

## **CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings of the Leisure Services Committee held, in committee, in the Boardroom, Robinson Centre, Montgomery Road, Castlereagh on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Mrs A M Beattie	
Councillor J Beattie	
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane	
Councillor Mrs S Duncan	
Councillor M Henderson	(until 8.30 p.m.)
Councillor T Jeffers	(until 8.10 p.m.)
Councillor A Ramsey	
Councillor C Tosh	

**IN ATTENDANCE:-** Director of Finance & Leisure Services, Area Leisure Services Manager and Assistant Members' Services Officer

**APOLOGIES:-** Apologies were recorded on behalf of Aldermen Norris, Copeland and Rice

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Members agreed that Councillor J Beattie should chair the meeting.

### **LS/2005/39 : MINUTES**

Tabled:- Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

### **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & LEISURE SERVICES**

### **LS/2005/40 : OPTIONS FOR THE ROBINSON CENTRE (Minute Ref No: LS/2005/19 refers)**

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services referred to the options for the Robinson Centre which had been previously suggested, namely:-

1. Provision of Integrated Leisure & Education Facilities on the East Belfast Campus for Belfast Education & Library Board, Belfast City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council.
2. Possible Partnership with Belfast City Council regarding the provision of an East Belfast Leisure Centre.
3. Castlereagh Borough Council builds its own new Robinson Centre.
4. Major Refurbishment of the existing Robinson Centre.

The Director informed Members that following examination of Option 1, it had been felt that this was not a viable project and did not merit further consideration.

Councillor Beattie referred to the fact that the Robinson Centre was located on top of a riverbed and rebuilding it may prove problematic as a result. He therefore felt that it would be more appropriate to relocate a swimming pool at the Lough Moss Centre and rebuild a smaller Robinson Centre.

Councillor Henderson queried the timescale of a major refurbishment project, to which the Director responded that it was envisaged that it would be completed within the lifetime of the existing Council.

Councillor Henderson highlighted the success of the Councils recent involvement with private partnerships and suggested that further consideration of this matter should be considered.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, Members agreed that Options 2, 3 and 4 be placed on the agenda for consideration by the Robinson Centre Redevelopment Working Group, and the agreed option to be pursued expeditiously.

#### **LS/2005/41 : ROBINSON CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

Following agreement, it was

RESOLVED:- that, Membership of the Robinson Centre Redevelopment Working Group should comprise of Councillors J Beattie, Henderson, Ramsey, Cochrane, Alderman Norris and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, namely Alderman Copeland and Councillor Bunting on an ex-officio basis.

**LS/2005/42 : POSSIBLE PARTNERSHIP WITH GLENTORAN FOOTBALL CLUB AND THE PROPOSED WATER-BASED MULTI-PURPOSE SYNTHETIC PITCH**

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services informed Members that this matter had been raised at the last Management Team meeting and it had been agreed that a tender would be advertised requesting prices for both a thin shock pad which would apply solely to hockey use, and a slightly wider shock pad which could be adapted for both hockey and football.

He stated that, hopefully, by the time the tenders were received, the Partnership between Glentoran Football Team and the Council would have been established and the cheapest option could then be considered.

Councillor Duncan expressed the view that the Council should purchase a pitch of the standard required to facilitate a Centre of Excellence for Hockey and she queried if Pegasus and Annadale Hockey Clubs would be reluctant to play hockey on a compromised pitch.

The Director responded that although both clubs knew that the Council was considering the installation of a compromised pitch standard, they were also aware that the Council was tendering for a pitch of excellence.

He referred to the costs involved and stated that the Officers had sought grant aid to fund a hockey/multi-purpose pitch. They had been informed that, should the Council introduce another partner, it may be possible to draw down funding for a pavilion. He advised Members that he had therefore approached Lagan College to ascertain their willingness to become involved in the partnership. He reiterated that, whilst he was trying to take a strategic position and consider both options, he was, at the same time, moving the project forward.

At this point he referred to talks with the Chairman of the Technical Services Committee regarding the setting up of a Joint Working Group of Leisure & Technical Services, which would consider the Partnership with Glentoran Football Club.

