

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham.

Date: Tuesday, 12 December 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 the Previous Meeting held on 28th November, 2006 (Pages 1 - 4)
4. LEA Governor Appointments
5. Sheffield Bus Museum (Pages 5 - 10)
- to receive the report and consider what support the Council could offer to the Sheffield Bus Museum Trust Limited
6. Clifton Park Restoration Scheme - Establishment of Project Board (Pages 11 - 13)
- to note the Council's success in achieving a Stage One pass and confirm the membership of a Project Board
7. Culture and Leisure Awards (Pages 14 - 18)
- to acknowledge the awards
8. Outcome of Review of Higher Education Student Finance Delivery (Pages 19 - 22)
- to note the implications for local service delivery during the lead-in period
9. Play Area Progress Report (Pages 23 - 26)

The following item is likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to financial or business affairs).

10. Contract for Town Centre Christmas Illuminations (Pages 27 - 29)

- to consider an exemption from the Contract for the provision of town centre Christmas illuminations for the 2007 Christmas period in order to award the Contract

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting
9th January, 2007.

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE
Tuesday, 28th November, 2006

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

86. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2006

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th November, 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

87. LEA GOVERNOR APPOINTMENT PANEL

The minutes of a meeting of the LEA Governor Appointment Panel held on 14th November, 2006 were received.

88. THE YORK AND LANCASTER REGIMENTAL MUSEUM - CUSTOMER SUPPLIER AGREEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Libraries, Museums and Arts Manager which gave details of an invitation from the Director of Infantry, sent to military museums which receive funding from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), to sign a Customer Supplier Agreement (CSA), which will cover the next four financial years – 2007-2008 to 2010-2011.

In addition to the need to achieve and maintain Accredited Status for The York and Lancaster Regimental Museum, the Agreement sets out all of the other requirements for continuation of MoD funding.

Currently, the MoD provides an annual grant of £5950 towards the running costs of the Museum. Signing the Agreement commits the Council to work towards specific MoD requirements in exchange for continuation of this grant.

The requirements dovetail with the aims and objectives already set for the Museum in the Service Development Plan for the Museums, Galleries and Heritage Service. As such, the Agreement provides additional clarity and further support for continuing efforts to maintain and develop the Museum.

The report, together with a full copy of the Customer Supplier Agreement (CSA), set out the details of the requirements of the Agreement, the National and Military Objectives for Museums, and the relevant legislation and standards included in the Agreement.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received.

(2) That, on behalf of the Council, the Cabinet Member sign the Customer Supplier Agreement (CSA).

89. CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS SCRUTINY REVIEW

Consideration was given to a final draft report following a Scrutiny Review of Christmas Illuminations commissioned by the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel following a 'call-in' on Minute No. 33 of a meeting of the Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure held on 22nd August, 2006.

The review set out the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Group who had looked at the current service provision for Christmas Lights and Trees, both in Rotherham Town Centre and in the Districts.

In addition, the review had looked at budget and funding issues, where the responsibilities for this service lie and what can be done to enhance Christmas Illuminations in the Borough of Rotherham.

The Review was endorsed by the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel on 3rd November, 2006 and the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee on 10th November, 2006. PSOC had resolved to add one recommendation to the review as follows:-

- That consideration be given to including strategic lighting as part of the tourism/renaissance agenda.

On 14th November 2006, the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure considered the review at a delegated powers meeting. Further clarification of the recommendation reference 6.1.1 (Single Events Budget) was requested. This report seeks to clarify this recommendation.

(i) The review identified a number of areas for action including:

- ❖ The spread of responsibilities for the management of Christmas Illuminations in Rotherham where budgets are held to fund Christmas related activities;
- ❖ Creating an equitable approach to Christmas Illuminations;
- ❖ Actively seeking sponsorship to fund Trees and Illuminations;
- ❖ Using the Gateway Improvement Plan to light Rotherham at Christmas time;
- ❖ Ensure that diversity issues are accounted for as part of an annual programme of town centre events

(ii) Christmas Trees, Illuminations, Events and Activities should be funded by the Council from a single Special Events budget.

The Commercial and Promotional Services Manager gave a response on behalf of Culture and Leisure to each of the recommendations contained within the Scrutiny Review final draft report.

This meeting felt some aspects had been overlooked by the Scrutiny Review Group, as follows:-

- Lack of clarification on the Special Events Budget for Christmas events programme
- Differences in town centre illuminations and tourism and markets initiatives
- Lack of clarification on the role of Area Assemblies in terms of funding their own district trees
- Original “call-in” overlooked by the Scrutiny Review – i.e. a proposal to withdraw funding for some locations
- Feasibility of gaining sponsorship
- Financial implications of suggestions made in the Scrutiny Review report

The meeting noted that the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel was to consider the comments of both the Cabinet Members of Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure and Economic and Development Services on 5th January, 2007.

Resolved:- That, in view of the need to renew the current three year Christmas Illuminations Contract in January, 2007, the Contract for town centre lights be extended for a further year to allow time for a Christmas Illuminations Strategy to be developed.

90. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 4.1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

91. SPORTS FACILITIES REGENERATION PROGRAMME - STAFF TRANSFER PROCESS

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Culture and Leisure which set out the background to the sports facilities regeneration programme, together with the scale and scope of the staff transfer exercise that will be necessary to achieve it.

An option appraisal of four possible transfer processes was contained in the report, together with an option recommended which it is suggested best achieves continuity of service operation and fair treatment of members of staff, together with a timetable for implementing the process.

Resolved:- (1) That, subject to consultation with relevant trade unions, Option 1 be adopted.

(2) That unions are consulted in the first instance in relation to the broad

principles involved, and in the second instance in relation to addressing specific issues as they emerge.

(3) That the implementation timetable for Option 1, as submitted, be approved.

(4) That a report be submitted to a future meeting on the present situation with regard to the Herringthorpe and Orgreave/Waverley Master Plans.

(Exempt under Paragraph 4.1 – item consists of information relating to consultations with a labour relations matter).

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure
2.	Date:	12th December 2006
3.	Title:	Sheffield Bus Museum
4.	Programme Area:	Children & Young People's Services

5. Summary

The Sheffield Bus Museum Trust Ltd is an independent museum which currently operates from rented premises at Tinsley Tramsheds. The Trust was established in 1986 and incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee in 1995. The Trust's purpose is to collect and display road transport vehicles from South Yorkshire and the surrounding district and its collection includes various Rotherham examples.

The aspirations of the Trust are two-fold:

- As the Tinsley Tramsheds are scheduled for redevelopment, the Trust wish to secure suitable premises with a long-term life expectancy, which are attractive to the public and allow local transport heritage to be showcased appropriately;
- The Trust also wishes to establish a new 'South Yorkshire Transport Heritage Centre', which covers a wider, more general, transport remit.

The Trust has met Steve Blackburn, Principal Officer for the Museums, Galleries and Heritage Service, and asked for Members to be approached to introduce them to the work of the Trust and to secure support for the Trust to achieve its aspirations.

The Trust believes that it can meet both of its aspirations by acquiring a brown-field site at Manvers, and to this end has been negotiating the purchase of an appropriate plot with RiDO. It believes that Member support may assist with these negotiations.

6. Recommendations

Members receive the report and consider what support they can offer to the Sheffield Bus Museum Trust Ltd.

7. Proposals and Details

As the Trust will be asked to move out of the Tinsley Tramsheds in the 2007-08 financial year its immediate concern is to find suitable alternative accommodation. At the same time, however, it has also been investigating ways in which it can tie this move to its aspiration to develop a 'South Yorkshire Transport Heritage Centre'.

The Trust believes that it can achieve this by acquiring a 1.5 acre brown-field plot on the Centenary Business Park East, near to the RSPB Wetlands Centre, on the site of the old Manvers Colliery. The potential site is near the geographical centre of South Yorkshire, and has good public transport and motorway links.

The purchase of a suitable plot has been discussed with Andrew Nettleton and Tim Devine from RiDO. This has a purchase price of nearly £300,000 including fees. RiDO have indicated to the Trust that, if the Trust was prepared to take a calculated risk and reserve the plot before they start raising the funds for its purchase, then RiDO will help them find alternative accommodation for its collection in the interim.

Acquiring this plot would allow the Trust to undertake the following:

- New museum building with the opportunity to display the existing collection more effectively, collect and display smaller vehicles such as motorbikes, cars and vans, and acquire models to illustrate aspects of transport which are not covered by the collection (e.g. railways and canals)
- Expand interpretation beyond a social context, to illustrate the economic tension between private interest and public good and environmental factors such as new fuel technologies and electric and hybrid vehicles
- Search-room for archives and an oral history archive to interact with the local community to ensure that the 'people' aspect of transport is not lost
- Visitor facilities including appropriate access, and a car park outside
- Development of a centre of excellence for 'lost skills' such as coach building and painting, and vehicle engineering

The total cost of the developments, including the purchase of the land, would be in the region of £1.2million to £1.5million. As the Trust has no financial reserves, the purchase of the land and all of the subsequent developments would depend on an extensive fundraising campaign. This would need to include a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The developments would need to be phased as follows:

1. Find alternative rental accommodation
2. Purchase the land
3. Build the main display area for the collection
4. Establish ancillary functions (e.g. visitor centre, education suite, archive, vehicle restoration facility)

8. Finance

This is an independent project with no financial implications for the Council.

At this stage, the Trust is only looking for help in kind from the Council.

