

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE
19th July, 2011

Present:- Councillor Rushforth (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews and Dalton.

F7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 5TH JULY, 2011

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture held on 5th July, 2011.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member held on 5th July, 2011 be signed as a true record.

F8. YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE REGIONAL BROADBAND JOINT COMMITTEE - REPRESENTATION

Consideration was given to a request for representation on the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Broadband Joint Committee.

Resolved:- That the nomination of Councillor Rushforth be approved.

F9. PROCEDURE FOR THE APPOINTMENT, RE-APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS

This item was deferred to be considered at the next meeting.

F10. CHARGES FOR THE CIVIC THEATRE

Consideration was given to a report presented by Mark Scott, Principal Officer Theatre and Arts Centre, which referred to hirers of the Civic Theatre often requiring support from the Theatres' technical team for longer than a standard working day, particularly on Sundays, prior to performances the following week. To minimise the impact on staffing costs within the Service, staff have been claiming lieu time for these hours, which then unavoidably takes key members of the team out of the business. Following the review of the Theatres' technical team, staffing at the theatre had been reduced and it would become even more necessary to make effective use of staff time.

It was, therefore, proposed to maintain a set charge per hour for theatre hire on a Sunday, but to amend the hourly rate from the ninth hour on site with effect from September, 2011, in line with annual changes to Fees and Charges for the Theatres Service.

This change had been discussed with hirers of the theatre at the Rotherham Operatic and Dramatic Association meeting. The Service would continue to work with hirers to ensure that they made best use of their time in the Theatre, in an effort to minimise the additional time needed.

Discussion ensued on the reasons for the request and the level of consultation that had taken place with service users and staff.

Resolved:- That an additional Sunday hire charge for the ninth hour on site of £67.95 per hour be approved with effect from 1st September, 2011.

F11. LIBRARY STRATEGY

Further to Minute No. 47 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Cultural Services and Sport, consideration was given to the report presented by Elenore Fisher, Cultural Services Manager, which submitted for approval the Library Strategy, which had been developed based on a full assessment of local needs in line with the Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1964.

Further information was provided on the process for developing the five year Library Strategy, the importance of a strategy for Rotherham's Library and Information Service, the transformation of the service over the past four years, the way forward and the possibility of sharing information via a Members' Seminar and the extensive survey undertaken involving library users and non-users about what they valued about the service and what their priorities were for the future, given that library services had been in the spotlight nationally, regionally and locally.

Further follow-up consultation would take place during the period August – October, 2011. Responses would be absorbed, the Strategy refined and reported back to Cabinet Member for endorsement by November, 2011. There would be a need for separate consultation on individual actions within the Strategy in due course.

Discussion ensued on the possibilities of co-location, the statutory duties required by the Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1964 which called for local authorities to provide a "comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons desiring to make use thereof".

Further information was also provided on the reasons for Wirral Borough Council breaching its statutory duties, the number of variables in relation to borrowers/customers which contributed to the performance figures of the Library Service and the vision for the future.

Clarification was sought on the status of the Materials Fund, the savings targets, the capital investments in some library buildings, opening hours and the involvement networks with local schools.

Resolved:- (1) That the Strategy for Rotherham's Library and Information Service 2011-15 be approved.

(2) That the Library Strategy as presented be used for follow-up consultation.

(3) That the important role played by Rotherham's libraries be recognised and noted in helping to change lives and transform communities by provision of a service striving for excellence.

(4) That an all Members' Seminar be arranged during October/November, 2011.

F12. DFE CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND CAPABILITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR TEACHERS

Consideration was given to the draft consultation response form presented by Liz Buxton, Lead Adviser, arising from the White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" which set out plans to shorten and simplify current regulations and remove the duplication between performance management and capability procedures.

The proposals related to the proposed changes which would make it easier for schools to manage and deal effectively with the small number of poorly performing teachers and intended to make the current performance management and capability arrangements less bureaucratic and less onerous for all concerned and to ensure that the arrangements for managing performance and capability were fair and effective.

The proposals sought to ensure that Head Teachers, Governing Bodies and employers take appropriate action to address poor performance including, where necessary, dismissing underperforming Teachers. They were also intended to enable Head Teachers, Governing Bodies and employers to access information that may help them to make more informed judgements about applicants for teaching posts and so reduce the extent to which poor teachers were recycled from school to school.

The proposed response form from Rotherham commented on each of the proposals and set out in detail as to whether or not to agree that such measures were necessary.

The closing date for this consultation was 16th August, 2011 and all comments made must be submitted for the above date.

The Cabinet Member was in agreement with the response form as submitted.

Clarification was sought on matters relating to main scale progression and the links/incentives to performance and the further discussions that would take place on 26th July, 2011 with Elected Members.

Resolved:- That the consultation response form, as now submitted, be approved, subject to the necessary discussions taking place on 26th July, 2011.