

Item 9b

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Tuesday,
17 January 2006

Time: 10.00 a.m.

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

Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. J. Croft, R.A. Patchett,
Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Ms. M. Predki, T. Ward and J. Wayman J.P.

Tenant Representatives

A. McGreggor and Mrs. M. Thomson

In Attendance: Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Hall, D.M. Hancock,
J.G. Huntington, B. Meek, J.P. Moran, G. Morgan and A. Smith

Apologies: Councillors J. Burton, M.A. Dalton, T.F. Forrest, Mrs. L. Hovvels,
G.M.R. Howe and G.W. Scott

OSC(2).24/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members had no interests to declare.

OSC(2).25/05 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29th November, 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OSC(2).26/05 LEISURE CENTRE NO SMOKING POLICY

Further to the request by Committee at its meeting on 1st March, 2005 (Minute No: OSC233/4) the Director of Leisure Services attended the meeting to present a report to update the Committee on the impact of the introduction of the No Smoking Policy throughout the Borough Council's Leisure Centres. (For copy see file of Minutes.)

Members were reminded that the No Smoking Policy had come into effect on 2nd January 2005. Cabinet had agreed the introduction of the policy on health grounds, however, the attached report focused on the commercial implications of the introduction of the policy.

Members were informed that there had been a reduction in function bookings together with a reduction in the overall use of the bar facilities for the financial year at all the Leisure Centres.

Detailed discussion was held regarding the options to increase profitability.

It was suggested that the décor of all bars needed to be updated. The Director of Leisure Services explained that an investment plan had been

developed to refurbish the bars, which would reflect the demands, aspirations and lifestyle factors of the customers of the Leisure Centres.

With regard to the day to day running of the bars Members of the Committee made specific reference to the need to promote the ethos of a healthy lifestyle.

AGREED: That Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 approves the report and supports the conclusions outlined.

OSC(2).27/05 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Service Improvement detailing the progress to date on Equality issues within the Council against the Corporate Equality Plan Package (CEP). (For copy see file of Minutes).

The report included details of the work that had been carried out in relation to the Corporate Equality Group, the Impact Needs Requirement Assessments (INRAs), departmental Equality and Diversity Groups, service planning guidance and training.

Members were also informed of new legislation that would be implemented over the following twelve months. The legislation would require the Council to prepare new policies and revise existing ones. It would also have to report annually on the new policy documents.

RECOMMENDED: 1. That Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 supports the progress made to date.

2. That progress against the Corporate Equality Plan be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 on an annual basis.

OSC(2).28/05 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee setting out the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and review. (For copy see file of Minutes.)

Members were informed that the Review of Cultural Facilities within the Borough had been completed and would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee. The Value of Tourism Review Group had been completed and would be reported to Cabinet.

It was also pointed out that scoping reports would be presented to a future meeting in order that Members may determine which of the topics identified should be reviewed.

AGREED: That the Committee's Work Programme as outlined in the report be approved.

OSC(2).29/05 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meetings held on 3rd October, 2005 and 18th October, 2005 were considered and noted.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Miss. S. Billingham, Spennymoor 816166, Ext 4240, sbillingham@sedgefield.gov.uk

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