9. Risks & Uncertainties

There is no risk to the Council in supporting the aspirations of the Trust.

However, it would prejudice future working relationships with the Trust if the Council chooses not to support the Trust and it then achieves its objectives.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

If the Trust relocates to the Rotherham Borough, then it is prepared to allow the Museums, Galleries and Heritage Service to become its official Curatorial Advisor, which would make the Service a stakeholder in its work to achieve its aspirations.

In the short-term, this would see the Service and Trust plan and deliver a variety of shared exhibitions and events, e.g. trips to Rotherham's historic sites on an old Rotherham bus.

As Curatorial Advisor, the Council would acquire a vested interest in helping the Trust work towards achieving Museum Accreditation Standards. This is fundamental to the work of all museums, and has already proven to be of vital importance to the Museums, Galleries and Heritage Service in terms of its performance and its role in delivering the aims and objectives of Council policies. As its short-listed projects for the Gulbenkian Prize and recently completed redevelopment of Clifton Park Museum have demonstrated, the three Council-run museums already play an important role under the themes of Learning, Achieving, Alive, Safe and Proud.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The report has been commented upon by the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Culture & Leisure.

Copies of the following documents are attached:

- Trust Report on South Yorkshire Transport Heritage Centre
– Possible Site at Manvers
- Trust Report on South Yorkshire Transport Heritage Centre
– Reasons for Wishing to Widen our Remit

Contact Name: Guy Kilminster, Libraries, Museums and Arts Manager, x 3623,
guy.kilminster@rotherham.gov.uk

South Yorkshire Transport Heritage Centre Possible Site at Manvers

Background

Sheffield Bus Museum Trust Ltd has been asked by its landlords to move from their current premises at Tinsley Tramsheds. This request has presented the opportunity to fulfil three aspirations:

- Secure decent premises, with a long term life expectancy, that are attractive to the public and allow the region's rich transport heritage to be showcased appropriately; and
- To cover a wider, more general, transport remit.
- To make space for educational, social and community programmes based on our collection.

This paper deals with the land and premises issue. A further paper will deal with the wider remit.

The land in question

- A brown-field plot on the Century Business Park East, near to the RSPB Wetlands Centre, on the site of the old Manvers Colliery.
- A 1.5 acres site has been identified with co-operation from RiDO, the agents, in particular their officers Andrew Nettleton and Tim Devine.
- The access road has all services connected.
- The cost is £170,000 per acre, i.e. nearly £300,000 including associated fees.

The proposed premises (to be provided in two phases)

- An initial large vehicle garage, presenting a decent frontage to the road. This would enable the Transport Heritage Centre to open with a limited range of vehicles while other buildings were built.
- A two-storey building to house the learning centre, our archives, our offices and visitor facilities.
- A second large building to house vehicles awaiting restoration, our vehicle restoration workshops and facilities for volunteers (mess-room and hygiene).
- (Possibly) a third building to store vehicles for the longer term.

Financing the development

The total cost of the two-phase development would be between £1.2m and £1.5m. We would hope to fund this as follows:

- A substantial phased grant or grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Matching funds from local fund raising events, local transport organisations, national and international companies interested in transport and the environment, volunteer labour (project management etc), various grants (e.g. from landfill companies) and charitable trusts.

Co-ordinating three time scales

There is a potential problem with the timing.

- The Museum expects to be asked to leave between April 2007 (definitely earliest as six months notice is required) and April 2008 (a date we thought we had agreed, but on which the property company appear to be back-tracking).
- RiDO has a duty to dispose of the property as expeditiously as possible unless instructed otherwise.
- Any HLF grant could not be available until the summer of 2007 at the very earliest, and this assumes that everything goes well with neither hitches nor delays!

South Yorkshire Transport Heritage Centre: Our reasons for wishing to widen our remit

Background

Sheffield Bus Museum Trust Ltd has been asked by its landlords to move from their current premises at Tinsley Tramsheds. This request has presented the opportunity to fulfil two aspirations:

- Secure decent premises, with a long term life expectancy, that are attractive to the public and allow the region's rich transport heritage to be showcased appropriately; and
- To cover a wider, more general, transport remit.

This paper deals with the wider remit issue. An earlier paper dealt with the land and premises issue.

The wider remit: general

The Sheffield Bus Museum had its roots in the somewhat unfocused efforts of a variety of young men who, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, collected and restored a number of buses and related vehicles from Sheffield and Rotherham and kept them in a variety of homes. The "best" vehicles were displayed at vehicle rallies and at the occasional open day.

By 1986 there was sufficient momentum for an Educational Charitable Trust to be formed and premises at Tinsley Tramsheds to be leased. The Charity documents explicitly state that the purposes of the Trust include the collection and display of road transport vehicles (not just public transport) from South Yorkshire and surrounding districts (not just Sheffield).

