

SCRUTINY BOARD (LEISURE)

MONDAY, 12TH JUNE, 2006

PRESENT: Councillor P Grahame in the Chair

Councillors B Atha, A Barker, A Castle,
J Dowson, J Elliott, J Monaghan and
G Wilkinson

1 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the first meeting of Scrutiny Board (Leisure) for the new municipal year 2006/2007 and then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests declared at the meeting.

3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors W Hyde and M Lyons.

4 Update from the Director of Learning and Leisure

The Chair welcomed John Davies, Director of Learning and Leisure together with Councillor John Procter, Executive Board Member for Leisure to their first meeting of this Scrutiny Board.

John Davies, Director of Learning and Leisure gave an extensive update on the current and future issues facing the department, especially the services for leisure and culture which come under the portfolio of this Scrutiny Board.

In brief, the main issues discussed were Strategies, Capital Projects, 2012 Olympics/Paralympics, Leeds Local Area Agreement, Performance, Sports Trust and PFI Scheme, Celebrate Leeds 2007, District Partnerships, Major Events and the LeedsCard Scheme.

John Procter, Executive Member for Leisure also gave an update and informed the meeting that the Leisure and Cultural portfolio is a busy one with a number of issues currently being raised which Scrutiny Board may wish to introduce into the work programme.

In summary, the main issues raised by Members were as follows:-

- clarification on the charges now being imposed on small groups for the use of the Community Centre, which Members considered unsustainable.
- details on the amount of time being taken to lease Roundhay Golf Course. The Board requested that an update report be submitted to all Members of this Board as soon as possible.
- clarification of the criteria by which tickets for free point of entry events such as Fantasia and Party in the Park etc are distributed to the general public.
- clarification on the agreement with the BBC and other partners in relation to the large screen in Millennium Square. How events are being publicised and if catering facilities are being considered for these events.
- clarification on the agreement that Leeds Art Gallery has with other Art Galleries around the country for displaying their collections and the amount of exhibitions being displayed at Leeds Art Gallery.
- clarification of the plans being put in place to encourage people to take more exercise and on the various agencies involved as part of these plans such as Leisure Centres, Schools and Parks. Members were concerned that families who were on free school meals would not be able to afford to purchase a Leeds card to go to sports centres and they wanted to know what is being offered to assist disadvantaged groups.

The Chair thanked Councillor John Procter and John Davies for their attendance and informed them that this Scrutiny Board intends to hold some of its meetings at venues outside of the Civic Hall. Councillor John Procter invited the Board to visit Farnley Hall which has recently been refurbished and now houses part of Parks and Countryside Division.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That an update report be submitted to Board Members on current position with regard to Roundhay Park Golf Course.
- (b) That a report be submitted on the proposed use of the Millennium Square Television Screen and that the Programme Manager from the BBC, together with Catherine Blanchard, Learning & Leisure be invited to respond to questions from this Board.

5 Work Programme

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report on proposed guidelines for the development of a work programme for the Scrutiny Board (Leisure).

Appended to the report were copies of the following documents for the information/comment of the meeting:

- (a) Appendix 1 – a schedule of the Scrutiny Alignment with Executive Board Portfolios.
- (b) Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Board (Leisure) portfolio and details within the Corporate Plan.

- (c) Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1st June 2006 to 30th September 2006.
- (d) Budget and Policy Framework Decisions.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That the Principal Scrutiny Adviser be requested to incorporate and timetable the following issues within the Board's work programme and draw suitable terms of reference, where applicable, on the lines now indicated:-
 - To continue with the inquiry into the Grand Theatre.
 - 2012 Olympics/Paralympics.
 - City Museum update
 - Update on the Leeds Art Gallery.
 - Carriageworks Theatre – circulation of work undertaken by previous Board.
 - Update on Roundhay Golf Course.
 - Leisure Centres looking into the idea of having a Sports Trust and PFI Scheme - new buildings how they fit together/charges for use of Leisure Centres.
 - Free at point of entry tickets issued for concerts and the criteria for distribution.
 - Conference and Meeting Strategy.
 - Millennium Square Television Screen and the advertisement of events such as Opera and Ballet.