

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND  
LEISURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

20 March 2003  
2.30pm – 6.30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor Knowles (Chair), Cllrs Ellis-Miller, Hart, Howell, James, Hannah Reed, Sian Reid, Schofield (alternate), Slatter

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cllr J Rosenstiel, Executive Councillor for Community Development And Leisure

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**

03/CDL/09 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2002 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

03/CDL/10 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

03/CDL/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following members declared personal interests as follows; they remained in the room and took part in the discussion:

James	Membership of Credit Union	03/CDL/20
	Membership of Arbury Community Centre Steering Group	
Knowles	Non-executive Director of Primary Care Trust	03/CDL/21
Slatter	Membership of Independent Advice Centre	03/CDL/20

The Executive Councillor declared a prejudicial interest as follows; the Leader would make a decision in relation to the related grant application:

J Rosenstiel	Employee of CRUSE	03/CDL/20
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03/CDL/12 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Two members of the public addressed the committee

Chris Rose, Romsey Mill Management Committee

Mr Rose expressed concern that as a result of the Best Value Review of Community Development, funding of the development of Community Centres such as Romsey Mill would be adversely affected. He also asked to what extent funding would be made available to support community group involvement in Area Committees.

The Executive Councillor said there was sufficient funding for the introduction of Area Committees and confirmed that community development continued to have the support of the Council.

Elizabeth Hughes

Mrs Hughes said that while there was an emphasis in the report on the Best Value Review on consultation there was little evidence of it in the strategy document. She would welcome dialogue with all parts of the community to include the whole process of community development.

The Executive Councillor replied that work would continue to support community development and that consultation was an important element of this process.

**03/CDL/13 GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS, CARRY FORWARDS AND SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES** *(See also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/06)*

The officers' report referred to the 2002/03 budgets contained within the Service Plans were presented to this committee in November 2002 and January 2003 and approved by Council on 13 February 2003. The impact of changes to these figures was shown in Section 4.

The full Capital Plan showing the latest spending and funding position was reported to Strategy Scrutiny Committee in January. The report updated this position for the Community Development and Leisure schemes and programmes.

The Committee considered the variances under the separate budget headings

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) the recommendation for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendation

**03/CDL/14 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND, EAST** *(See also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/07)*

The report by the officers referred to the reorganisation of Arts Council England, East (formerly East England Arts) which was now a regional office of the national organisation. The subscription structure through which Local Authorities and Regional Arts Boards had worked was to be replaced by a Partnership Framework. 2003/2004 was regarded as an interim year with three year agreements proposed from April 2004. The benefits from the proposed changes were listed in the report.

The Committee agreed the recommendation for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendation

**03/CDL/15 JUNCTION CDC – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT 2003/04** *(See also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/08)*

The officers' report reminded members that the City Board on 14 September 2000 had agreed a capital funding package to support Junction CDC as part of a wider scheme backed by the Arts Council to redevelop the Junction site. At its meeting on 2 October 2000, the former Community Development and Leisure Committee had

resolved that the Head of Strategy and Partnerships be authorised (subject to consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons) to enter into a partnership agreement with Junction CDC for the provision of services. This partnership agreement replaced the former grant aid arrangement.

This agreement gave Junction CDC guaranteed revenue funding of £97,400 per annum for five years, beginning in 2003/03, in return for an agreed level of programming which is determined through an annual SLA process. The agreement was entered into over such a long period to guarantee Junction CDC the third party funding requirements required by the Arts Council.

As part of the partnership agreement an additional £10,900 grant is also paid towards the rent for the Drama Centre, which will end once the Drama Centre lease is surrendered back to the Council. It is planned that this will happen once the Drama Centre can move into a new auditorium on the redeveloped site.

Members were concerned that elements of the agreement should be reviewed with Junction CDC to take into account concerns on recycling and the number of events for young people under 18.

The Committee agreed the recommendation for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report, subject to renegotiation on detailed issues within the contract such as those referred to above.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendation

03/CDL/16 KEY DECISION **PARKS COMMONS, OPEN SPACE & PLAY AREA STRATEGY – FIRST DRAFT** (*See also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/09*)

The officers' report referred to the Parks and Open Spaces Management Best Value Review which clearly identified the need for a strategic document to guide future development and maintenance of the City's parks, commons and play areas.

On 28 June 2001 the former Community Development and Leisure Committee had approved the final report and action plan of the Review. Officers had been required to develop and implement a Parks and Open Space Strategy in accordance with the Local Plan, Local Agenda 21, Leisure Strategy, Cultural Strategy, Residents expectations, Town and Country Parks Report 1999. This would direct the preparation of detailed conservation and management plans for individual parks and open spaces.

In September 2002 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had issued Planning Policy Guidance 17 which recommended that local authorities develop an overall open space, sport and recreation strategy to carry out an assessment of all open space available to the public whether in public or private ownership. It recommended that this strategy also reviewed the provision of sports halls and community facilities available to the public.

Following discussion with the Director of Environment and Planning it had been decided that he would lead on the preparation of the overall "umbrella" strategy envisaged by Planning Policy Guidance 17. The Head of Parks and Recreation

would lead on two service specific strategies: Sports Services Strategy and Parks and Commons Strategy.

At its meeting on 23 January 2003 this Scrutiny Committee had considered the scope of the strategy and noted a position statement detailing the progress with information gathering which will inform the strategy. The Executive Councillor had subsequently approved the scope of the review.

The Committee agreed the recommendation for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendation.

03/CDL/17 KEY DECISION **SPORTS SERVICE BEST VALUE REVIEW INSPECTION** *(See also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/10)*

The officers' report covered the Best Value Review of sports services which had taken place between July 2001 and June 2002 and included Parkside Pools, Abbey Pool, Jesus Green Pool, Cherry Hinton Village Centre, five paddling pools, sports development service, sports pitch bookings and City Leisurecard.

This Review had piloted the Council's revised process for Best Value Reviews with the process being steered by a Scoping Group chaired by the Chief Executive. This group set the parameters and the priorities within the Project Group, led by the Head of Parks and Recreation, carried out the detailed work of the review.

The decision was made at an early stage that the procurement of the swimming service would be achieved by competitive tendering so no detailed procurement analysis of this service took place. The public consultation method for the review was broadbased and used a number of different methods to complete consultation.

The Committee agreed the recommendation for the Executive Councillor (by 5 votes to nil) as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendation.

03/CDL/18 KEY DECISION **THE SPORTS SERVICES STRATEGY** *(See also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/11)*

The report by the officers referred to the 1996 first four year Leisure Strategy which, although establishing the priorities for sport, recreation, parks and the arts, had not established a strategic framework for the services to be delivered. A mid term review took place in 1998 and a revised strategy produced which had now expired.

The Sports Services Strategy was intended to place the delivery of the City Council's sports services in a strategic framework to meet the requirements of the Medium Term Objectives and the expectations of users and non users of sports services provided by the City Council. The first draft of the Sports Strategy had been considered by Community Development and Leisure Scrutiny Committee on 5 November 2002 and had subsequently been approved by the Executive Councillor.

Following this committee there had been widespread consultation of the final draft strategy. In view of comments received the structure and layout of the strategy and

action plan had been amended to make it more user friendly and easier to follow. The strategy had been very well received by the sporting community and there had been no major consequential amendments. The key comments from consultees that have been addressed and included in the final report were set out in the officers' report.

The Committee agreed the recommendation for the Executive Councillor (by 6 votes to nil) as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendation.

### **03/CDL/19 SWIMMING SERVICE: FUTURE MANAGEMENT & PROVISION SPECIAL MEETING**

The Head of Parks and Recreation reported that eight contractors had applied to be accepted on the select tender list for the Cambridge Swimming Pools and Village Centre Management Contract. Following evaluation of the submissions four had been invited to tender, these were either trusts or operated through a trust which allowed them certain financial benefits. A 'Bidder's day had been held on 11 March when the contractors made presentations explaining how they were interpreting the specification to meet the Council's objectives.

Members were asked to agree that a special meeting of the Community Development and Leisure Scrutiny Committee be fixed in early May 2003 to consider the appointment of the Council's preferred contractor with a view to the commencement of the new contract on 30 June 2003.

It was agreed that a special meeting of the Committee be held on 15 May.

### **03/CDL/20 KEY DECISION GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATIONS** *(See also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/12)*

At its meeting of 23 January 03, the Community Development and Leisure Scrutiny Committee had considered the allocation of grants for 2003-04, subject to the confirmation of the Council's overall budget and the resolution of any problems identified with individual applications. Community Development and Leisure 03-04 grants budgets had been reduced by £21,000 and £9,000 respectively after the addition of inflation. There would be no unspent or returned 02-03 funds to carry forward to the next financial year as there had been last financial year (£12,221 Community Development; £17,660 Leisure).

In order to protect core funding for organisations in 03-04 and ensure that cuts impact on other areas of grant aid, it was proposed that the 2003-04 allocation of funds is set at 85% of the total available for core grants and 5% for new projects, for efficiency measures and for groups with an annual income of less than £5000.

The officers drew attention to the changes since the previous meeting of the committee in recommended grants to individual organisations and set out in the report .

The Economic Policy 03-04 grants budget had been increased by inflation only and totals £298,710. It was not expected that any funds will be carried over from 02-03.

The Committee agreed the recommendation for the Executive Councillor (by 6 votes to nil) as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendations.

**03/CDL/21 KEY DECISION BEST VALUE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** *(See also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/13)*

The Best Value Review of Community Development had been carried out in two phases. The first phase was considered and approved in July 2002 and established the aims and values of Community Development and provided guidance for the second and final stage of the review. The Final Report set out a strategy, objectives, indicators and action plan for Community Development for 2003 – 2008.

The review had included a wide ranging programme of consultations, presentations and events designed to challenge existing policy and practice and to develop appropriate and sustainable service improvements, covering the next five years.

Options for the future of Community Development were described and evaluated in the report and members were invited to consider the report's conclusions and recommendations and advise the Executive Councillor accordingly as a decision was required to confirm the policies, priorities and actions affecting the future provision of Community Development Services. The review of Community Development was timetabled for completion by March 2003. The report listed a number of learning points from the review.

The Head of Community Development said that the development of area committees was fundamental to the role of community development and that it would involve other local agencies and organisations.

The Committee agreed the recommendation for the Executive Councillor (by 6 votes to nil) as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendations.

**03/CDL/22 APPOINTMENTS TO GOVERNING BODIES**

**A) RIDGEFIELD PRIMARY - DECISION BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE)**

In accordance with the Constitution, the Committee noted the Decision by the Executive Councillor relating to the appointment of Mr Hilsden to the Governing Body of Ridgefield Primary.

**B) ST LUKE'S PRIMARY – NOMINATION TO THE GOVERNING BODY**

The Committee agreed the appointment of Ms C Collis to the Governing Body of St Luke's Primary.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

**CHAIR**

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