In 1996 the Trust was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee, and the papers for Companies House made the same explicit statement of purpose.

Over the years the focus has been mainly on buses and support vehicles, but we already house one pre-war private car and one wartime RAF mobile crane. Limitations on display space, however, preclude any wider collection.

The wider remit: collection, display, interpretation and access

- A new building on a brown-field site will give us the opportunity to display our existing collection more effectively and to add to it a selection of well-chosen smaller vehicles such as motorbikes, cars, and vans. Larger vehicles can be shown in model form. The possibility exists to expand our interest to railways and canals, again in model form. A new build will enable us to utilise environmentally friendly heating and power sources.
- All our display and interpretation efforts to date have been in the direction of placing public transport in a social context and this will remain a key feature. We wish, however, to add to this the environmental context and the tension that exists between private interest and public good. We hope to be able to look to the future, as well as the past and present, displaying and interpreting appropriate developments in transport, for example new fuel technologies, electric and hybrid vehicles.
- Apart from the obvious displays of vehicles and models we also have a large collection of archives, currently stored in a reasonable although not perfect environment. We look forward to storing this in better facilities and to improving access both to the public and to researchers. We are also keen to establish an oral archive, interacting with the local communities to ensure that the "people" aspect of transport is not lost.
- Our plans for a flat-floored building with adequate space to move will clearly increase access. The same can be said of the improved car-parking and visitor facilities integral to our design.

The wider remit: geographical relocation

- Our enquiries over the four-month period from July to September have included contacts in the Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield districts. We excluded Doncaster on grounds of its distance both from the centre of gravity of South Yorkshire and also the location of most of our present volunteers.

- Rotherham's development organisation RiDO and its Museum Service have without doubt been the most positively helpful and both have impressed us with the warmth of their welcome. Our Board members are unanimous in their wish to relocate to Rotherham.
- The site at Manvers that we have provisionally chosen is very near the geographical centre of the county and is also accessible by public transport and has good links to the motorway network. We will also probably be able to provide a heritage bus service to the site on strategically chosen dates.
- We are looking at developing a "lost skills" centre of Excellence, ensuring that traditional transport related craft skills, such as coach building, coach painting and vehicle engineering, are maintained. We see the close location to the Dearne Valley College as an excellent opportunity to form a working partnership.
- The chosen location is close to the popular RSPB Wetlands Centre, and we see this as a positive advantage in terms of symbiosis of environmental interest.

Other benefits

- The Rotherham Museum Service has offered us curatorial advice and assistance.
- They have also offered us help in making and supporting our application to HLF and other funding bodies.
- Our collection already includes Rotherham vehicles and there are others that we could almost certainly borrow on long term loan. Our location in Rotherham would facilitate this.
- We are very hopeful that a new pool of volunteers would become available.
- The majority of our educational work so far has been with Rotherham primary schools and this would be made easier by relocation.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure
2.	Date:	12 th December, 2006.
3.	Title:	Clifton Park Restoration Scheme – Establishment of Project Board
4.	Programme Area:	Corporate Services

5. Summary

Following the award of a Stage One pass by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Clifton Park Restoration scheme, Members are asked to confirm the establishment of a Project Board to oversee the development of the project.

6. Recommendations

- a) That Members note the Council's success in achieving a Stage One pass for its Clifton Park Restoration Scheme
- b) That Members confirm the membership of a Project Board to be established as soon as possible and to remain active until completion of the project.

7. Proposals and Details

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded a 'Stage One' pass and development grant of £290,000 in support of the Council's £4.8 million bid for the Clifton Park Restoration Project. This allows a start to be made to the production of detailed proposals that need to be submitted as part of a Stage Two bid to the 'Parks for People' programme by October 2007.

In order to progress the project, the Council needs to make arrangements for its direction, delivery and monitoring, in accordance with HLF requirements and good project management principles. This includes the setting up of a Project Board that will meet at regular intervals, to review progress against the project programme and budget, and to steer and approve the development of project proposals. The Board will exist alongside a Project Development Team comprising officers and external consultants who will be responsible for project delivery in accordance with agreed objectives. It is suggested that the Board should meet not less than once a month during the development phase of the project.

It is proposed that the Project Board is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure, and has a core membership of Elected Members representing the local ward or who have relevant portfolios, and key officers working on the project. The Board would be able to invite others to specific meetings as required, including community representatives, Council Members and officers, and external partners. It is envisaged that the Chair of the Board would have lead responsibility for reporting to Cabinet and other relevant meetings of the Council.

A provisional list of Members and officers to form the core membership of the Board will be presented for discussion and confirmation. It is important that the Board then be established as soon as possible to allow progress to be made within the limited timescale allowed by the HLF for the submission of a Stage Two application. It is proposed that the same Board remains in place to oversee the implementation phase of the project assuming that the Council is successful in securing a Stage Two pass. At this stage it is understood that a decision on the Stage Two application will be made in March 2008, and that implementation of the project will run to 2010.

