

## **SCRUTINY BOARD (LEISURE)**

**MONDAY, 16TH APRIL, 2007**

**PRESENT:** Councillor P Grahame in the Chair

Councillors B Atha, A Barker, A Castle,  
J Dowson, J Elliott, W Hyde and V Morgan

**88 Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the April meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Leisure) which was the last meeting of the current municipal year.

**89 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

**90 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor J Monaghan and Councillor G Wilkinson.

**91 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007 be approved as a correct record.

**92 Executive Board Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 be noted.

**93 Scrutiny Inquiry - Leisure Centres - Proposed Final Report**

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report relating to the draft final report of the Board's Inquiry into Leisure Centres.

Appended to the report was a copy of a draft report of the Board entitled 'Inquiry into Leisure Centres – Scrutiny Inquiry Report' for the approval of the meeting.

Denise Preston, Chief Recreation Officer, Learning and Leisure Department and Mark Allman, Head of Support and Active Recreation, Learning and Leisure Department were in attendance and responded to Members' queries and comments.

In summary, reference was made to the following issues:-

- a requirement for the Scrutiny Board to see and discuss the powers contained in the lease agreement establishing the Sports Trusts before the lease agreement was signed
- the need to emphasise, as strongly as possible, that irrespective of any other consideration, the Sports Trusts shall have no power to dispose of

- assets, to close centres or significantly reduce services without the Council's approval by resolution
- clarification of the timely availability of the document which sets up the Trust  
*(The Board noted that the above issues would be determined by Executive Board in June 2007)*

**RESOLVED-**

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That, subject to incorporation within the document of the first two bullet points as referred to above, approval be given to the Board's final report on the Inquiry into Leisure Centres and that the Board's Principal Scrutiny Adviser be requested to email Board Members with an amended copy of the document for their retention in due course.
- (c) That the appropriate Board would receive formal responses to the recommendations early in the next municipal year.

**94 Annual Report 2006/07**

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report regarding the Board's contribution to the overall Scrutiny Annual Report 2007.

Appended to the report was a draft copy of the Leisure Board's proposed contribution to the Annual Report which included an introduction from the Chair and details of some of the work undertaken by the Board in this municipal year for the information/comment of the meeting.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices and it was the general view of the Board that a number of issues raised in the Annual Report would be of interest to future relevant Boards and that it was hoped that the Learning and Leisure department would be in a position to provide updated information as issues were discussed.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That approval be given to the Board's contribution to the composite Annual Report in accordance with the report now submitted.

**95 Leeds Grand Theatre - Update and Presentation**

Further to the Board's previous considerations, the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a covering report introducing a presentation on Phase 2 of the redevelopment of Leeds Grand Theatre.

Board Members received a short presentation from Martin Ward, BDP architects on the latest stages of the project.

Chris Coulson, Executive Officer, City Development was also in attendance and responded to Members' queries and comments.

In summary reference was made to the following issues:-

## **Refurbishment Issues**

- clarification of the refurbishment works in relation to the whole of the building with specific reference to the frontage of ground floor retail units
- clarification as to whether a developer would pay for the restoration of the ground floor retail frontages and the need for the Board to be given assurances that this would happen and that it would be in accordance with the plans drawn up by the architect  
*(The Board were advised that the marketing particulars for the retail units would place an obligation on the preferred developer to restore the frontage of the retail units in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan prepared for the theatre refurbishment works)*
- clarification as to how much refurbishment work would be undertaken in the public areas of the theatre, such as the foyer  
*(The Board noted that each work area in the project had been allocated a budget)*
- clarification of the proposals to enhance the disabled access with the possibility of using the vacant shop area and the need for the consultants to address the refurbishment of the dressing rooms to be an integral part of the project  
*(The Board were advised that the theatre was DDA compliant, but that there remained the aspiration by the Leeds Grand Theatre to improve access arrangements when funds allowed and, that budget provision existed for works to be undertaken to improve the theatre's backstage areas, including the dressing rooms)*
- clarification of the future of the Grand Hall
- clarification as to whether cloakroom facilities had been included in the scheme  
*(The Board noted that due to restrictions in space, this would not be possible)*
- clarification of the proposed timescales in relation to the refurbishment works  
*(The Board were advised that subject to funding, work was scheduled to start on site in September 2007, with works to be completed by August 2008)*

## **Budget Issues**

- clarification of the payment arrangements to consultants employed by the Council on the project and the need for the Board to be supplied with a list of those different specialised consultants who have been engaged on the project from the beginning  
*(The Executive Officer responded and agreed to supply the Board with appropriate details)*
- clarification of the exploratory work undertaken to date by the consultants in relation to meeting budget targets and whether or not there would be any contingency set aside in the budget to address any unforeseen problems  
*(The Board noted that a contingency figure of 20% had been included in the estimated project cost)*

- clarification of the amount of contribution coming from the Leeds Grand Theatre; Opera North and the Development Trust  
*(The Board noted the following breakdown:- 2 million (Leeds Grand Theatre) 0.5 million (Opera North) and 3.2 million (Development Trust))*

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report and presentation be received and noted.
- (b) That further reports on the progress of Phase 2 of the Grand Theatre scheme be submitted to the appropriate Scrutiny Board for consideration.

**96 Chair's Closing Remarks**

The Chair personally thanked Board Members for their contributions over the past year and also thanked Sharon Winfield, Principal Scrutiny Adviser and Maria Lipzith, Governance Services for their continued support and professionalism.

(The meeting concluded at 11.20am)