

**Minutes**

**Economic Scrutiny Panel**

**27<sup>th</sup> February, 2007, Newton Hall Community Centre**

**Present:** Councillor Hopgood (in the Chair)  
and Councillors Colledge, Graham, Pape, Shaw, Simmons and Simpson.

**Also Present:** Councillors Gibbon, Hepplewhite, Howarth, Kellett, Lodge, Marsden.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Cowper, Cummings and Stoddart.

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 were agreed as a true record.

**3. Review of Leisure Services 5 Year Plan**

Debra Holmes, Senior Development Officer was in attendance at the Meeting and talked to the Panel on the circulated progress report on Leisure Strategy.

The Panel asked that the percentage figures contained within the report be broken down into areas and actual numbers.

After a question and answer session the Panel thanked Debra Holmes for her attendance.

The Panel were delighted with the work done by Leisure Services and agreed as a Council this and the services should be advertised.

**4. Any Other Business**

There were no other matters to discuss.

The Meeting terminated at 6.10 p.m.

**Economic Scrutiny Panel – Review of the Scrutiny of Leisure Services 5 Year Plan**

**1. Background**

The Economic Scrutiny Panel had carried out a Scrutiny of Leisure Services 5 Year plan Winter 2005/Spring 2006 which was reported to Cabinet March 2006. A recommendation of that scrutiny was to review the Leisure Services 5 year plan after six months, due to various factors the review could not take place until February, 2007.

**2. Aims & Objectives**

At the original scrutiny the Panel had decided that the topic would be scrutinised in four sections; Stock Take; How we work with young people; Exercise Referrals and Accessibility. The Senior Leisure Development Officer attended the review and presented a report from the Leisure Services Manager as the Panel wanted an progress report.

**3. Findings**

The report of the Leisure Services Manager can be found at Appendix A

In the report the Leisure Services Manager details of increased investment in the service providing equipment and an increase in staffing numbers. A major investment has been made in the development of the new leisure complex at Freemans Place.

Details are given in the report of the continued working with young people and the greater range of activities that the service offers to young people. The report emphasises the strong links with the district's schools and how youth clubs at the leisure centres has been developed.

The report gives details of funding for a partnership between City of Durham, Chester-le-Street District Council and County Durham Primary Health Care Trust has been agreed and will be reviewed year on year. Also, a new post has been created dedicated to exercise referrals.

Leisure Services has reported increased take-up in exercise programmes in people over 60 and of those claiming benefits. Deerness leisure centre is now an Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) registered site and we have employed an activity coordinator to encourage participation from disabled groups.

**4. Recommendations**

That a further review of Leisure Services take place in 12 months time.