

CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LIFESTYLE, SPORT AND TOURISM

**Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham. S60
2TH**

Date: Friday, 18th February, 2011

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 meetings held on 8th February, 2011 (herewith) (Pages 1 - 4)
4. Bowling Greens Budget Savings (report herewith) (Pages 5 - 8)

CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LIFESTYLE, SPORT AND TOURISM
Tuesday, 8th February, 2011

Present:- Councillor St. John (in the Chair) and Councillor Falvey.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Cutts.

F45. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2010

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Lifestyle, Sport and Tourism held on 14th December, 2010.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member held on 14th December, 2010, be signed as a true record.

F46. CLIFTON PARK RESTORATION PROJECT BOARD

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Clifton Park Restoration Project Board held on 10th December, 2010.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Clifton Park Restoration Project Board held on 10th December, 2010, be signed as a true record.

F47. PLAY PATHFINDER PROJECT BOARD

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Play Pathfinder Project Board held on 13th December, 2010.

Reference was made to Minute No. 58 (Stoney Bank, Kiveton Park) where it was noted that the preventative measures for accessing the play area after hours had now been fitted.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Play Pathfinder Project Board held on 13th December, 2010, be signed as a true record.

F48. REORGANISATION OF THE BOOKABILITY, HOME LIBRARY SERVICE AND EXCHANGE COLLECTION SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report introduced by Elenore Fisher, Cultural Services Manager, which detailed options for the future delivery of the Bookability, Home Library Service and Exchange Collection services.

The report set out in detail the remit of Bookability, the Exchange Collection Service and the Home Library Service.

It was noted that the Transport team based at Hellaby Depot had advised that the Bookability vehicle was now more than ten years old becoming increasingly un-roadworthy and expensive to maintain.

By using the budget allocated for the hire charge for the Bookability mobile and also the budget for taxi fares (Home Library Service) it would be possible to hire

from Translinc a smaller vehicle than the present mobile. This could then be used to deliver the Home Library Service and the Exchange Collection service as well as Bookability. Furthermore, the proposed vehicle could be driven by anyone with an ordinary driving licence including all members of the teams currently delivering the separate services. This would facilitate the creation of one team and would be accompanied by a reorganisation of the existing routes to ensure the public were offered an integrated service. No existing users would be deprived of a library service.

The new service would release potential savings, which would contribute to savings required in the next financial year.

Resolved:- That the three Library and Information Services known as Bookability, The Home Library Service and the Exchange Collection Service be amalgamated into one new service and delivered by means of a new vehicle.

F49. CLIFTON PARK SIGNAGE PROCUREMENT

Consideration was given to report introduced by Andy Lee, Green Spaces Operation Manager, which sought an exemption from Standing Order 47.6.2 (requirement to invite at least two oral or written quotations for a contract with an estimated value between £5,000 and £20,000) to allow an order to be placed with Leander Architectural for the supply of signage to be installed throughout Clifton Park.

A major element of the interpretive plan for Clifton Park, which formed part of the agreed project objectives with the Heritage Lottery Fund, was the placement of a number of interpretive monoliths and welcome signs throughout the park. It was agreed that these signs should reflect the design of the monoliths, already located in the park that were designed and manufactured by Leander Architectural a number of years ago. Detailed proposals for the signage were passed to UCS Civils as main contractor for the Clifton Park Project and Leander Architectural were subcontracted by UCS Civils to manufacture and supply the monoliths. However, when UCS Civils entered administrative receivership in November, 2009 Leander ceased all work on the signs.

An order was placed by the Council with Leander Architectural in September, 2010 to supply the pre-manufactured monoliths. In addition, the anchor cradles for the Leander welcome signs had already been installed by UCS. It should be noted that a competitive procurement exercise was carried out by UCS Civils when identifying a manufacturer for the signage.

An order was now needed for the welcome signs. It was requested that this could be placed directly with Leander Architectural, as they had already commenced development of the signs whilst employed by UCS Civils, and have previously supplied the monoliths in the park.

The Cabinet Member was happy to proceed with the same supplier to ensure the consistency of design throughout the park.

The handover of the Garden Building and the relocation of the park staff into that building was also welcome news.

Resolved:- That the exemption of the contract for the purchase of signage for Clifton Park from Standing Order 47.6.2 (requirement to obtain at least two oral or written quotations for contracts with an estimated value of £5,000 but less than £20,000) be approved and the contract be awarded to Leander Architectural.

F50. ARCHIVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY - GOVERNMENT POLICY ON ARCHIVES

Consideration was given to a report presented by Lisa Broadest, Principal Officer, Archives and Local Studies, which detailed how in November 2009, the National Archives was presented to Parliament resulting in a new Government policy on archives entitled "Archives for the 21st Century", which addressed five key recommendations:-

1. Bigger, better and sustainable services
2. Leadership and workforce
3. Digital preservation
4. Online access
5. Cultural learning partnerships.

Rotherham was committed to working towards and developing these recommendations which applied in equal measure to both Archives and Local Studies as a joint service. At the core of this commitment was the delivery of excellent customer service.

An outline of Rotherham's commitment to the five recommendations was emphasised at the meeting, but set out in specific detail as part of the report.

Discussion ensued about the future location for the permanent storage of valuable archive and local studies materials and artefacts and it was noted that discussions remained ongoing.

Resolved:- That officers working towards the new Government policy be approved.

F51. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006) (information likely to reveal the identity of an individual).

F52. ASSET TRANSFER PROPOSAL FOR ROTHERHAM ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Consideration was given to a report presented by Nick Barnes, Principal Project Development Officer, which proposed the transfer of the Rotherham Adventure Playground asset along with the three members of staff to Chantry YMCA in order to secure the long term sustainability of the facility and remove future budget pressures.

The pros and cons of the asset transfer were considered, but it was believed that the long term sustainability of this playground could be secured through the transfer, whilst noting that should there be any plans to use this playground for anything other than it was intended would result in its return to the Local Authority.

Resolved:- [1] That the Rotherham Adventure Playground be legally transferred to the Chantry YMCA and that appropriate covenants be put in place to ensure the continued delivery of play at the facility or the return of the asset.

[2] That an exemption be made to the general decision to defer all transfers because of the risk that the Council would lose the opportunity and indeed the facility if it were not to take place.

[3] That in line with Council Policy this matter be referred to the Capital Strategy and Asset Review Team and then to Cabinet for approval.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
--

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Culture, Lifestyle, Sport & Tourism
2.	Date:	18th February 2011
3.	Title:	Bowling Green Budget Savings
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

This report seeks approval to consult bowling green users, Parish Councils and Coalfields etc (CISWO) regarding ceasing maintenance of eight bowling greens in 2011 and a further eight bowling greens in 2012 in order to make savings needed to help meet available budgets for 2011/12 and 2012/13.

6. Recommendations

6.1 That Cabinet Member approves consultation regarding the cessation of maintenance of the following RMBC managed greens from 1st June 2011:

- **Two greens at Rawmarsh Leisure (Barbers Avenue)**
- **One green at Barkers Park**
- **One green at Boston Park**
- **One green at Wath Park**
- **One Green at Greasbrough Park**
- **One Green at Bradgate Park**

6.2 That Cabinet Member approves consultation regarding the cessation of maintenance of the bowling green at Wickersley Christian Institute from 1st June 2011.

6.3 That Cabinet Member approves that consultation takes place with the Parish Councils below regarding the cessation of maintenance of their bowling greens at the Borough Council's expense from 1st January 2012

- **Wales PC**
- **Treeton PC**
- **North Anston PC**
- **Catcliffe PC**

6.4 That Cabinet Member approves that consultation takes place with CISWO regarding the cessation of maintenance of their bowling greens below, at the Borough Council's expense from 1st January 2012.

