

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY BOARD

LEISURE SCRUTINY UPDATE REPORT

Report by the Service Manager (Community)

Economy and Community Cabinet Lead: Councillor Yvonne Weeks

Key Decision: N/A

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present an update to the Panel of progress made following the Leisure Scrutiny review carried out in 2012 by the Leisure Panel.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the Board considers the report and notes progress to date in taking forward the recommendations arising from the Leisure Panel's report.

3.0 Context

3.1 The purpose of the scrutiny was to understand and then evaluate the Council's role in leisure infrastructure which included supporting cultural and sporting events, activities & organisations in the borough.

3.2 The scrutiny focussed on the activities delivered by the Council's Sports Development Officer, and the sporting and cultural events delivered by HBC. It did not include a review of private leisure clubs, no leisure centres as work had already been undertaken on leisure centres over the last few years.

3.3 The key objectives of the scrutiny were:

- (1) Evaluation of the benefits of having sports development delivered by HBC
- (2) Consideration of whether the Council has a role in supporting cultural infrastructure
- (3) Review of the way events are managed across the Council
- (4) Consideration of the role of partnerships in delivering sports development
- (5) Evaluation of the role of Hampshire County Council

3.4 The panel undertook a series of interviews with partner organisations, and visited a number of clubs and activities, the reports from which informed the conclusions of the review.

3.5 The scrutiny recommended the following:

- (1) The Council should continue to invest in leisure and sports development, but should capitalise on opportunities to improve the offer without increasing budget costs
- (2) The following opportunities, identified by the Panel, should be pursued:
 - (a) Actively promote the self-management of pitches
 - (b) Investigate the feasibility of outsourcing the sports development function
 - (c) Explore the advantages of amalgamating the functions of the three officers involved in leisure and sports development
- (3) The Council should maintain its current level of funding for sports development and cultural infrastructure.

4.0 Progressing items

Investing in sport and leisure development

- 4.1 The detailed role of both the Community Officer (Sport & Physical Activity) and Community Officer (Leisure & Sports Development) has been recently reviewed to ensure that their resources are being best targeted to deliver both infrastructure and activity. Infrastructure projects that currently being pursued are:

- Improvements to cricket pitches at Emsworth, Purbrook and Waterlooville
- Front Lawn Rec development
- Bidbury Mead Pavilion development
- ATP (Artificial Turf Pitch) development at Park School
- ATP (Artificial Turf Pitch) development at Havant Academy
- Relocation of Havant Hockey Club
- Relocation of Havant Hawkes
- Bedhampton sports provision

During the last year, the following activities have been delivered specifically within the sports and leisure team:

- National Watersports Festival
- Sport Relieve Mile
- Staunton Festival sports event
- Round the Harbours cycling event
- Hampshire Games
- Havant Borough Sports Awards

- 4.2 The Community and Economic Development teams continue to work to deliver a wide range of events and support community events that take place across the borough.
- 4.3 An events scrutiny is underway which is looking at the enabling and delivery role that the Council has in borough events. This scrutiny is due to report to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel later in 2014.

Opportunities to be pursued

Self management of pitches

- 4.3 The Open Spaces Team Leader and the Community Officer (Leisure & Sports Development) continue to work with clubs to promote self management of pitches. Currently, 6 out of 7 bowling greens are managed and maintained by bowls clubs, and Havant Cricket Club manages and maintains its pitch in Havant park. The Council retains the maintenance of all other pitches.
- 4.4 The Council has a variety of block booking/exclusive use agreements and leases/licences for club rooms. These arrangements dispense with Attendants and give clubs more control over managing fixtures and facilities. They save the Council costs, gets the money in with minimal administration and shift the risk of cancellation to the clubs. The arrangements cost clubs less than pay and play as they are exempt from VAT.
- 4.5 The attached chart (Appendix A) details the arrangements that are currently in place

Outsourcing sports development

- 4.6 A recommendation from Scrutiny to the Portfolio Holder was to investigate the option to outsource the sports development function. Following the service restructure, two staff workshops were held to define the sports development aspect of the new roles to align them with Council priorities particularly supporting development of leisure infrastructure and enabling clubs and sports organisations to be more sustainable and self managing.

Amalgamating functions of three sports & leisure related posts

- 4.7 There were two main aspects to this recommendation; one looked at the potential overlap between the role of the Open Spaces team and the Community Officer (Leisure & Sports Development), the other focused on the events work undertaken by the Community Officer (Leisure & Sports Development), Community Officer (Sport & Physical Activity) and the Economic Development Officer.
- 4.8 Following more detailed investigation into the roles of the Open Spaces team and the Community Officer (Leisure Infrastructure), the area of similar work focuses on the self-management of pitches and there is a clear distinction between the work of both teams. The Open Spaces team will liaise with a club on the management of the sports pitch from a maintenance perspective whereas the Community Officer (Leisure & Sports Development) will work with a club to support them to take on the management of the sports pitch. There is now common understanding between the two teams, and as such any potential overlap of duties has been minimised.
- 4.9 As previously mentioned, a further scrutiny is being undertaken into events which is addressing the second part of this recommendation and will include the events element of the Mayors Secretary's role.

Levels of funding for sports development and cultural infrastructure

- 4.10 Apart from a small (10%) budget cut taken in 2013/14 from the two Council supported Arts organisations, Making Space and The Spring, Council budgets for sports development and cultural infrastructure have essentially remained constant.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 That this update on progress on the recommendations arising from the Leisure Scrutiny review be noted.

6.0 Implications

6.1 Resources:

There are no financial implications arising from this update.

6.2 Legal:

None arising from this report

6.3 Strategy:

Revising the way the Council delivers its leisure services will contribute towards the Council's objective of providing excellent public services.

6.4 Risks:

There are no risks associated with this update

6.5 Communications:

Ongoing communication takes place between the services involved in leisure to ensure an effective and efficient service is delivered to the community

6.6 For the Community:

Improved coordination of services will improve the leisure offer to the community

6.7 The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been completed and concluded the following:

- This service has a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of all aspects of the community
- The extensive free access, outreach sports delivery programme provides opportunities for those in the most deprived areas of the borough
- The delivery of sports activities provides opportunities for individuals to gain additional skills and experience, thereby improving their opportunities for employment.

7.0 Consultation

The Leisure Scrutiny Panel undertook extensive consultation with organisations and individuals that use the Council's leisure services, which has informed the work that has subsequently taken place.

Appendices

Appendix A Pitch management arrangements

Background Papers:

Leisure Scrutiny Review Report to the Scrutiny Board 3 June 2013

Agreed and signed off by:

Legal Services: 09/07/14

Executive Head of Governance & Logistics: 04/07/14

Executive Head (Economy & Community): 04/07/14

Portfolio Holder Cllr Yvonne Weeks: 29/04/14

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