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**Meeting of the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion and Advisory Panel**

*2 December 2008*

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

**Service Plan Performance Monitoring: 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008/9  
Leisure and Culture**

**Summary**

1. This report analyses performance by reference to the service plan, the budget, and the performance indicators for all of the services managed by the Lifelong Learning and Culture service arm.

**Background**

2. Members will recall that this year, for the first time, the respective Executive Members for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, and for Children's Services approved a single, integrated service plan covering the Lifelong Learning and Culture service arm (in place of individual plans for each service unit). This paper reports on progress against the actions listed in the plan, records variations from the budget, and comments on performance against the Performance Indicators for which information has become available during the reporting period. These are attached as an annex to the covering report. We have also reverted to quarterly reporting rather than reporting as previously on 3 monitoring periods each year.

**Analysis**

3. The main issues under each of the five outcome areas of the plan are as follows:

**Making York More Eventful:**

4. This area is principally concerned with:
  - Enhancing the perception of York as a vibrant cosmopolitan city
  - Increasing participation in activities, events and festivals by tackling the barriers to taking part
  - Increasing people's enjoyment of living in York by using the programme of activities, events and festivals
  - Ensuring that our physical and organisational infrastructure is fit for purpose to support diverse activities, events and festivals

5. There has been a high level of successful events activity including Festival of the Rivers, Illuminate and the Lido project.

### **Engagement in Learning:**

6. This area is principally concerned with:
  - Providing more engagement activities that draw people into learning
  - Developing more opportunities for formal and informal learning
  - Providing more opportunities for disadvantaged children and adults to improve their literacy, numeracy and ICT skills
7. We made excellent progress with the “whole organisation” approach to skills for life and were able to meet the lower level of the LPSA2 target for adults attaining a level 2 qualification in literacy or numeracy. Following the piloting of a scheme within the service arm the approach will be rolled out more widely.
8. The Library Service has returned excellent performance data over the summer with significant increases in the number of new users.

### **Being Healthy:**

9. This area is principally concerned with:
  - Increasing the range of, and access to, high quality opportunities that encourage a culture of participation in healthy lifestyles
  - Increasing participation by better coordination of our provision
  - Building the capacity of the city’s voluntary sector to enhance activity and sports facility provision
  - Making our own activity places and spaces more fit for purpose
  - Providing sources of information to promote participation in active and healthy lifestyle
10. Following agreement to provide free swimming for the over 60s confirmation of the necessary funding has now been received to enable us to offer free swimming also to the under 16s.

### **Supporting Stronger Communities:**

11. This area is principally concerned with:
  - Increasing our knowledge and awareness of community needs and improve our ability to work with communities
  - More effective support to enable people to organise things for themselves
  - Making it easier for people to get involved in cultural activities and more people take part in community life
  - Improving public places and spaces so more people use them more often
12. Work has continued to improve individual sites. A report on Rowntree Park is included elsewhere on this agenda.

### **Developing a Vibrant Cultural Infrastructure:**

13. This area is principally concerned with:
  - Improving the leadership we provide in Learning and Culture through prioritising the partnerships we work with
  - Creating a description of a vibrant cultural infrastructure for York which brings to life the strategic vision of Y@L
  - Provocatively marketing cultural opportunities using innovative, creative methods employing the latest digital technology
14. The Yortime user figures continue to be below target. However, we have now recruited to the vacant post and we have been successful in an It bid to revitalise the site.

### **Consultation**

15. Not applicable.

### **Corporate Priorities**

16. The service plan links with the corporate priorities under each of the following headings:
  - **Making York More Eventful** - More York residents and visitors will enjoy participating in, and taking the lead in cultural events and activities.
  - **Engagement in Learning** – More people will be supported into learning by providing opportunities for everyone to be part of a creative learning community, particularly focusing on the most disadvantaged.
  - **Being Healthy** – More residents will enjoy the good physical and mental health that comes from increased participation in active lifestyles.
  - **Supporting Stronger Communities** – Local communities will be supported to direct their own cultural activities and to take ownership of well maintained public spaces. Access will be open to all and we will enhance the quality of life of individuals and communities.
  - **Developing a Vibrant Cultural Infrastructure** – Residents will enjoy an increasingly thriving cultural sector and the economic benefits that flow from it.

### **Financial Implications**

17. Based on the actuals to date and other information on future expenditure plans and income generation, an assessment has been made by budget managers of the likely net outturn for each service plan and cost centre. At this stage in the year there is no reason to suggest that most budgets will not come in at or about the level of the current approved budget. There are though a number of exceptions to this and these variations are summarised in the Annex with full details provided in the budget section of each service plan profile.
18. The original net budget for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion for 2008/09 was set at £8,541k. Since then there have been a number of changes made (the annex provides details) resulting in a latest approved net budget of £8,680k. In

total the projected net outturn for 2008/09 is £8,727k, leaving a projected net overspend of £47k or 0.5% (0.2% of gross budgets).

19. The individual service plan financial monitoring sheets in the Annex show that a number of services are initially projecting overspends for 2008/09. For Parks & Open Spaces (+£67k) the service manager has proposed action that should bring the service budget back into line by the end of the financial year. For Libraries & Heritage significant deficits in core budgets have been offset by additional one-off income raised from book sales and this is discussed in more detail below. Unfortunately, for Sports & Active Leisure the scale of the problem (+£77k), and the nature of the service, means that the service itself has not yet been able to identify savings to contain the projected overspend.
20. Officers will continue to work to identify further savings to bridge the remaining £47k budget gap before the end of the financial year, including reviewing savings options that are being developed as part of the 2009/10 budget process to see if any could be implemented prior to 1 April 2009.

#### Library Service Income / Central Library Refurbishment Project

21. As previously reported to Members a number of valuable obsolete stock items have been sold at auction and raised £95k. The intention is to use this income to support the first phase of redeveloping the central library into a library learning centre. However, at this stage of the year there is projected to be a significant (£73k) shortfall against the core library income budgets. Furthermore, the overall library service budget (excluding the £95k from book sales) is projecting a deficit of £55k and the whole Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion portfolio is projecting a deficit of £142k (again excluding the £95k from book sales).
22. As it is the duty of the director and executive member to ensure expenditure is contained within budget for the year, these projections suggest that there could be very little scope to contribute to the refurbishment project in 2008/09. However, in setting the overall council budget for 2008/09 a sum of £44k was set-aside in the Corporate Contingency budget against a possible shortfall in library income. The Executive Member is now asked to consider whether a request should be made to the Executive to seek release of that contingency and allow it to be used to contribute towards the refurbishment project.

#### **Other Implications**

23. The report has no Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, or Property implications.

#### **Risk Management**

24. All of the original service plans include a section on risk management. Performance and monitoring sessions within the directorate update those risks in the light of experience.

## Recommendations

25. The Executive Member is recommended to:

- note the performance of services within the directorate funded through the Leisure and Culture budget
- consider whether a request should be made to the Executive to seek release of the £44k library income contingency provision

Reason: To monitor and review performance in his portfolio area.

## Contact Details

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 17 November 2008

**Wards Affected:** List wards or tick box to indicate all

**All**  Y

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### Annex

Summary service plan budget position and monitoring report

### Background Papers:

Learning Culture and Children's Services Service Plans 2008/09