

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Leisure Services Committee held, in committee, in the Council Chamber, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Thursday, 1 June 2006, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:- Alderman Copeland (in the chair)
Alderman Norris
Councillor Mrs A Beattie
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor Mrs S Duncan
Councillor C Tosh

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

APOLOGIES:- Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman Mrs Rice, and Councillor Ms Bunting.

LS/2006/67 : TABLED – MINUTES OF THE LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 4 May 2006.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee Meeting held on 4 May 2006 be accepted as a true record of the events.

MATTERS ARISING

Alderman Norris wished to have it noted that he had not received any papers for this meeting. The Director of Finance and Leisure Services advised that this particular committee was being serviced by e-mail (as a pilot scheme) and that his papers should have been sent electronically. Alderman Norris did not think he had received any at all and this was to be drawn to the attention of Members' Services.

Noted

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND LEISURE SERVICES

LS/2006/68 : TABLED – TRADING ACCOUNTS

The Director of Finance and Leisure Services presented the Accounts for the Leisure Centres for period 1 – 30 April 2006. These were very pleasing and the first month showed a spend of £10,518 against a budget of £13,829. Councillor

Beattie asked the reason behind the lower spend and the Director replied that a combination of a realistic budget and a fruitful partnership with the private sector had contributed to this. The Area Manager advised that spending had been prudent and this had also been a factor.

Noted

LS/2006/68 : TABLED - EZE FITNESS CONTRACT

The Director of Finance and Leisure Services informed the Committee that, following lengthy discussions with Eze Fitness and the Council's solicitor, the contract is nearing completion for signature. The Director advised the Committee that the Council, once the contract is signed, would be legally bound to ensure that Eze has access to the relevant Council Centres for the duration of the contract. He furthermore advised members that Eze were interested in extending the contract to 10 years and also the possibility of changing the income share of 70:30 to 80:20 after the current budget level of £178,000 had been achieved. These suggested changes would be in conjunction with additional investment by Eze Fitness.

The Director informed the committee that it was his intention to raise these matters with the Local Government Auditor.

Councillor Beattie asked if the Director could bring back an appraisal on the matter. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that

- (a) The Director of Finance and Leisure Services together with the Area Leisure Manager meet with the Local Government Auditor regarding a possible extension to the contract with Eze Fitness and also the possibility of changing the income split to 80:20 after the current Budget of £178,000 had been achieved.
- (b) The Director of Finance and Leisure Services bring back to the Committee an appraisal of the proposal.

LS/2006/69 : TABLED - SOLAR PANELS AT BELVOIR ACTIVITY CENTRE

The Committee was advised that the quote was actually £15,600 + vat and that the £11,550 + vat was the grant the Council would receive – the balance being the cost. After discussion it was

RESOLVED that the quotation from Horizon Solar for £15,600 + vat be approved.

LS/2006/70 : TABLED – APPLICATION TO BIG LOTTERY

The Director of Finance and Leisure Services informed the Committee that the application had been submitted in respect of the proposed new playground at Carryduff and an outcome was awaited. If through to the next stage the Council would have to participate in a television competition.

Councillor J Beattie advised that he had spoken to the Education and Library Board concerning a MUGA grant and had been invited to look at some other projects if desired. After discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Director and Councillor J Beattie liaise to organise a site visit.

LS/2006/71 : TABLED – PROFIT RELATED PAY FOR 05/06 YEAR

The Director advised that the final accounts were being prepared and audited and that he would hope to bring results to the July meeting.

Noted

REPORT FROM THE AREA LEISURE MANAGER

LS/2006/72 : TABLED – PHOTOCOPIER COSTS

The Area Manager outlined the proposed copy costs in relation to interdepartmental, staff and general public demand which had been circulated within his report to all members.

IT WAS RESOLVED that these be adopted as specified within the report.

LS/2006/73 : TABLED – ACTIVE KIDS PROGRAMME

The Area Manager advised that the Active Kids programme was now up and running in all 3 sites and was operating well. It targeted children between the ages of 12 and 15. It was based on a 6 week course which was effectively induction to the use of specific equipment within the gym. It was fully supervised and children were assessed at the end of the 6 week period. They may then be permitted to use the gym on a pay and play basis at specific times. They are required to sign in and instructors are made aware of their presence and monitor activity. A trial membership is being introduced for June/July/August/September and priced as follows:

Pay and play	£ 3.00
1 month membership	£14.00
3 month membership	£36.00

If successful an annual membership will be introduced.

Councillor Copeland asked how they would be identified in the sign-in procedure, and the Area Manager advised that full members use their swipe card rather than signing in. He advised that there were approximately 40 young people using the programme.

Noted.

LS/2006/74 : TABLED – 50M POOL APPLICATION

Officers had completed the application form and it had been submitted for the closing date at the end of May.

Noted.

LS/2006/75 : TABLED – SUMMER SCHEME ACTIVITIES

The Lough Moss and Belvoir Centres will be organising their summer schemes in July and August and there would also be sport camps at Lough Moss and The Robinson Centres in conjunction with the Centre Management Teams and the Sports Development Officer. These would be coached by qualified staff and would introduce children to a variety of sports, martial arts etc.

It was anticipated that the Robinson, Lough Moss and Belvoir Centres will close at 5.30 pm on 11 July and remain closed on 12/13 and 14 July. Any changes to these closures will be advised to the Committee at the July meeting. Belvoir to remain partially open to facilitate the Lagan Valley Flute Band event on 12 July but not to the general public.

Councillor Duncan asked if there would be alcohol at this event and the Area Manager advised that there would and that the group pay a good rate for the venue hire and provide appropriate licences.

Noted.

LS/2006/76 : TABLED – CHP GENERATOR

The Technical Manager had provided information on a Combined Heat and Power Generator which would conserve energy and consequently reduce costs. A grant from the Central Energy Efficiency Fund had been secured which would cover the cost of purchase and installation and amounted to £121,700. The council was responsible for providing consultancy fees and minor building works to accommodate the CHP engine. The cost of this was likely to be £15,000. A feasibility study had shown that the CHP would produce savings of £38,560 per year which would indicate a net saving in the first year of approximately

£23,000. It should be borne in mind that this was a projected figure and it may take the first 12 months for the unit to 'bed' in and settle down.

Four Consultants had been approached and he had recommended awarding the contract to the lowest price which was £9,172 + VAT.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED that Low Carbon Solutions be appointed project consultants for the CHP scheme at a cost of £9,172 + VAT.

LS/2006/77 : TABLED – UVAZONE EQUIPMENT

The Technical Manager had received a report and invoice from the contractor who carried out the maintenance on the Uvazone plant. Some essential work needed to be carried out and retrospective approval was being sought to spend £1,200 + VAT on a new Ozone Stack. It was

RESOLVED that the sum of £1,200 + VAT be spent on replacing the stainless steel Ozone Stack on the Uvazone plant.

LS/2006/78 : TABLED – WIND TURBINE PROJECT

A report from the Technical Manager had outlined that a Wind Turbine at the cost of £109,000 – would give savings of approximately £15,000 per year. A specialist in planning was necessary and a quote had been received for £1,175. Another quotation would be received as this amount was over the 2 quote threshold.

RESOLVED THAT £1,175 be spent on engaging a specialist in Planning regarding the Wind Turbine Project at Lough Moss Leisure Centre.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of

_____ 2006 with the exception of

Minute Nos. _____

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE