Smokefree Implementation following the introduction of legislation on 1st July 2007 to prohibit smoking in enclosed public spaces, where local authorities became responsible for its enforcement.

Members were advised that few enforcement problems had resulted from the new legislation, however, should it be necessary, Environmental Health are able to:

- a) issue an Informal Warning
- b) serve a £50 Fixed Penalty Notice
- c) prosecute through the Court.

The Committee thanked the Environmental Health department for their work in implementing the smoking legislation.

RESOLVED: that the report be received.

CYPHC 23/07 Big Lottery Play Initiative Programme

(Note: Councillor McVeigh declared a personal interest in this item due to him being a member of the Briscoe Mount bid)

The Committee received a report from the Open Spaces Manager on the Big Lottery Play Initiative Programme.

Members were advised why some schemes did not proceed and of the Big Lottery criteria which had to be used when assessing the bids. Members were also advised that the work undertaken in this programme had identified areas to be looked at should further funding or funding from other sources become available.

Broader issues relating to the youth in Copeland were raised and it was suggested that the Youth Council could be a way of providing a stronger voice for this purpose.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the report be noted; and
- b) the Youth Council be further discussed at a future meeting of this Committee.

CYPHC 24/07 Green Space Strategy

The Committee received an overview of the draft Green Space Strategy from the Open Spaces Manager.

Members commented that the Parks department provide a good service in the North of Copeland and they were thanked for their hard work.

It was also suggested that the Green Space Strategy be added as part of the Local Development Framework.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the draft Green Space strategy be received;
- b) the draft Green Space Strategy be forwarded to the Executive with a recommendation to adopt and implement; and
- c) the Green Space Strategy be added as part of the Local Development Framework.

CYPHC 25/07 Concessionary Fares

The Committee were updated by the Council's Accountant on the Government's new Concessionary Travel Scheme which came into force on 1 April 2008 and guarantees free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England for people resident in England, aged 60 and over, and eligible disabled people.

As the Council's representative on the Cumbria and Lancashire Concessionary Travel Group, the Accountant advised Members of the Council's discretionary scheme and of the application and processing deadlines – that have all been met.

Members thanked the Finance department's staff for their hard work and for being one of only two areas nationally to have met the implementation deadlines.

It was requested that monthly charging reports from the local bus operator, Stagecoach, be brought to this Committee in order to monitor the projected spend against actual spend.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the update report on Concessionary Travel be received; and
- b) the regular update reports be written into this Committee's Work Plan.

CYPHC 26/07 Work Plan

The Work Plan of the OSC Children, Young People and Healthy Communities Committee was considered.

The Committee were advised that consultation letters are being issued to consultees in order to identify areas for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to look at in the next municipal year. The responses would form the basis of the Committee's Work Plan for the year.

The Chairman thanked all Members of the Committee for their hard work over the last year.

RESOLVED: that the Work Plan for the Committee be noted.

The Meeting Closed at 4:00pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....