

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
LEISURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

13 November 2003
2.30pm – 6.00pm

PRESENT: Councillor Reid (Chair), Adigun–Harris, Boyce, Bradnack, Callaghan, Ellis-Miller, Howell, Liddle, Slatter, Wright

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

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

03/CDL/44 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2003 were confirmed as a correct record with the addition of Councillor Boyce's name to the list of those Councillors present and signed by the Chair.

03/CDL/45 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received

03/CDL/46 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Callaghan	Membership of Ethnic Community Forum	03/CDL/49
Slatter	Employed by Lifespan	03/CDL/52
Wright	Member of PACT	03/CDL/50

The Executive Councillor declared a personal and prejudicial interest as an employee of CRUSE; the Leader would make a decision in relation to the related grant application at minute 03/CDL/52 Financial Support To Voluntary And Not-For-Profit Organisations 2003-04

03/CDL/47 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

03/CDL/48 **SERVICE PLANS AND GENERAL FUND REVISED REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGETS 2003-04** *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/30)*

The Service Plans (Parts One and Two) set out the performance over 2002/03 and for the first six months of 2003/04. This information was to enable the Scrutiny Committee to consider whether service priorities and resources should be refocused to enable objectives and targets for the current year to be met.

Members commented on each Service Plan within the Committee's remit. As a general comment on the Service Plans, Councillor Bradnack expressed concern on two aspects: that better services did not necessarily mean an improvement in the quality of the service. He suggested that this criterion be revised for the next cycle.

He found 'ongoing' unsatisfactory as a target date because of the difficulty in assessing whether they met criteria for completion. He said that it would be helpful to have a Service Improvement Plan for each service.

The Chair and the Executive Councillor responded to Councillor Bradnack's comments.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations set out in the report, by 6 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

03/CDL/49 CONSULTATIONS ON CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF JOINT USE COMMUNITY CENTRES *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/31)*

The report consultation process for proposed changes to the management of Joint-Use Centres, in schools. The decision to make changes to the management and administration of these facilities was an outcome of the Community Development Best Value Review.

The City Council had invested capital resources in 5 junior and primary schools – Cherry Hinton, St Philips, St Andrews, St Luke's and Abbey Meadows – to enable community use of their facilities. In addition, annual revenue contributions and part-time staff had been provided to administer the bookings, support users and promote activities. The oldest scheme dated back to the 1980s. Although the Council manages the community element, the Governors had the final say on activities on site.

Following the Best Value Review Final Report, the alternative courses of action for the management of community facilities had been reviewed and informed by the consultancy work on "Community Facilities in Cambridge – Planning for the Future" by Marilyn Taylor Associates. The proposed consultations were based on a preferred option, which had been discussed with schools and agreed as a workable solution

The new proposals build on the existing legal agreements but introduce an annual Service Level Agreement (SLA) whereby the schools would be directly responsible for the management and administration of community use of the sites, working to jointly agreed specifications.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations set out in the report, by 6 votes to 0, with the addition that the proposals be brought to relevant Area Committees as a part of the consultation process.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

03/CDL/50 UPDATE ON BUDGET PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS OF THE EMPLOYMENT FOUNDATION SCHEME *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/32)*

The Employment Foundation Scheme Business Plan had been presented to committee in July 2003. Because of the financial deficit and management problems of the preceding 2 years, officers had been asked to report to committee in this cycle on the budget performance and service progress being made, ahead of the new Service Plan in the January cycle.

Members expressed concern about the remit and membership of the proposed Employment Foundation Scheme Board in being able to achieve the objectives set out in the EFS Business Plan. The remit of the Board had been set but was not available at the meeting. Members suggested the remit and structure be circulated to them for comment before coming to a conclusion on them.

The Committee agreed, by 5 votes to nil, to recommendations 1 and 2 set out in the reports but recommended that the Executive Councillor reconsider the structure of the Board and its remit in the light of this discussion for subsequent approval in consultation with the Chair and Spokesperson.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations as amended.

03/CDL/51 **SPORTS STRATEGY**

Councillor Bradnack had requested that an item relating to the Council's Sports Strategy document be put on the agenda to enable the Scrutiny Committee to address the issues of the editorial process, purpose, readership, circulation and cost. Officers reported on the background to the preparation of the Strategy document and the consideration given to it at previous meetings of the committee and the consultation process.

The Committee noted the comments made by Councillor Bradnack and the officers' response.

03/CDL/52 **FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS 2003-04** *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/33)*

The report sets out the officers' recommendation on applications for 2003-04 grants from voluntary and not-for-profit organisations working in Community Development, Economic Policy and Leisure.

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

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation, except in relation to an application by Cambridge Cruse of which she was an employee. This application was to be determined by the Leader.

03/CDL/53 **FUTURE OF ARTS STRATEGY POST** *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/34)*

The Head of Strategy and Partnership's report set out proposals for dealing with the vacant post of Arts Strategy from the end of January 2004, the postholder having left the organisation in October 2003. This had left an underspend in the current year's salary budget. There has also been underspend on the project budget for the post leaving a total of £17,200 in the current year, of which £11,000 would be returned to the Council.

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

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

The meeting closed at 6.00pm.

CHAIR

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