- **Cortonwood Miners Welfare**
- **Swallownest Miners Welfare**
- **Silverwood Miners Welfare**
- **Maltby Miners Welfare**

6.5 That Cabinet Member approves the issue of invitations to bowling clubs or other suitable and interested parties at affected greens operated by the Council, to express interest in taking over responsibility for maintenance of greens at their own expense.

7. Proposals and Details

Budget savings proposed for EDS include a reduction in the number of crown green bowling greens that RMBC maintain across the Borough, from thirty-four to eighteen. This is necessary to achieve budget savings of £80,000 over the next 2 years. A strategic review of bowling green provision was undertaken in December 2010 with all greens in the borough being mapped to help identify where maintenance could be ceased whilst maintaining a good geographical spread of greens. This review also took thirteen privately maintained greens into account when looking at geographical spread of accessible greens.

In the north of the Borough the majority of greens are maintained and operated directly by the Council whereas in the south the majority are maintained by RMBC but operated by Parish Councils or the Coalfields Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO). To achieve a reasonably even spread of reduced maintenance it would be necessary to cease maintenance at some Parish Council and CISWO sites as well as at RMBC sites.

The existing agreements with CISWO allow for a termination of the maintenance agreements with a minimum of 6 months notice by either party expiring on 31st December of any year. The exception to this is at Maltby Miners Welfare which requires a 3 month notice at any time.

It is understood that no formal agreement exists with Parish Councils to maintain their greens. The current arrangement has existed since the local government reorganisation in 1974. However, so that affected Parish Councils have time to assess their options regarding sites they manage it is proposed that they should be consulted with and given the same minimum 6 months notice as CISWO. To this end, it is proposed that the 2011/12 savings should come from ceasing maintenance at the identified RMBC operated greens and the privately operated green at Wickersley Christian Institute followed by the identified Parish and CISWO greens in 2012.

The maintenance of the green at Wickersley Christian Institute is an anomaly and no records can be found to indicate why this green is maintained at the Council's expense. It appears this green is being maintained due to custom and practice only.

The selection of greens proposed for cessation of maintenance has principally taken into account the availability of other greens within the same geographical area. However, the usage levels at RMBC sites, the number of greens at each site and the quality of ancillary facilities (such as pavilions) that are available were taken into account when identifying where reductions could be made.

If these proposals are approved, then the decision would be communicated with all clubs using RMBC operated greens, CISWO and affected Parish Councils as quickly as possible. It is also proposed that each club be invited to submit expressions of interest should they believe themselves to be in a position to take on responsibility for the maintenance of greens at their own expense.

To date no consultation has been undertaken with either users, ward members, CISWO or Parish Councils.

8. Finance

The projected savings from the above proposals is estimated at £80,000 across the next 2 financial years. These contribute to overall savings that need to be made by the Council in the light of reduced funding from central government.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There is likely to be a public concern at losing bowling greens as many greens historically have teams associated with them and for a small number of residents they form a social hub.

Leisure and Green Spaces are currently working with Bowls England to develop a bowling programme aimed at increasing participation in bowls as part of the Rotherham Active Strategy. Closures will limit access to this scheme. However, efforts will be made to maximise usage at other sites.

There is likely to be a transfer of players to the greens that remain open which may put pressure on some greens and the current users.

Affected parishes may feel aggrieved where neighbouring parishes continue to receive support from RMBC for maintenance of their greens and a perceived unfairness that may be created.

Other budget savings may require changes to service operations that could impact further on the sustainability of bowling green provision.

In the event that any other body wishes to take on responsibility for the maintenance of any greens, then the Council would not be in a position to pay for green preparation and continued maintenance after June 2011.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposed consultation period is in line with the Council's corporate policy. The reduction in bowling green maintenance is proposed to help meet the significant budget challenges faced by the Council.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Officers in Financial Services and Legal Services have been consulted.

Contact Name : *Andy Lee – Green Spaces Operations Manager*
Extension 22457, e-mail andy.lee@rotherham.gov.uk