Following a proposal from Councillor Henderson, which was seconded by Councillor Mrs Beattie, it was

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) The Committee recommends that the Council tenders for a thin shock pad which will strictly cater for hockey play, and a second slightly wider shock pad which will accommodate both football and hockey play.

Once the tenders for both options have been received, it is hoped that the Partnership between the Council and Glentoran Football Club will be in place.

- (b) The membership of the Joint Working Group of Leisure & Technical Services to progress the possible partnership with Glentoran Football Club comprise of the Chairman of Finance & General Purposes, the Chairman of Leisure Services and the Chairman of Technical & Environmental Services, in conjunction with the relevant Council Directors.

**LS/2005/43 : CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUB - CONSIDERATION OF VENDING MACHINES**  
(Minute Ref No: LS/2005/22 refers)

**LS/2005/44 : LEISURE CENTRES - OVERALL PACKAGE**

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services informed Members that he had discussed the matter with Alderman Norris and it was therefore

RESOLVED:- That, consideration of this issue be deferred until November, when Alderman Norris would be in attendance to comment on same.

**LS/2005/45 : SITE VISIT TO LEISURE CENTRES**

The Director referred to the recent site visit to the Leisure Centres on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2005 and asked Members for their comments with regard to same.

Members commented that the site visit had been interesting, educational and very worthwhile and it had been extremely beneficial to see the facilities in use during peak hours.

They felt that the Management and Staff at each of the centres deserved a commendation for their provision of an excellent service to the ratepayers of Castlereagh, and they specifically wished to record a special thank you to the Area Leisure Services Manager and Assistant Managers of the Leisure Centres on duty that night.

Councillor Beattie enquired about the Kids fit Bicycle programme, to which the Director responded that a Working Group had been formed to investigate obesity levels in schoolchildren within Castlereagh. He indicated that Officers had written to two schools within the Borough seeking ways in which this problem could be alleviated, but as yet no replies had been received.

Councillor Henderson suggested that the Council hold an “Open Day” for schools in Castlereagh showing the types of sport and exercising facilities available in the Borough and providing transport for pupils and teachers.

Councillor Cochrane at this point indicated that, as a Qualified Nutritionist, healthy eating was an important factor in targeting obesity and she would like to offer her services.

**RESOLVED:-** That, the Committee recommend that the Director of Finance & Leisure Services, the Area Leisure Services Manager and Councillor Cochrane be authorised to investigate the feasibility of an “Open Day”, targeting local schools in the Borough and aimed at promoting sport and exercise facilities in Castlereagh, in conjunction with a healthy eating programme.

Furthermore, that the Council will provide transport for local schools wishing to participate in this “Open Day”.

**LS/2005/46 : ASSISTANT MANAGERS’ PERFORMANCE RELATED PAY  
(Minute Ref No: LS/2005/25 refers)**

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services outlined the background to this matter and referred Members to a report from the Council’s Internal Auditor.

He advised that a Framework Document was in place, should any Assistant Managers fail to reach their targets, which could be consulted to identify any areas beyond their control, which would account for a reduction in income, whilst satisfying the Auditor. He outlined that examples of these factors would include periods of civil unrest, escalating energy costs, inclement weather conditions etc.

He indicated that the Assistant Managers had agreed to the targets and conditions prior to the implementation of the scheme, and they were involved in the monitoring process.

Furthermore, since the implementation of this scheme, the Director advised that the net running costs in each of the centres had been dramatically reduced, and he felt that this scheme gave the Assistant Managers a feeling of ownership and management.

Councillor Henderson proposed, which is seconded by Councillor Cochrane, that the Director meet with the Assistant Managers of the Robinson Centre to discuss their targets in conjunction with the “framework documents” which had been agreed previously with the Union.

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services informed Members that he would bring back a detailed report to a future meeting of the Committee.

Following a proposal from Councillor Henderson, which was seconded by Councillor Tosh, it was

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) The Officers be instructed, on behalf of the Members, to write to the Assistant Managers of those Centres who had reached their targets, congratulating them on their achievements.
- (b) The Committee authorises that the Director meets with the Assistant Managers of the Robinson Centre to discuss their targets in conjunction with the “framework documents” which had been agreed previously with the Union.