

Item 8

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Tuesday, 14
September 2004

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor J.E. Higgin (Chairman) and

Councillors B.F. Avery, J.P., J. Burton, Mrs. J. Croft, M.A. Dalton,
Mrs. E.M. Paylor, G.W. Scott and J. Wayman.

Tenant Representatives

Mrs. M. Blythe and A. McGreggor

In

Attendance: Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. B.A. Clare, V. Crosby, A. Gray,
G.C. Gray, D.M. Hancock, J.M. Khan, B. Meek, G. Morgan and
W. Waters.

Apologies: Councillors T.F. Forrest, Mrs. L. Hovvels, G.M.R. Howe, J.K. Piggott and
T. Ward.

OSC(2).4/04 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29th June, 2004 were confirmed as
a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of
Minutes).

OSC(2).5/04 SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT LIVING

Consideration was given to a report of the Policy Review Group
detailing the outcome of the Review of Supporting Independent Living.
(For copy see file of Minutes).

Members were reminded of the adopted scope and remit, which was:

'To examine how Sedgefield Borough Council works in Partnership with
Durham County Council and the Health Service to provide
accommodation, care and support for elderly people and other
vulnerable groups within the Borough to support independent living.'

Detailed consideration was given to the main conclusions of the
Review. The Chairman of the Review Group, Councillor J M Khan, and
the Head of Neighbourhood Services were present at the meeting to
answer Members' questions.

Members raised queries with regard to the lack of private and public
sector bungalows which were available to residents of the Borough. It
was explained that whilst it would be possible for additional bungalow
provision to be considered as part of the Local Planning Framework,
delivery would depend on developers. There was also opportunity for
shared equity schemes which tend to be led by specialist lender

providers.

Members queried whether an Integrated Team could be established at Thurlow Grange Sedgefield. It was explained that Sedgefield Partnership for Services to Vulnerable Adults had agreed to establish 5 locality based Integrated Teams to cover the whole of the Borough. The Team covering Area 3, which included Sedgefield, was based at Trimdon Village and would provide an office based and outreach facility across the area. There were no plans to further devolve provision.

Concern was also raised at the proposed cut in government funding for the Supporting People Grant. It was explained that there had been a cut of 2.5% in the current year, which would rise to 7.5% in future years.

Members were informed however that the Government was planning to spend £5 billion on supporting people nationally over the next few years.

AGREED : That the report be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

OSC(2).6/04 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th July, 2004 were noted. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members queried whether the topic of school meals had been discussed, particularly healthier options. It was explained that the meeting had considered pre school children of 0-5 years of age and so it had not been considered. It was explained that consideration may be given to school meals at a future meeting.

OSC(2).7/04 PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE REVIEW

Members were reminded that Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 at its meeting held on 29th June, 2004, agreed to review the 'Value of tourism' and 'Cultural facilities within the Borough.'

It was explained that the first meetings had been arranged and the membership agreed.

OSC(2).8/04 SHILDON RUNNING TRACK

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Leisure Services regarding the Shildon Stadium 2000 (for copy see file of Minutes). Members noted that the stadium had been built with assistance of a Sports for England lottery award of approximately £1 million. The Stadium was linked to Shildon Sunnysdale Leisure Centre and opened in 2000. The report also detailed usage and activities held at the Stadium and included positive comments from a number of groups who used the stadium. The financial performance of the stadium was also included in the report.

Members queried what advertising and promotion of the stadium and events had taken place. The Head of Leisure Services explained that he worked with colleagues from the County Council to ensure that schools were aware of the facility. They also worked together to co-ordinate availability, cost and curriculum. Events held at the Stadium had been advertised and promoted separately.

It was also explained that investigations were currently ongoing to identify whether it would be possible to gain commercial sponsorship for the Stadium. This may result in the renaming of the Stadium for a financial contribution, which would reduce the current subsidy. The renaming could also increase the marketing and promotion.

Members queried whether the music concerts held at the Stadium had been profitable. The Head of Leisure Services explained that the non-sporting events held at the Stadium had been successful in attracting people. Leisure Services were hoping to further develop these type of events to increase the use of the Stadium.

It was queried why the floodlights around the Stadium were left on on an evening when it seemed it was not being used. It was explained that the floodlights were only on if the track was being used or for cleaning purposes.

Concern was expressed as to the long term future of the Leisure Centre and Stadium given that Sunnydale Comprehensive School had been identified for possible closure as part of the County Council's Draft School Organisation Plan. The Head of Leisure Services explained that the land on which the Stadium was built had been leased from the County for 21 years. If the Stadium closed the Council would need to repay the subsidy of £1m received from Sport England. If the school did close options for the development of sporting activities would need to be examined. One option would be for all leisure activities to be relocated to the Stadium.

Members commented that the Council was not in the business of making a profit but to provide facilities and services. The leisure provision, including the Shildon Stadium, was outstanding compared with other authorities.

Following the debate the Chairman asked Members for a concensus view on the operation of the Shildon Stadium 2000.

CONCLUDED: *That the Shildon Stadium 2000 was an excellent facility which should continue to be supported by the Council.*

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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