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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 Wednesday, 20 January 2010, at 6.40 p.m.

PRESENT:

ALDERMEN: J Norris MBE

COUNCILLORS: M Copeland
B Hanvey
Mrs V McCoy (in the Chair)
C Tosh

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Leisure Services (from 7.00 pm),
General Manager Leisure & Marketing, Business
Manager, Area Manager Leisure, IT Manager and
Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors
Drysdale, Duncan and Walker

**TABLED : MINUTES OF THE LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2009 (copy previously circulated)**

MATTERS ARISING

**LS/2010/1 : LOCKER BREAK-IN AT THE ROBINSON CENTRE (Minute
LS/2009/172 refers)**

Councillor McCoy enquired whether there had been further developments in respect of the locker break-in. The Area Manager Leisure replied that he had both spoken with and written to the gentleman to convey the Council's decision not to pay compensation for lost personal possessions.

Noted.

**REPORT FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES
(copy previously circulated)**

LS/2010/2 : TRADING ACCOUNTS

The Business Manager took Members through the trading results to the end of November 2009. She reported that overall the Leisure Centres was showing a favourable variance against profiled budget in relation to Net Cost. This was

being achieved largely through current underspends in expenditure across all the centres. Income in relation to the Robinson Centre is currently 7.4% ahead of profiled budget, whilst Lough Moss and Belvoir are both underachieving in income terms largely due to the replacement of the artificial pitch surface at Lough Moss and replacement Sports Hall floor surface at Belvoir.

Cllr Copeland enquired what financial impact the installation of the Wind Turbine at Lough Moss had had on electricity costs. Councillor Copeland congratulated staff for achieving these savings.

Councillor Hanvey enquired whether the income from the artificial pitch at Lough Moss had increased due to the ability to divide the pitch into four 5-a-side pitches. The Area Manager Leisure replied that usage was picking up and it was anticipated that income should increase during the summer.

Noted.

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER LEISURE & MARKETING

LS/2010/3 : WAN CAPACITY AND LINKS TO LOUGH MOSS

The IT Manager advised that the operating speed to the Lough Moss Centre had been unacceptable for several years, and the Senior Management Team, at its quarterly meeting on 17 October 2007, had been briefed by HELM, the IT consultants, about solutions as part of the Council's IT Strategy. However, these recommendations had never been taken further. The Director of Leisure had raised the subject again during the Estimates process in 2008 without success.

The lack of WAN connections to Lough Moss was also discussed by the IT Sub-Committee at its November 2009 meeting, when a number of options were presented by the IT Manager. However, confusion may have arisen as to the need for this upgrade to line capacity due to the absence of a Leisure Services Officer.

The IT Manager stated that the operating speed at Lough Moss remained unacceptable and detrimental to efficiency and customer service due to the length of time it was taking to print receipts etc. Following the last IT Sub-Committee meeting, the IT Manager had obtained more favourable quotations and intended to advise the Leisure Services Committee on possible solutions before presenting them to the IT Sub-Committee again.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor Hanvey commented that this had been an ongoing issue that needed to be rectified. The General Manager Leisure & Marketing advised that funding was available in the current budgets for an enhanced link to Lough Moss.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Council be recommended to approve the installation of a 2 MB link to Lough Moss funded in the current financial year from the IT Budget with annual rental paid as previously from the Civic Centre budget.
- (b) Further, that the IT Manager prepares a report in respect of this provision for consideration at the next full Council meeting.

The Director of Leisure Services arrived at this point of the meeting.

REPORT FROM THE AREA MANAGER LEISURE

LS/2010/4 : COMPLAINT ABOUT CAR PARKING AVAILABILITY AT THE ROBINSON CENTRE

The Area Manager Leisure referred to previous consideration by the Leisure Services Committee regarding complaints about the parking congestion in and around the Robinson Centre. He advised that he had written to the Roads Services, giving some suggestions in an attempt to alleviate the situation. In response, the Roads Service had indicated that they would re-mark the bays along Montgomery Road but that they did not agree that additional disabled bays or time-banded bays would be beneficial. The Area Manager Leisure stated that Officers intended to arrange for an additional disabled bay to be allocated in the centre car park and also continue to investigate whether the ground to the rear of the centre would be suitable for car parking.

Noted.

LS/2010/5 : TOUR OF THE NORTH 2010

The Area Manager Leisure advised that a representative of the Tour of the North event had visited the Moat Park facility and the initial impression had been that it would meet the requirements for hosting the Easter Saturday stage. Confirmation was expected soon.

Councillor McCoy reminded Members of the agreement that the Council would cover the cost of the event at Moat Park.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for funding from the appropriate budget to cover costs involved in hosting the Easter Saturday stage of the Tour of the North 2010 event at Moat Park, and that, should provision not have been already specifically included in the 2010-2011 budgets that it would need to found from existing provision. The 2010 event be passed to T&ES Committee to host and run, given that the facility is under the management of T&ES.