8. Finance

The establishment of a Project Board has no significant financial implications in itself.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

None

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The restoration of Clifton Park will contribute to Corporate priorities, including the following:

- Rotherham Achieving: It will contribute to regeneration of the local economy, including the Town Centre Renaissance, and the creation of new employment opportunities through a horticultural apprenticeship scheme;

- Rotherham Alive: A major objective of the project is to increase the number and range of people visiting the park and enjoying an extended range of events, activities and facilities;
- Rotherham Learning: The project seeks to increase learning opportunities through the provision of new educational programmes and a new purpose-built space for school and other groups;
- Rotherham Proud: A Volunteer Development Plan is to be produced as part of the project, and there will be new opportunities for the community to become involved in and use a walled garden and indoor meeting space;
- Rotherham Safe: A dedicated park management team will work with the Urban Park Rangers, Grounds Maintenance staff, Games Attendants and others to ensure the highest standards of site maintenance and visitor welcome leading to a Green Flag application. The scheme will also include additional lighting and CCTV to improve user safety;
- Performance Indicators: The project, when complete, should have a positive impact on BVPI 119e – Satisfaction with Cultural Services – Parks and Open Spaces, and help to contribute to the number of Green Flag Awards gained by the Service.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Full details of the Stage One application to the HLF's Parks for People Programme are available on request.

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Lifelong Learning, Culture & Leisure Cabinet Member and Advisors
2.	Date:	12th December 2006
3.	Title:	Culture & Leisure Awards
4.	Programme Area:	Children & Young People's Services

5. Summary

This report identifies recent achievements in Culture and Leisure that have received nationally recognised awards.

6. Recommendations

Members acknowledge the awards.

7. Proposals and Details

During the past 6 months the Leisure & Green Spaces Team have received 3 awards that recognise the quality and variety of the services they provide. These awards help to give confidence to service users; raise the profile of the service within the borough, regionally and nationally; increase staff morale and motivation; contribute to service planning and improvement; and often support access to external funding. Obtaining awards requires a great deal of hard work and preparation by the officers and partners involved. As a result the service has sought to target those opportunities that it believes will be of most benefit to service improvement and which it is able to strive for without any detriment to front line service delivery. The awards the service has achieved, along with a brief description of each, are identified below.

1. Aquamark (All Swimming Pools)

The Sport & Leisure Facility 'Swimsmart' programme has been awarded 'Premier Scheme Status', the highest award in the industry's accreditation scheme 'Aquamark'. This demonstrates a commitment by the service to improve the quality of service delivery and to raise standards in swimming. Aquamark is an external validation of performance that recognises the achievements of the staff in working together to improve the swimming programme through:

1. Effective implementation of a nationally recognised award scheme.
2. Provision of a consistently effective service to customers and pupils and ensure this continues to improve.
3. Provision of frame work to meet requirements of Best Value and Comprehensive Performance Assessment.
4. A commitment to encouraging continuing professional development of swimming teachers.

The service received commendations for:

1. The very best was made of the facilities in light of the impending demolition programme.
2. Enthusiasm of the staff
3. Displays and availability of colourful information
4. Information for Parents booklet
5. The range of activities accessible to all exceeds the expectations of the customer
6. Partnerships
7. Management team and management style

2. Green Flag Award (Thrybergh Country Park)

Green Flag is a national quality benchmark for local authority green spaces. It is run by the Civic Trust and supported by the Department for Communities and Local Government (formerly ODPM), English Heritage and Natural England. It is also a recognised quality standard in CPA. The award is judged by the following criteria:

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy safe and secure
3. Clean and well maintained
4. Sustainable
5. Conservation and heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing
8. Management

To achieve the award the service/facility has to:

- Carry out a comprehensive self-assessment
- Produce a five year management plan including reference to documented procedures etc
- Facilitate a site inspection by judges
- Reapply on an annual basis in order to retain the award
- Provide an annual application fee (between £150 and £300)

Benefits to the service/facility include:

- Internal and external recognition of service quality
- Opportunity to review requirements at key sites and to plan resource allocations accordingly
- Promotional opportunity
- Meet a Culture & Leisure Performance indicator
- Achievement of target in Culture & Leisure Service Plan and Corporate Plan

3. Parkforce Award - Park Worker of the Year (Paul Spriggs, Ranger, Rosehill Park, Rawmarsh)

This is an award within a new scheme celebrating the valuable work of park management teams and individuals. It is run by CABE Space (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) and is open to local authorities that are signed up to the 'Parkforce Pledge'. The award recognises excellence in the following areas:-

- Help make my park a safe clean and beautiful place
- Contribute to the health and well being of local people
- Contribute to the quality of the natural environment
- Make visitors feel welcome and help them to learn more about my park
- Work as part of a team to make my park a place to be proud of

There is an award for the team and the individual who are judged to have made the greatest difference to their park or parks. To achieve the award the service/facility has to submit a five thousand word application with supporting evidence.

