

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE

**Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham.**

Date: Tuesday, 24th October 2006

Time: 9.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of previous meeting held on 10th October, 2006 (Pages 1 - 5)
4. Schools PFI Project Update: Autumn 2006 (Pages 6 - 11)
5. Festival Update (Marie Hayes, Commercial and Promotional Services Manager) (report herewith). (Pages 12 - 16)
6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE
Tuesday, 10th October, 2006

Present:- Councillor St. John (in the Chair); Councillor Austen.

An apology was received from Councillor Littleboy.

62. MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2006.

The minutes of a previous meeting held on 26th September, 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN ORDER TO KEEP MEMBERS FULLY INFORMED:-

63. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 3RD OCTOBER, 2006.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd October, 2006 with regard to Leewood Close play Area, Brampton be received and the action of the Cabinet Member and Advisors noted.

64. LEA GOVERNORS APPOINTMENT PANEL

The minutes of a meeting of the LEA Governor Appointment Panel held on 26th September, 2006 were received.

65. ROTHERHAM CULTURAL CONSORTIUM

The minutes of a meeting of the Rotherham Cultural Consortium held on 13th September, 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

66. LEISURE JOINT SERVICE CENTRE PROJECT BOARD

Resolved:- That the minutes of the Leisure/Joint Service Centre Project Board held on 20th September, 2006 be received.

67. CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL CO-ORDINATING GROUP

The minutes of the Christmas Carnival Co-ordinating Group held on 21st September, 2006 were received.

68. MATTERS ARISING

Christmas Carols

The meeting was informed that negotiations are currently underway with

the BBC to achieve a mixed balance of Big Screen programmes and Christmas Carols.

69. NAMING OF A NEW CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA IN THRYBERGH, SILVERWOOD AND VALLEY WARDS

The meeting considered a report of the Head of Service Culture & Leisure on a request to name the forthcoming new play area adjacent to Thrybergh Comprehensive School after the late ward councillor Bill Winder.

Resolved:- That the new children's play area adjacent to Thrybergh Comprehensive School be known as 'The Bill Winder Play Area, Thrybergh'.

70. LEASE OF GAMES PAVILION AT ROSEHILL/VICTORIA PARK, RAWMARSH & PARKGATE PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Service Culture & Leisure which contained a number of options for the long-term use of the Games Pavilion within Rosehill Park by the Rawmarsh & Parkgate Partnership.

In 2005 architects' plans were produced to illustrate the redevelopment options for a small 'Games Pavilion' in Rosehill/Victoria Park, Rawmarsh.

A 'Games Pavilion' located in Rosehill/Victoria Park, Rawmarsh has been highlighted by the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and the Rawmarsh & Parkgate Partnership (RAPP) as an ideal base for a variety of complementary projects. The building is in relatively poor condition although it has recently been internally redecorated by the Probation Service. In June 2005 Burnell-Briercliffe architects produced a redevelopment plan for the building incorporating all the elements from a design brief produced by the IDP team. RAPP now intend to commission a Feasibility Study to allow a more detailed consideration of the proposal.

Terms of the lease would allow consideration of the following 3 redevelopment options, depending on the recommendations of the feasibility study:-

- Redevelopment of the building as it currently stands
- Extension of the building to accommodate new/larger features
- Demolish and build a replacement building to accommodate new/larger features

The Games Pavilion would ideally accommodate:

- A base for RAPP's outreach workers
- A multi-use room available for a variety of functions to support the community – this to include a meeting space, training venue and classroom in the park
- Kitchen facilities for the provision of refreshments complemented by

vending machines for out of hours access to drinks/snacks. This could be operated along similar lines as the café in Clifton Park museum.

- Outside seating area for café users
- Male/Female and disabled accessible toilet and changing facilities. (Current building does not meet DDA)
- Information access point
- Storage space for games/recreational equipment
- Training facilities for the whole community

It is believed the investment provided by this project will help to secure green flag standard for Rosehill Park and build on the park's growing reputation.

To this end the Rawmarsh & Parkgate Partnership has expressed a wish to progress the initial stages of this project.

Resolved:- That a lease be negotiated, following an initial feasibility study, for the long-term use of the Games Pavilion within Rosehill Park by Rawmarsh & Parkgate Partnership in order to satisfy the requirements of external funders.

71. LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICE ICT POLICY

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Culture and Leisure which set out a policy relating to the provision and use of ICT in the Library & Information Service which has been drawn up to serve as a position statement both for staff and the public.

The purpose of the policy is to provide direction within LIS to how ICT will be used in enabling and enhancing delivery of services, and to provide guidance for the public in terms of what they may reasonably expect from the Service.

In addition, the Policy is intended to provide terms of reference in a quickly changing environment, to inform staff and customers and to attempt to clarify decision-making where funding is limited.

The Policy is not new in terms of proposing a new course of action. It does, however, outline the use of ICT in the Library & Information Service with regard to the People's Network, work with particular communities, the Library Management System, digital content and electronic forms of information and communication.

The Manager, Libraries, Museums and Arts highlighted a number of key aspects of the Policy Document.

Resolved:- That the Policy Document be received and referred to the e-Gov Board for approval.

72. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs indicated below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

73. TENDERING PROCESS CIVIC THEATRE PANTOMIME

Pursuant to Minute No. 45 of a meeting of the Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure held on 5th September, 2006, consideration was given to a progress report on the tendering process for the Civic Theatre Pantomime 2007-2009.

The report gave details of the membership of the Assessment Panel and the criteria for assessment, as set out in the tender documentation.

The meeting noted that three Companies had been shortlisted for interview in November and a viewing of each of their performances over the Christmas period.

A decision on the preferred Company would be made in January, 2007.

Resolved:- (1) That the report on progress to date be received.

(2) That a follow-up report recommending a Producer be submitted in January, 2007.

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act – the report contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council).

74. CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES: FEES AND CHARGES 2006/07 MID-YEAR REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Culture and Leisure which outlined a proposed mid-year increase of fees and charges for 2006/07.

Despite the proposed increases, it was noted that several core services still remained free of charge, for example public library service, museum service, archives and local studies service, casual access to green spaces and children's play areas. Where there is a charge, there is often a concessionary rate and, particularly related to leisure activities, a Junior Rothercard rate. In addition, concessionary customers are not restricted to access at off-peak times as is the case in many other local authorities.

Resolved:- (1) That the fees and charges as set out in the report, now submitted, be approved.

(2) That the charges be made with effect from Monday, 30th October, 2006.

(3) That the impact of the increases be closely monitored.

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial affairs of the Council).

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CMT

1.	Meeting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Innovation • PSOC • Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure
2.	Date:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9th October 2006, • 20th October 2006 and • 24th October 2006 respectively
3.	Title:	Schools PFI Project Update: Autumn 2006
4.	Programme Area:	Corporate Services

5. Summary

The Schools PFI Project involves a partnership between the Council and Transform Schools (Rotherham) Ltd. The contract includes the rebuilding/refurbishment of 15 schools and their facilities management for a period of 30 years from 1st April 2004.

By the end of December 2006, the project will provide:-

- **New schools** for Coleridge, Ferham, Kimberworth, Maltby Crags Infant, Maltby Crags Junior, Meadowhall and Thornhill Primaries; and Winterhill, Wingfield and Wath Secondaries.
- **Part new build and refurbished schools** at East Dene and Wath Central Primaries; and Clifton, Thrybergh and Wickersley Secondaries.
- Additionally, **extended school use** will be provided as follows:-
 - new Key Young Person's Centres will be provided at Thornhill Primary and Wath Secondary; and significantly refurbished centres at Wingfield, Clifton, Thrybergh and Winterhill Secondary Schools.
 - SureStart facilities at Ferham, Thornhill and Wingfield.
 - Space for Sports and Arts facilities at Ferham.
 - Children's Centres at Coleridge and Kimberworth.
 - Clifton Project facilities at the Cranworth Road site (The Place).

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that progress on the Schools PFI Project is noted.

7. Proposals and Details

Construction

The following schools have been completed and reported previously:-

- Thornhill Primary and Young People's Centre.
- Ferham Centre including Primary School, SureStart and Space for Sports and Arts.
- Wath Comprehensive - A Language College.
- Maltby Craggs Junior School.
- Maltby Craggs Infant School.
- Wingfield Comprehensive Comprehensive.
- Clifton, A Community Arts School (Lower Site), which now allows all the pupils to be accommodated on the Middle Lane site.
- New block including main school reception, classrooms, main hall and offices at Wickersley Comprehensive School and Sports College.
- Winterhill School
- Clifton, A Community Arts School (Upper Site, ADT Block) – The Place.
- Thrybergh Comprehensive.
- Wath Central Primary, incorporating Wath Park Infants

The project continues to progress very well with fourteen schools now operating on Full Services with successful handovers achieved for the start of term in September 2006 as follows :-

- Wickersley Comprehensive School and Sports College
- Coleridge Primary and Children's Centre
- East Dene Primary
- Meadow View Primary (Formerly Meadowhall Junior School)
- Kimberworth Primary and Children's Centre

The above represents a fantastic achievement in that all schools were delivered on time and to the original project programme even though substantial variations (Children's Centres) had been added to Kimberworth and Coleridge proposals at a late stage in the design process. It is to our partner's credit that these variations were received in a spirit of collaboration and with a "can do" approach. Also, Coleridge was delayed 7 weeks, in a 52 week build programme, by uncharted asbestos. By stringent project management and accelerated work practices the site team has pulled this back to allow the school to open on time, albeit that the council/school have given some concessions on the site works to be completed.

Construction is well underway at the last remaining school site as is completing the site finishing works at many of the sites. These are summarised as follows:-

- Clifton Upper/Cranworth Road site
The new build sports complex started in April 2006 and is due for completion in December 2006. This includes a major variation to provide the performing arts facilities which were originally to be provided in the ADT Block – now The Place. Again it is anticipated that the original programme will be met.
- Site Finishing Works
Work to complete site accommodation works, sports pitches and landscaping was programmed in the contract to require up to one year beyond the building occupation date, this also includes demolition of the existing buildings and the maturing of grassed pitches to a usable standard. This type of work is ongoing at eight of the school sites.

Facilities Management

Haden Building Management Ltd. has now provided services to the 15 (originally 17) schools within the PFI project since April 2004. The schools have moved from Interim Services provision to Full Services Availability (FSA) as the construction work has been completed. The full Output Specification KPI's and Availability criteria under the payment and performance mechanism start with FSA. Fourteen schools are now operating under FSA.

The Helpdesk received 441 calls in May, 433 in June, 358 in July and 192 in August 2006. 39% of calls related to the repair of the building fabric and 34% to technical (lighting, M&E and heating). 42% are reactive maintenance calls, 25% are recorded as vandalism and 27% are related to third parties (defects under the contract, third party bookings and small works orders).

Service monitoring relies on a performance measurement system. When Haden has not complied with the fulfilment of key performance indicators, service deductions or unavailability deductions are made. From September 2004 to June 2006, a total of £67,300 has been deducted by the Council for service faults and availability failures. This reflected a poor start by Haden who have since increased their staff levels significantly and have reduced the monthly deductions considerably (£1,700 in the period April to June 2006). Deductions are currently helping to fund Interim Services repair items and particularly vandalism costs.

Building Learning Communities Ltd. (BLCL)

BLCL has responsibility for community provision, including the arrangements for lettings. The partnership behind BLCL includes Rotherham MBC, Rotherham PCT, TSRL and environmental group Groundwork. Through the General Manager, the company has assumed full responsibility for lettings from September 2005. This has worked well with both schools and users getting used to a new system.

One of the key aims of the project was to expand community use and the not for profit company is now making real progress in achieving this aim.

Many community users of the new school buildings are now firmly established, and more than 4,000 square metres of floor area is dedicated to around 60 user groups currently in the localities of the schools. Whilst sport is still the most popular out of hours use, the growth areas are in club/classes, community groups, health and working with young people.

I Love My School Campaign

This campaign was launched by Transform Schools to try to reduce levels of vandalism, litter, graffiti and malicious damage. Pupils are encouraged to take pride in their new surroundings, and their early involvement at the design stage has given them more of a stake in the buildings and facilities. There is a termly award for "Top of the Class" and "Most Improved".

Litter levels are rated with a special score card, and "report cards" issued to schools once a term showing their performances within two leagues, one for primary schools and one for secondary schools. Branded rubbish bins have been provided at schools, all carrying the "I Love My School" logo. Cash prizes have been awarded to School Councils at the cleanest, tidiest schools. Pupils have related very well to the campaign and are competing strongly for the benefit the award brings to added school equipment and the environment generally.

This approach has started to reduce litter, graffiti, and damage, and is another means of forging good relationships between the schools and our partners.

Awards

The project won "The Best Operational Education Project" at the Public Private Finance Awards 2006 in London in May 2006, and is a finalist in the Contract Journal Awards for "PPP/PFI Award" in London in October 2006.