LS/2010/6 : PRICING PROPOSALS FOR 2010-2011

The Area Manager Leisure took Members through the details of pricing proposals for the Robinson, Lough Moss and Belvoir Centres. He stated that in most cases a 2% increase had been applied and prices rounded up or down accordingly. Any exceptions had been highlighted in the proposals, for example, the artificial pitch prices at Lough Moss and Belvoir, which had been increased when the new pitch opened and following the increase of VAT.

The Area Manager Leisure went on to say that Officers had liaised with Breathe regarding pricing proposals for partnership activities and took into account the opening of the new fitness facility in Carryduff and DW Sports Fitness taking over the JJB chain and expanding.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to approve the pricing recommendations within Leisure Services.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT FROM THE AREA MANAGER LEISURE

LS/2010/7 : CSAW PROJECT

The Area Manager Leisure advised that the CSAW Project staff complement was now in place and that the relevant personnel were progressing the aims and objectives of the project. He continued to say that an Open Day had been arranged at Lough Moss for Thursday, 25 February 2010, from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm and another one would be held at Belvoir on Tuesday, 2 March 2010, from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm. A similar event would be held at the Robinson Centre in due course and a formal launch of the CSAW Project was scheduled to take place later in the year in conjunction with the launch and recognition of other projects at Lough Moss, including the wind turbine installation, new Sports Hall floor, squash courts upgrade, new sand-dressed artificial pitch and the Active Communities programme, which was due to begin in April 2010.

The Area Manager Leisure stated that demonstrations of different physical activities and taster sessions would be provided for potential participants. The Open Days would also be used as a recruitment exercise for all available programmes through the CSAW Project. Members were cordially invited to attend the events. It was agreed that a reminder of the open days would be sent to Members via email closer to the event dates.

Noted.

LS/2010/8 : REQUEST FROM SHINE A LIGHT CHARITABLE ORGANISATION

The Area Manager Leisure outlined details of a request from the Shine a Light voluntary organisation, which focused on improving the quality of life for children diagnosed with cancer. Swimming lessons had been used in the past to improve the quality of life of these children and the request was for

consideration to be given to the provision of discounted weekly sessions in the teaching pool at the Robinson Centre. The organisation would provide a swimming teacher, and lifeguard cover would be provided by centre staff.

However, as the teaching pool was already used extensively, there were few gaps that would suit the requirement of the organisation, as the children were from all parts of Northern Ireland. There were two slots available: one on Thursday evening (40 minutes) and one on Sunday morning (30-40 minutes).

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Area Manager Leisure negotiate with Shine a Light regarding a suitable slot for swimming lessons and levy a charge that would cover the cost of the life guard cover provided by centre staff.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LS/2010/9 : SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The General Manager Leisure & Marketing advised that the Annual Special Olympics Regional Championship was scheduled to take place in the Belvoir Activity Centre on Friday, 29 January 2010, from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm with prize giving anticipated at 2.00 pm. Members were cordially invited to attend the event.

Noted.

LS/2010/10 : CAPITAL SPEND

The General Manager Leisure & Marketing tabled and outlined details of proposed capital spend in 2010-11. He pointed out that some projects had been postponed following Estimates screening, for example the refurbishment/relocation of the Lough Moss Health Suite had been put back several years. However, there was urgency to conduct other capital work and he took Members through each request. He requested that Members approve their inclusion in the 2010 Capital Estimates and reminded Members that all detailed costs would ultimately have to be brought before the LS Committee before proceeding with each project.

The General Manager Leisure & Marketing further referred to his request for a contingency fund for Leisure Services, as the stipulation of Sport NI grants tended to be on the basis of being part-funded by the Council. He was concerned that some funding opportunities might be lost.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor Hanvey commented that each Department should take appropriate action, as it was the Council's responsibility to prepare a five-year strategy to ensure compliance. The Director of Leisure Services advised that, at the last Estimates Working Group meeting, it had been suggested that each Department put forward a five-year

plan for the maintenance of facilities etc, as this would provide evidence of requirements and future planning. Leisure Services had already done this and submitted the five-year schedule.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to include the following projects in its Capital Estimates for 2010-11.

- a. Gas Detection systems – DIIB, BAC, LM and RC
- b. LM – Boiler Replacement
- c. LM – Entrance Porch & Reception
- d. RC – Economic Appraisal
- e. RC – Automated Pool Dosing Plant
- f. RC – Refurb Pool Pre-Cleanse Showers
- g. RC – Pool Covers
- h. RC – Reception Refurbishment

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of
_____2010 with the exception of
Minute Nos. _____

MAYOR