Benefits to the service/facility include:

1. Endorsement and national recognition of work being undertaken as being best practice
2. Similar to 'Beacon Status' for green space management
3. Local recognition of the progress made in addressing previous problems
4. Raising the profile of the service
5. Further networking opportunities – e.g. attendance at 'Paying for your Parkforce' conference (Oct 06) and trip to Central Park, New York
6. Putting Rotherham on the map

The Leisure & Green Spaces Team is also in the process of preparing applications for the following awards:

1. QUEST – Sport & Leisure Facilities
2. QUEST – Sports Development
3. Race Equality Scheme – Sports Development
4. Green Flag – (Rother Valley Country Park, Rosehill Victoria Park, Ulley Country Park and developing plans for a number of urban parks)

8. Finance

The majority of the awards require officer time to prepare and submit, whilst the action plans that follow will in many cases require capital or revenue funding to be identified, often from external sources. Application for QUEST accreditation does require a fee and this will need to be identified before the bid can be submitted.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Of those awards gained, action plans will need to be monitored in order to ensure the service, where appropriate, can maintain the award. Planned submissions will be subject to the assessment process.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Regeneration:

Equalities: No implications.

Sustainability: All of the wards can be considered to making a contribution to the sustainability of the service and the facilities to which they apply. Green Flag award in particular requires the production of a management plan which takes account of the future sustainability of the site.

Health: The awards support the Culture & Leisure objective to increase active participation in cultural services and as such make a contribution to health improvement.

Human Rights: No implications.

Corporate Priorities: Achievement of the awards provides external recognition of Leisure & Green Spaces' contribution to the Council's priorities of *Rotherham Learning, Rotherham Achieving, Rotherham Alive and Rotherham Safe*. In particular it will contribute to Culture and Leisure Service outcomes under the following strategic objectives.

Learning - Improve the potential of Rotherham people by assisting them to develop through the provision of lifelong learning opportunities.

Alive - Improve quality of life and levels of health and wellbeing for all people in Rotherham by increasing and widening participation in cultural activities.

Safe - To contribute to safer neighbourhoods and better environments, through the active engagement of priority communities in cultural activity and targeting resources to improve priority sites

Contribution to CPA: The awards will help to demonstrate the team's commitment to continuous improvement and providing a high quality service.

11. Background Papers and Consultation – none

Contact Name: Steve Hallsworth, Business Manager Leisure & Green Spaces, Culture & Leisure, 01709 (82) 2483, steve.hallsworth@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure
2.	Date:	12th December 2006
3.	Title:	Outcome of Review of Higher Education Student Finance Delivery
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

Bill Rammell, Minister for Higher Education, laid a written statement to Parliament on Monday 3rd July 2006 which announced plans for the transformation and centralisation of the student finance service in England. This announcement followed the completion of an end-to-end review of student finance service delivery in England by the Department for Education and Skills. As a result of this review, from 2009/10 academic year students starting higher education courses will be processed by a new centralised service run by the Student Loan Company, without local authority involvement.

6. Recommendations

This report should be received by the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure. The implications for local service delivery during the lead-in period preceding full centralisation should be noted and inform future service and workforce planning.

7. Proposals and Details

The Service

Rotherham MBC receives and processes over 3000 applications for Higher Education Student Finance each year, in accordance with the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998, the Education (Student Support) Regulations and the functions transferred by the Secretary of State to Local Authorities in England.

The Student Support Service has a team of 5.5 FTE permanent staff. It provides an advice and guidance service and performs assessments of eligibility and financial entitlement to student loans and grants. Payments and collections of student loan repayments are currently handled by the Student Loans Company.

The Review

On 7th June 2005, The Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, Bill Rammell announced the terms of reference for a review of the delivery of higher education student finance in England. This end-to-end review considered how the present student finance could be made more customer-focused, efficient and sufficiently flexible to respond to possible future changes in higher education. It also considered the service in terms of the demands of the e-Government agenda and the findings of the Efficiency Review.

The Results of the Review

The Report of the review of Higher Education Student Finance in England was published on 31st January 2006. It made 44 specific recommendations for future service delivery, including a centrally-provided service. Further to this report, whilst acknowledging the contribution made by Local Authorities to the administration of Student Support over a period of forty years, the Government announced in July 2006 that it will reform the **Student Loans Company (SLC)** to become the sole national delivery organisation for the service.

