

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE
Tuesday, 6th December, 2011

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

F37. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22ND NOVEMBER, 2011.

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture held on 22nd November, 2011.

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the meeting be signed as a true record.

F38. LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS.

Pursuant to Minute No. C50 of January 2000, consideration was given to nominations received to fill Local Authority vacancies on school governing bodies.

Resolved:- That, with the effective date of appointment as shown, the following appointments and re-appointments be made to school governing bodies, subject to satisfactory checks being undertaken:-

New Appointments:

Mrs J Savory	Anston Park Infant	06.12.11
Mrs D Hucknall	Bramley Grange Primary	06.12.11
Mrs J Cox	East Dene Junior and Infant	06.12.11
Mrs L Bowmar	Flanderwell Primary	06.12.11
Mrs L Hough	Kilnhurst Primary	06.12.11
Councillor R Stone	Kilnhurst Primary	06.12.11
Mrs A Warburton	Wingfield Business and Enterprise College	06.12.11

Re-appointments:

Mrs K Thompson	Craggs Community	08.01.12
Councillor C Beaumont	Lilly Hall Junior	08.01.12
Mrs E Bridges	Anston Greenlands Junior and Infant	08.01.12
Mr D Barker	Dinnington Community	01.02.12
Mrs M Morton	Sitwell Infant	01.03.12
Mrs M Morton	Sitwell Junior	01.03.12
Councillor P Wootton	Kimberworth Community	15.04.12
Mr A Trueman	Herringthorpe Junior	15.04.12
Mr I St. John	Woodsetts Primary	15.04.12
Mrs E Sharman	Abbey School	15.04.12
Councillor D Pickering	Trinity Croft CE Junior and Infant	15.04.12
Mrs W Ollivant	Laughton All Saints CE Junior and Infant	15.04.12
Mrs G Foster	Anston Hillcrest Primary	15.04.12
Mrs D Addy	Lilly Hall Junior	15.04.12

A decision in respect of an application received on behalf of Mr T Kelsey was deferred for consideration at a future meeting.

F39. PETITION - QUEEN ELIZABETH II CHALLENGE.

The Cabinet Member introduced Steve Hallsworth, Leisure Services and Community Delivery Manager, Environment and Development Services, who had prepared a report in response to a petition that was received in November 2011 and consisted of 89 names asking the Chief Executive to join the Fields in Trust Programme, identifying in particular the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge.

The Queen Elizabeth II Challenge invited landowners to nominate outdoor recreational spaces (including children's play areas; woodlands; bicycle trails; and playing fields) for inclusion in the programme. Sites could be designated as a 'QEII' field in order to protect it and to gain access to designated funding.

Whilst the petition forms had not included a covering letter, it was assumed from previous communications with members of the public that the subject of the petition was the Herringthorpe Leisure Site, and that the petition was therefore a request for the Council to make a submission to the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge for this site.

To date, no submission had been made by the Council to the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge in respect of the Herringthorpe Leisure Site, as initial investigations identified that it did not offer access to levels of financial support needed to develop the Council's plan for improved sport and recreation facilities there. The Council's Cabinet had approved a development plan in January 2010, and whilst it was still a long way from being fully developed, it included the provision of a Grandstand for an Athletics Stadium, a number of all-weather playing areas, and a range of other sport and recreation facilities.

The amounts of funding streams available under the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge were noted and included the SITA Trust (which would award up to a total of £30,000 to be given during 2011 and 2012), and the Sport England - Projecting Playing Fields grant (which would offer between £20,000 - £50,000).

Officers were only aware of one source of funding that was available and had the potential to contribute the sums of money that would be necessary to deliver a project in excess of £6million, as required in this case. This was from The Football Foundation. However, they would only contribute to the elements of the project that related directly to football and would also require the Council to make a significant financial contribution. It was noted that the development project planned for the Herringthorpe Leisure Site intended to develop a broad range of sport and leisure facilities, which would not be supported by The Football Foundation's scheme.

Discussion ensued, and the following issues were raised and clarified:

- The compatibility of the Council's plans for developing Herringthorpe Leisure Site, and the specific requirements of the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge;
- A meeting would be set up with an Officer from Fields in Trust to clarify all criteria and potential funding sources available within the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge;

- The deadline for submissions to the scheme was February 2012;
- The progress of the overall development plan for the Herringthorpe Leisure Site;
- Consultation that had taken place with local residents and users of the site prior to the development plan being agreed by Cabinet in 2010.

Resolved: (1) That the report be received.

(2) That Leisure and Green Spaces Officers undertake further investigations into the potential benefits of the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge to re-assess whether it would be able to support the Council's plan to improve the sport and recreation facilities at the Herringthorpe Leisure Site.

(3) That a further report be presented to the Cabinet Member following the additional investigation to determine whether or not a submission to the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge should be made.

F40. USE OF THE CIVIC THEATRE.

The Cabinet Member introduced Mark Scott, Principal Officer, Theatre and Arts Centre, and Elenore Fisher, Manager, Cultural Services. Consideration was given to the report presented that proposed the introduction of an application process to manage applications received by Cultural Services requesting free use of the Civic Theatre. An increased number of applications had been received and the new system proposed to create an open and fair system that would operate within a set budget. It would also facilitate local groups and charities to access the facility.

Currently, a concessionary tariff existed across Cultural Services' facilities whereby groups that met agreed criteria could qualify for up to 35% reductions against the commercial charges for use of facilities. In addition to this, Elected Member and Officers had, in the past, also received a number of requests for 'free' use of facilities. These had tended to be for free hire of the theatre, but excluded associated staffing costs.

In order to ensure that processing claims for free use of the Civic Theatre would be fair and transparent, it was suggested that a formal application process be adopted. Requests for free use would be made by groups on a standardised form and Officers would comment on the professional and technical qualities of the proposed production and the resources required. This information would then be referred to the Cabinet Member for decision.

A budget of £5,000 per year had been identified within the overall Planning, Regeneration and Culture budget. It was agreed that the number of funding requests would initially be limited to four per financial year.

Discussion ensued and the following salient points were raised and clarified:

- The first come first served basis that currently operated in relation to free use requests for the Civic Theatre benefitted more established groups, who would be able to apply for the facility in a timescale that would ensure availability. However, this then meant that the facility was less available for newer and start-up groups.

- The opening-up of the facility for free use of the Civic Theatre could diversify and increase the number of productions available in Rotherham, and would contribute to a number of performance indicators.

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

(2) That a fund of £5,000 be agreed to provide no more than four free uses of the Civic Theatre to local groups and charities based within Rotherham. The fund would cover both theatre hire and staffing costs.

(3) That the process detailed within the report relating to applications for free use of the Civic Theatre be approved with the addition that Officer recommendations in relation to each case would also be presented to the Cabinet Member for consideration.

F41. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture be held on Tuesday 20th December, 2011 at 10.00 am in the Rotherham Town Hall.