8. Finance

The Council was awarded £71.4m of PFI credits from the DfES as a contribution towards the costs of the scheme. The remainder of the funding derives from the premises related parts of the schools delegated budgets, other capital funding and the Council itself. Transform Schools receives a monthly unitary payment from the Council which began in April 2004. However the payment is based on the schools reaching full services availability, and the full unitary payment will not be reached until 2007/08 when all the schools will be complete and operational. The current Capital expenditure total from all sources is £96m.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The risks and uncertainties relate both to any delays in the actual construction process and also lack of service quality/delivery in the facilities management operation of the schools.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Rotherham Schools PFI Project contributes significantly to all priorities in the Rotherham Community and Corporate Plans.

Rotherham Learning:	The project supports all who are striving to fulfil their learning potential. This includes both pupils and the wider community.
Rotherham Achieving:	The project supports up to 10,000 young people at any one time to lay the foundations for their economic success. It is a truly regenerative project.
Rotherham Alive:	Both the buildings and their ongoing contract will contribute to cultural and leisure activities for schools and their local communities, Building Learning Communities Ltd. will ensure access for the community to these excellent opportunities.
Rotherham Safe:	The project will always maintain safe, dry and warm building, where Rotherham people will feel both comfortable and challenged to fulfil their potential.
Rotherham Proud:	The whole community will feel proud of these excellent and accessible buildings, contributing to the heart of the vision for the Council and the Local Strategic Partnership.
Sustainable Development:	The project contributes to sustainable development by the provision of modern, energy efficient buildings, maintained to a clear output specification.
Fairness:	All of the services within the buildings will give equality of opportunity to the schools local communities.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Cabinet Member and Advisers, Education, Culture and Leisure Services, 30th September 2003, 16th March 2004, 6th July 2004, 14th December 2004, 22nd March 2005.

Lifelong Learning Opportunities Scrutiny Committee, 22nd March 2004, 26th July 2004, 21st December 2004, 21st March 2005.

Audit Committee, 16th November 2005.

Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Innovation, 7th November 2005, 12th December 2005, 12th June 2006

Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, 12th July 2005, 1st November 2005, 13th December 2005, 20th June 2006

**Contact: Keith Thompson, Acting Head of Strategic Partnerships,
Corporate Services Tel. 01709 336536**

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure Cabinet Member and Advisors
2.	Date:	24th October 2006
3.	Title:	Festival Update
4.	Programme Area:	Children & Young People's Services

5. Summary

To brief Members on the proposals for All Saints' Square during December 2006.

6. Recommendations

6.1 That Members accept the proposals.

7. Proposals and Details

Discussions have recently taken place between officers from Culture and Leisure, Town Centre, Tourism and Markets and the BBC Big Screen Manager with regard to proposed activities during December 2006 in All Saints' Square. Appendix 1 sets out the proposed arrangements.

8. Finance

The proposals will be financed within existing budgets.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The proposed solution should provide a diverse mix of entertainment in the Square with something to suit everyone's taste. However, the success of the proposals depends heavily on the necessary technical solutions being secured.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Achieving – The proposals should increase footfall and enhance the shopping experience for customers thereby ensuring that the town centre acts as a hub for social, economic and cultural activity for the wider area.

Proud – The festival further contributes to positive perceptions of the town centre and the creation of community spirit and ownership.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Appendix A – Christmas Entertainment Programme 2006

Contact Name : Marie Hayes, Commercial and Promotional Services Manager, 01709 334246, marie.hayes@rotherham.gov.uk

Christmas Entertainment Programme 2006

Appendix A

1. Context:

1.1 Traditionally as part of the festive programme RMBC has arranged for Christmas Music, including carols, to be played from a PA system in All Saints' Square (connected to the Minster) for a period of two weeks prior to Christmas day. In autumn 2005 the Big Screen was installed in the square which provided an opportunity to provide a more varied entertainment programme in the lead up to Christmas. It was the intention to include Christmas music in the content schedule for the screen and for this reason the usual arrangements with regard to a PA system attached to the Minster were not pursued.

1.2 However, the project was in its early stages, the screen had been switched on for less than a month at that time and due to conflicting advice regarding licensing issues, separate arrangements had to be made to play Christmas music through a temporary PA system at short notice. The change in arrangements proved unpopular with a small number of individuals and unfortunately the matter attracted some negative media coverage.

2. Existing Arrangements:

2.1 The screen's audio system is set to provide adequate volume for people in All Saints' Square who are watching the screen; the speakers are directed towards the space in front of the screen. They do not however create a constant volume level that can be heard by anybody within the whole square and surrounding environs.

2.2 Therefore, it is more appropriate to play recorded music through a separate PA system if the intention is for similar songs to be played at a volume to match that heard in previous years.

3. The Big Screen:

3.1 The Big Screen project has developed at an exciting pace since its launch in December 2005, not least since RMBC entered into an agreement with the BBC in the spring of 2006. The project has successfully engaged over 50 local community and voluntary groups, has a substantial (and growing) bank of local footage and provided the basis for a varied and exciting summer events programme.

3.2 Whilst the screen did include a varied schedule for Christmas 2005 (albeit compromised to some extent by the issues as outlined above in section 1), experience gained in the course of the year, the established profile of the screen in the town centre and the employment of a full time BBC Screen Manager means that the project has further scope this year to positively contribute towards Christmas entertainment in the town centre by including:

- High quality programmes and festive films
- Content which supports the work of local community and voluntary organisations
- Footage which reflects life in Rotherham & includes features on the local area and Rotherham residents
- Promotion of local events

More detail of the suggested Big Screen content schedule can be found in the last section.

4. Live Entertainment:

4.1 Live music also forms part of the traditional Christmas programme. Whilst three different bands have been confirmed for three different dates in the weeks proceeding Christmas, other musicians have also been approached and schools contacted regarding the opportunity for their own choirs to perform in the town centre; the number of live performances therefore is set to grow.

5. Proposal:

5.1 The constant playing of recorded music in All Saints' Square prohibits the potential expansion of entertainment for shoppers and visitors through both the Big Screen and live musical performances.

5.2 Therefore it is suggested that for 2006 the Christmas activity programme should include a mixture of:

- (1) A variety of entertainment for all ages on the Big Screen
- (2) Recorded music through a PA system fixed to the Minster on an electric timer (at which time appropriate silent footage can be shown on the Big Screen)
- (3) Live music performances (again at which time appropriate silent footage can be shown on the Big Screen)

5.3 An indicative suggestion would be that recorded music is played for an agreed period in the morning, 10am- 12noon and again in the afternoon, 3pm- 6pm, or for shorter periods at specific intervals throughout the day. The exact timings may have to be slightly altered if for example live musicians were booked to perform during these times; however, a full schedule of all three proposed activities would be prepared in advance for each day in the two week run up to Christmas.

6. Proposed Big Screen Christmas Schedule:

Community footage- Schools

Local schools have all been contacted with regards to getting involved in the project and examples of content to be created include:

- Exhibitions of children's artwork
- Footage of nativity plays, music and carols
- Christmas messages

To date filming of children from six schools has been agreed (subject to parental permissions as necessary).

Get Sorted Tuesday Club (Catering for those with Special Needs) will be filmed singing Christmas Songs.

The films of the children will be drawn together to form the basis of a family event in All Saints' Square on Saturday 16th or 23rd December (date & details subject to further discussion).

Footage Reflecting life in Rotherham/ involving the community

Archive Rotherham footage

Christmas message from the Leader of the Council

Christmas message from the Mayor

Photographic exhibitions from a number of sources, including seasonal pictures of the local area

Features including Christmas messages from businesses & shoppers

Specially commissioned festive features (e.g. Interviews with the Rotherham pantomime cast)

Promotion of local events & activities organised by a number of organisations

Countdown to Christmas feature (presented by BBC Radio Sheffield)

'On this day in

Feature
Competitions (e.g. whereby entries to a drawing competition can be showcased on the screen/ Christmas jokes & trivia questions submitted can be shown on the screen)

Footage specifically created for the Christmas schedule by community and voluntary organisations

Other Submissions

At the moment, it's impossible to anticipate submissions from members of the community although seasonal topics are likely to be popular.

Programmes & Films

The BBC provides an extensive Christmas schedule with festive programmes and films to suit a variety of audiences. Content would include a pick of the most suitable items including Christmas classics and children's programmes.

The usual schedule for the screen also includes regular programmes including the lunchtime and afternoon news. There is some level of expectation from visitors to the town centre that such programmes will be shown. National and local news bulletins would be incorporated as part of the schedule.