The Government plans for the SLC to be ready to accept applications in late 2008 from all students entering their first year of higher education in 2009/10. Local Authorities will continue to handle applications for support from returning students until they complete their course or until 2012/13, whichever is the sooner. The new service will focus on students using on-line applications as the normal method, and the intention is to align timescales for applying for a place in higher education (UCAS) and for financial support.

The Implications for Local Service Delivery

Local Authorities will retain full responsibility for processing student finance applications for the next two academic years (2007/2008 and 2008/2009). In 2009/10 and 2010/2011 the number of applications which they process will reduce by approximately one third in each year as the SLC takes on the new entrants. From 2012/13 the SLC will become responsible for **all** applicants, new and returning.

Information, advice and guidance (IAG) on financial support matters is currently provided to prospective higher education students and their parents by the local authority Student Support team via events held at Rotherham schools and colleges. There is also a reception service for the public open Monday-Friday 08.00 to 17.30.

The DfES has not yet decided how this advice will be delivered at a local level and will consult further on the best delivery model for this service. It has been suggested that Connexions may take up this role.

The Implications for the Student Support team in Rotherham

From 2009/10 the need for staffing resources within Student Support will decline in proportion with the decreasing case load. In order to manage this decline, the Service will shortly begin to preparing a transition plan to be submitted to the DfES. This plan will be required to demonstrate that each Local Authority has given consideration to how it will commit resources to maintaining service levels and handle staffing issues. Staffing level reductions may be achieved through natural wastage as members of staff seek alternative positions. However, there is widespread concern among Local Authorities in England and Wales that the performance of local student support services may be adversely affected by the premature loss of experienced staff. It might be possible to arrange to pool remaining resources among neighbouring local authorities (i.e. Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley). Consideration might therefore be given to entering into a reciprocal arrangement with these authorities to offer/accept assistance during the lead-in period. In this situation members of staff could continue to work for their own authority but might be handle the caseload of another.

Retention of experienced members of student support staff might be aided by a commitment from the Authority to maintain the present policy of redeployment to equivalent posts until 2012.

8. Finance

The DfES are committed to maintaining current levels of funding to Local Authorities until the next Comprehensive Spending Review in 2008/09. From the financial year 2008/09 an adjustment will be made to the Local Authority's Formula Spending Share in proportion to the loss of work due to the transfer of student finance function to the SLC.

(Line 2.7.4 of Section 52 Budget Statement for 2006/07 shows a budget allocation of £137,945 for Student Support)

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- Loss of local customer service to residents of Rotherham Borough, especially Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG).
- Loss of personalised local service to vulnerable customers such as students with disabilities who are currently dealt with by named senior staff.
- Redeployment/redundancy of student support service team.
- Local skill shortages in Student Finance as current team members seek alternative employment during the lead-in time.
- Performance of current national on-line processing system whilst new system is being developed for 2008.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Student Support team contributes to the aims of lifelong learning within the Rotherham Learning and Achieving priorities. A centralised system may compromise the quality of service offered to students and contribute to lower participation in higher education, particularly among under represented and vulnerable groups. Allied to the changes in the tuition fee charging system, both local and national participation in Higher Education could be threatened.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Improving the Student Finance Service, DfES Report, January 2006
- Letter to Directors of Children's Services, M F Hipkins Director Student Finance DfES, 3rd July 2006
- Written Statement, Higher Education Student Finance, Secretary of State for Education and Skills (Ruth Kelly), 31st January 2006
- Written Statement, Higher Education Student Finance Delivery in England, Minister for Lifelong Learning and Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell), 3rd July 2006

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure
2.	Date:	12 th December 2006.
3.	Title:	Wentworth Meadows - Play Area Progress
4.	Programme Area:	Corporate Services

5. Summary

An outline is presented of progress that has been made in pursuing appropriate leisure provision for young people on the Wentworth Meadows estate, Brampton, as an alternative to evening use of the play area at Leewood Close with attendant problems of nuisance to local residents.

6. Recommendations

- a) **That progress being made to provide alternative leisure provision for young people at Wentworth Meadows be noted**
- b) **That Ward Members be informed of this progress**
- c) **That Members receive a further progress report on the matter at the end of March 2007.**

7. Proposals and Details

A children's play area was installed at Leewood Close, Brampton in 2003, in accordance with conditions attached to the Planning consent for development of new houses on the surrounding Wentworth Meadows estate. The facility has attracted regular visits by older children in the evening, and this has frequently been a source of nuisance for residents living in adjacent houses. A petition was sent to the Council by these and other local residents in May 2006 calling for the removal of the play area. In July 2006 a further petition was received from residents living elsewhere on the estate asking for the facility to be retained.

The Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure called a meeting in October 2006 to review options for dealing with the situation. The meeting was also attended by all three local Ward Members, a further Parish Councillor, and officers from Culture and Leisure and Young People's Service. It was resolved at this meeting that officers should pursue the provision of sheltered seating, possibly using a mobile shelter, in a green space at the south corner of the estate. It was noted that the land in question is owned by St Paul's Developments, and consequently it was also resolved that the Head of Culture and Leisure should open a dialogue with them to establish whether they would give permission for such a development. It was also agreed that the views of local young people should be sought to inform any such scheme. Progress with these actions is outlined below.

It is estimated that the approximate cost of providing a temporary shelter would be £27,000. This would allow the installation of lighting and a surfaced path to the shelter. A bid for this amount was submitted to the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund through the Joint Action Group in October 2006. Unfortunately, this was not successful. No other appropriate funding sources have yet been identified.

Initial contact with St Paul's Developments indicated that they would be willing in principle to consider the development of a facility for young people on their land at the south corner of the estate, but that this would be subject to further detailed negotiations regarding other related issues.

The Young People's Service and Community Planning Officer have been working with a small number of local young people with a view to exploring issues around provision for their age group. This is being supplemented through contact being made by Detached Youth Workers with young people on weekly visits to the estate.

Discussions with the Brampton and West Melton Partnership (BWMP) have revealed that they have also contacted St Paul's Developments about the possibility of providing for young people on the same piece of land. It was therefore agreed that a meeting be held to look into the proposal in more detail with a view to a possible joint project. This meeting, held on 7th December 2006, established the following facts:-

- St Paul's have told BWMP that they would gift them the land if BWMP guaranteed to maintain it for ten years;
- BWMP would be keen to accept this offer, but would need to secure funding necessary to sustain their involvement over such a period;
- BWMP would wish to investigate the possibility of providing both a permanent shelter and MUGA on the site.

In view of these mostly shared objectives, it was agreed that a partnership approach be taken in seeking to develop this project. The following main areas of work have been identified:-

- Confirm land-owner agreement to the proposal, and any associated conditions;

- Continue consultation with young people to develop an agreed scheme;
- Seek support for the scheme from the Area Assembly, Parish Council, Police/SNT, Miners' Welfare, Community Planning Officer and other key stakeholders;
- Consult with local residents;
- Develop cost estimates for the agreed scheme, and seek capital funding/sponsorship to allow the project to proceed;
- Establish what Planning consents would be required and obtain as appropriate;
- Establish cost of managing and maintaining site and, subject to confirmation of current landowner's requirements, investigate possible transfer of ownership and maintenance responsibility to Partnership or some other body (e.g. Parish Council, Rotherham MBC)

Responsibility for pursuing these actions has been shared between BWMP and the Council, and it is proposed that progress will be monitored at monthly meetings between both parties.

8. Finance

The cost of a minimal scheme to allow installation of a temporary shelter is estimated to be around £27,000. Costs for providing a permanent shelter and MUGA are likely to be several times more than this. Maintenance of such a scheme would also have long-term revenue cost implications, although these have not yet been ascertained.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Any development on this site is likely to be subject to landowner agreement and Planning consent, and will also require broad support from key stakeholders and a sizeable proportion of the local population. The scheme will also depend on the necessary capital and revenue funding being identified.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposed development of facilities for young people at Wentworth Meadows estate will have the following policy and performance implications.

- Rotherham Alive: It will fill a gap in recreational provision for older children and should therefore lead to a higher quality of life and higher levels of activity for them.
- Rotherham Safe: A fundamental purpose of the project would be to reduce current anti-social behaviour and associated fear from the lives of people living around the existing children's play area on Leewood Close.
- Rotherham Proud: The development of proposals for this facility will involve young people and others living on the estate, and will therefore give them a chance to influence the sort of services available to them;
- Sustainable Development: Wentworth Meadows is a relatively isolated community, and the provision of decent facilities for people living there is an important for the sustainability of the community, particularly for younger people who are less likely to be able to travel independently to alternative facilities in neighbouring settlements.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The Brampton and West Melton Partnership and Young People's Service have been consulted prior to preparation of this report.

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REPORTS – CHECKSHEET

This Checksheet must be completed by all report writers and the Democratic Services Officer.

Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure
Date:	12th December 2006
Title:	Wentworth Meadows - Play Area Progress
Programme Area:	Corporate Services

1. Have you completed this report strictly in accordance with the Cabinet template and guidance notes?

YES/NO

(The template/guidance notes can be used from the Intranet – Resources A-Z under “C” for Cabinet report.

2. Has the Chief Executive or relevant Executive Director approved this report for consideration by Members?

YES/NO

Name of Report Author:- Phil Gill, Green Spaces Manager

3. Is the report OPEN or EXEMPT. If exempt please give reason(s).

To be completed by Democratic Services Officer

1. Confirm that you have done a quality control check before publishing this report.

YES/NO

2. Specify any amendments made:-

.....

3. Check OPEN or EXEMPT.

Name of Democratic Services Officer:-

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted