

## **CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings of the Leisure Services committee meeting held, in committee, in the Committee Room, Members' Corridor, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Thursday, 4 February 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

### **PRESENT:-**

**Aldermen:** J Norris MBE  
J White

**Councillors:** M Copeland  
D Drysdale (Chairman)  
Mrs S Duncan  
B Hanvey  
Mrs V McCoy (Vice-Chairman)  
C Tosh

**IN ATTENDANCE:-** General Manager Leisure & Marketing and Members' Services Officer

**APOLOGIES:-** Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Walker, Mr & Mrs Beattie, the Director of Leisure Services, the Area Manager and the Business Manager.

**LS/2010/11 : MINUTES OF THE LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2010 (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**LS/2010/12 : LOCKER BREAK-IN AT THE ROBINSON CENTRE (Minute Ref No: LS/2010/1 refers)**

The General Manager reported that the gentleman concerned had been written to advising him of the Council's decision, but no response had been received.

Noted.

**LS/2010/13 : WAN CAPACITY AND LINKS TO LOUGH MOSS**

(Minute Ref No: LS/2010/03 refers)

The General Manager informed Members that the Committee's recommendation had been ratified at the January Council meeting and installation of a 2 MB link to Lough Moss would commence in due course.

Noted.

**LS/2010/14 : TOUR OF THE NORTH 2010**

(Minute Ref No: LS/2010/05 refers)

The General Manager stated that he had met with the Operational Services Manager in relation to this event and advised the OSU Manager to progress this with the next Technical & Environmental Services Committee. The Area Manager was also meeting with the OSU Manager to handover the execution of the event to T&ES.

Noted.

**LS/2010/15 : SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

(Minute Ref No: LS/2010/09 refers)

Councillor Copeland commented that this event on Fri 29 Jan 10 at Belvoir had been an extremely enjoyable and inspirational event and he wished to thank Councillor Hanvey for his assistance during the medal ceremony.

Noted.

**REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES**

(copy previously circulated)

**LS/2010/16 : TRADING ACCOUNTS**

The General Manager referred Members to the provisional trading accounts for Leisure Centres for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 – 31s December 2009.

He was pleased to report that, overall, the Leisure Centres were showing a favourable variance against profiled budget in relation to Net Cost which had been achieved largely through current under spends in expenditure across all the centres. Income in relation to the Robinson Centre was currently £17k ahead of profiled budget, Belvoir Activity Centre was £2,240 ahead of profiled budget whilst Lough Moss was underachieving in income. The General Manager advised that Lough Moss had suffered because of pitch closures due to snow and frost conditions in January, as well as the squash courts being out of action. However, taking account of year to-date figures, the 3 centres were £46k ahead of income overall.

Councillor Harvey commended the figures, given the current economic climate.

The General Manager advised that there may be invoices due and certain projects were in the pipeline which may impact on profiled budgets. He also reiterated that the Committee had previously approved cosmetic works to the Robinson Centre, but he stated that this work would be capitalised.

Councillor Copeland referred to the wind turbine at Lough Moss. The General Manager responded that a report would be coming to Committee in March detailing the full year's figures and the savings made. He stated that the profiled electricity budget for Lough Moss had already taken into account any potential savings.

Councillor Harvey asked if the savings accrued from the wind turbine could be spread across the other centres. The General Manager stated that the savings could only apply to Lough Moss.

RESOLVED:- That, the Technical Manager will be bringing a detailed report on the wind turbine at Lough Moss and the savings applicable, for the next meeting of the Committee.

### **REPORT FROM THE ACTING PR & MARKETING MANAGER**

#### **LS/2010/17 : MARKETING PLAN UPDATE**

Members were informed that a progress update against the marketing plan for each leisure centre was conducted for September 2009- January 2010 and the details were attached to the Officer's report.

Councillor McCoy asked if the Council's promotional stand at Connswater Shopping Centre on the 31<sup>st</sup> January had been productive.

Although the General Manager was unable to comment in this instance, he stated that, historically, the Council had found marketing at Connswater to be extremely effective.

Councillor Drysdale referred to the expenditure spent advertising in the Community Telegraph and he queried the effectiveness of its circulation, which had generated a number of complaints. The General Manager commented that copies of the Community Telegraph were available at the reception counter of DIIB.

In relation to a specific query, the General Manager went on to outline the cost structure of the marketing plan and indicated that Eze Fitness had contributed to some of the marketing expenditure.

Noted.

### **REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER**

#### **LS/2010/18 : RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS - GAP IN COUNCIL TITLE**

The General Manager informed Members that a delay had arisen relating to the removal of the covenants at the Robinson Centre. At present, the Administration Department is liaising with the Housing Executive to secure the additional missing deed required (as briefed to the LS Committee on 9 Jun 09) and the Council's Solicitors had been advised that no further progress on lifting the restrictive covenants could be made until the previous matter had been resolved.

Councillor Drysdale asked if the additional car parking provision to the rear of the Robinson Centre would proceed, as the car parking at the front of the building was totally insufficient for the number of users.

The General Manager responded that this project was unlikely to commence as Officers were unsure what the ground conditions were like underneath the site. However, he commented that at the last Committee meeting, Members had agreed to re-mark the existing parking spaces at the front.

Councillor Copeland stated it was his understanding that the Community Services Department were under the impression that the work was proceeding and he asked Officers to liaise with this Section to clarify it.

Councillor Drysdale asked that Officers table a report on the matter for the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:-** That, Officers prepare a report on car parking provision to the rear of the Robinson Centre for the next meeting of the Committee.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **LS/2010/19 : LINKS WITH LONDON OLYMPICS 2012**

Councillor Duncan suggested that the Council should look at “legacy projects” arising from the London Olympics 2012 which will give the local community an opportunity to engage in the “spirit of the Olympics”.

The General Manager commented that there were no such projects in the pipeline from DCAL or Sports NI, but he concurred with Councillor Duncan that they would inspire ratepayers to live a “healthier lifestyle”.

Councillor Drysdale felt that that matter may be addressed as the deadline for London Olympics 2012 approaches.

Noted.

### **LS/2010/20 : MARY PETER’S TRUST**

The General Manager advised Members that the Mary Peter’s Trust had written to the Council seeking financial support for 2010/11 and they had listed a number of people who reside in the Borough whom they currently supported within the body of their letter.

Following agreement, it was

**RESOLVED:-** That, the General Manager would respond to the Mary Peter’s Trust commenting that the Council did not have any mechanisms in place to offer financial support to this, or any other organisation.

### **LS/2010/21 : CHP PLANT AT THE ROBINSON CENTRE**

The General Manager informed Members that the dry cooler had broken down at the Robinson Centre. Whilst the CHP was still working, it required urgent repair before the commencement of the summer and he was giving the Committee advance notice of this fact.

As there was only a specialist company in the United Kingdom who supplied and therefore repaired these coolers, the equipment would have to be sent to England for assessment.

**RESOLVED:-** That, the Technical Manager would table the costs for the repair of the dry cooler at the Robinson Centre for the next meeting.

#### **LS/2010/22 : INTERNET KIOSKS - GRANT FUNDING**

The General Manager advised that the Economic Development Manager was applying for grant funding to provide internet kiosks at Moneyreagh Community Centre and Lough Moss Activity Centre. He advised that 75% of the grant funding would be provided by the Rural Development Fund and 25% would be provided by Castlereagh Borough Council, but that the expenditure would not be coming out of the Leisure budget.

He went on to state that the Council would have to sign up to the internet kiosks for a 3-year period and for the first year, there would be no running costs but for years 2 & 3, there would costs of approx £400 per year involved and this would have to be included in the estimates, if Members agreed to proceed.

The General Manager advised that the Economic Development Manager had felt that the project would be extremely beneficial to local residents and the kiosks would probably be installed in the main reception area and not located in a dedicated room.

Councillor Hanvey had no difficulty with the concept but he asked how the Economic Development Manager was proposing to advertise the facility and whilst he could see the benefits to residents in Moneyreagh, he queried how it would be of use to the users of Lough Moss.

The General Manager stated that the internet facility would be free of charge to the local community and would provide an added benefit to the Centres as well as promoting the facility.

Councillor Copeland commented to previous discussion at other Committees in which the possibility of advertising around the kiosk was being explored.

However, the General Manager reiterated that there was no certainty that the Council would be awarded grant funding for the project.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:-** That, the Leisure Services Committee will recommend that the Economic Development Manager proceeds with the grant funding application for internet kiosks for Moneyreagh and Lough Moss Centres on the basis that he first assesses the benefits to the local community and also gives an assurance that it will be widely advertised.

It further resolved that if successful in the application, that it recommend the inclusion of £400 annual running costs in the subsequent Estimates for Year 2 and 3 of the project.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.35 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_ 2010 with the exception of

Minute Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR