

Notice of meeting of

Decision Session - Executive Member for Leisure Culture & Social Inclusion

To: Councillor Ayre (Executive Member)

Date: Tuesday, 9 June 2009

Time: 4.15 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, York

AGENDA

Notice to Members- Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item on this agenda, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group by:

10.00 am on Monday 8 June 2009, if an item is called in *before* a decision is taken, *or*

4:00 pm on Thursday 11 June 2009, if an item is called in *after* a decision has been taken.

Items called in will be considered by the Scrutiny Management Committee.

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point, Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have in the business on this agenda.

2. Minutes

(Pages 3 - 12)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion Advisory Panel on Tuesday 24 March 2009.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Decision Session's remit can do so. The deadline for registering is Monday 8 June 2009 at 5 pm.

4. Playbuilder Project- Sites Allocation (Pages 13 - 18)

This report asks the Executive Member to agree the selection criteria for the allocation of the £1.12 million Playbuilder capital grant in order to agree the sites and areas for investment.

5. Any Other Matters which the Chair decides are urgent under the Local Government Act 1972

Democracy Officers:

Name – Laura Bootland/Judith Cumming

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officers responsible for servicing this meeting, Laura Bootland and Judith Cumming:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

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If you would, you will need to:

- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

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Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

Access Arrangements

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If you have any further access requirements such as parking close-by or a sign language interpreter then please let us know. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the order of business for the meeting.

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Holding the Executive to Account

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (38 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Decision Session) agenda. The Executive will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Executive meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?

- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
- Relevant Council Officers get copies of relevant agenda and reports for the committees which they report to;
- Public libraries get copies of **all** public agenda/reports.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LEISURE, CULTURE & SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ADVISORY PANEL
DATE	24 MARCH 2009
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS CRISP (CHAIR), HOGG, VASSIE (EXECUTIVE MEMBER), LOOKER AND WISEMAN (SUBSTITUTE)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS HEALEY

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. None were declared.

31. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2009 be signed and approved as a correct record by the Chair.

32. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

33. DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF CRITERIA: 2011-2013.

Members considered a report which asks the Executive Member to agree an amendment to the criteria for Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) for the period 2011-2013.

It was reported that there were two registered speakers for this item. The first was Mr. Newsome who spoke as a representative of the Railway Institute and expressed his concern regarding the cut in Discretionary Rate Relief to 75%. The second speaker, Mr. Heslop spoke as a representative of Active York. He advised that the organisation had taken over a number of sports facilities in York and that there was a need for better amenities such as changing rooms. The cut in DRR means that Active York will not be able to fund such improvements.

In response to the speakers, Officers confirmed that DRR is an effective way of providing support to organisations. Due to significant pressure on the budget, due to an increased demand in organisations applying for DRR, there has been a decrease in the amount given to organisations to a

maximum of 75%. In order for subsequent years to see an increase, the budget set aside for DRR would need to be increased and this would need to be recommended to Council and is out of the remit of this Committee.

Officers outlined the report which proposed some amendments to the DRR criteria. If the new criteria were agreed then this would ensure the available budget is directed to the organisations who most warrant support and would assist in bringing the DRR to those eligible back to 100%.

Members commented that DRR is an excellent way to support organisations and acknowledged the concerns of the speakers. The Executive Member commented that he would be happy to look at the budget through the Executive.

Members approved the recommendation.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- (i) Agree to the revised criteria as set out in Annex 2 of the Officers report.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the advisory panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: In order to establish an amended procedure for 2011-13.

34. EXPLORE YORK - LIBRARY LEARNING CENTRE.

Members considered a report which asks the Executive Member to approve the first phase of a capital scheme at York Library to create the Explore York Library Learning Centre.

Officers updated that York Library is due to close at the beginning of September 2009 to re-open in November or December 2009, in order for it to be transformed into an Explore Centre.

Officers outlined the key features of the proposal to Members which included:

- 30,000 plus books
- Digital Resources especially in the Reference Section

- Spaces that can be adapted for a number of uses.
- Retention of quiet study space
- Archives reading room be moved from current location.
- Local History room
- Self issue machines
- Increase in opening hours to include Sunday.
- More family activities
- Learning Provision – Languages, ICT, Family History.
- Stock arranged in themes rather than the Dewey code.

Members queried how long the Archive would be closed for and how users would access the Archive once the new Library was open. Officers confirmed it would only be closed for as long as it takes to move the Archive reading room to the Library which would be weeks. Microfiche machines with a number of records would be brought to the Library and a record retrieval system would be in place.

Members asked what steps would be taken whilst the Library is closed. Officers said that a mobile Library would be positioned outside the main entrance to the Library and arrangements may be made to have book drop off points to the Council reception points. Book loan times would also be increased just prior to the closure.

Members commented that they were happy with the plans and that they are keen to see the Library develop into an Explore Centre.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- (i) Agree to the budget subject to the approval of the Executive for the carry forward of £100k.
- (ii) Agree to Phase One of the building works subject to planning permission.
- (iii) Agree to the final decisions on the proposals for self issue machines, increased opening hours and the operation of a café being taken in light of further reports.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the advisory panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To enable Officers to go ahead with phase one of Explore York.

35. MANOR SCHOOL COMMUNITY USE.

Members considered a report which asked the Executive Member to approve a Community Use agreement between City of York Council and Manor CE School for the use of the school's sports facilities and to approve a capital scheme to develop additional community sports facilities.

Mr. Tony Hand who had registered to speak on this item, advised Members that he was in attendance to find out if any of the land and buildings on the Manor School site would be made available for public use.

Officers outlined the report and said that as the site is immediately adjacent to the York North West site, the Planning Department had requested that the future of the site is not decided immediately. Therefore the temporary letting of the site to a company named Global had been agreed and the site would be used by them in conjunction with the Youth Service to include Community Use. While this is a temporary agreement, Officers advised that it is the intention that some public space will be provided on the site in the future and further discussions will need to be had to decide exactly what will be provided. Officers commented that Local Development Framework will also be looking into the matter.

Members commented that it is taking a long time to sort out the York North West site and that is frustrating for local residents and Councillors. They welcomed the interim arrangements for the use of the land.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- (i) Approve the Community Use Agreement set out in Annex 1 of the officers report, for the facilities at Manor CE School and authorise the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture) to sign

it on behalf of the Council.

- (ii) Approve the £200k grant award to Manor CE School for the provision of additional changing facilities to support community sports use of the site.
- (iii) Recommend to the Executive, the purchase of the additional land and its subsequent lease to Manor CE School subject to:
 - A successful bid for funding to the Football Foundation.
 - Agreement of satisfactory terms with Manor CE School.
- (iv) That the comments of this panel be reported to the relevant Executive Meeting for consideration.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To provide additional sports facilities for Youth and Adult community sport to encourage increased participation in active recreation and to provide additional pitches to meet the requirement identified in the City's playing pitch strategy.

36. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2008/09 - MONITOR 3.

Members considered a report which informed them of the likely out-turn position of the 2008/09 Capital Programme based on the spend profile and information to the end of January 2009, advise Members of any changes to existing schemes and inform of any new schemes.

Members queried the impact of the free swimming scheme. Officers confirmed that there had been a good response to the scheme and an increase in use of the Pools had been noticed. They are currently awaiting further guidance from Central Government on how to utilise the money.

Members agreed the recommendations.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- (i) Note the updates to the schemes as detailed in the Officers report.
- (ii) Agree to the scheme amendments and additions reported above and summarised in Annex A of the Officers report.
- (iii) Approve the revised capital programme as set out in Annex A to enable the effective management and monitoring of the capital programme.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

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

37. SERVICE PLAN PERFORMANCE MONITORING: 3RD QUARTER 2008/9 LEISURE AND CULTURE.

Members received a report which analysed 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.

Members agreed the recommendations.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- (i) Note the performance of services within the directorate funded through the Leisure and Culture budget.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

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

38. SERVICE PLAN 2009/10.

Members considered a report that sought approval for the Service Plan for Council Services that are managed within the Lifelong Learning & Culture service arm.

Officers updated that the Service Plan picks up on the 3 main themes of Learning, Active Leisure and Young People.

Members commented that much of what is included in the Service Plan, will go beyond the current electoral cycle and consequently there needs to be a progressive agenda to move the ideas forward.

Members were happy to recommend the Service Plan.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- (i) Recommend the approval of the

Service Plan
attached to the
Officers report.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: In order to ensure that the Lifelong Learning & Culture management team is in a position to implement the strategic priorities of the directorate.

39. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS WITH THE NOT FOR PROFIT SECTOR: 2009/10

Members considered a report that sought approval for the purchase of Lifelong learning and Culture programmes through Service Level Agreements.

Members agreed the recommendations.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- (i) Approve the proposed three year Service Level Agreement awards to Accessible Arts and Media, National Centre for Early Music and the Friends of St Nicholas Fields.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To provide a programme that contributes to meeting the Council's objectives.

Councillor C Vassie
Executive Member for Leisure & Culture

Councillor S Crisp, Chair
[The meeting started at 5.05 pm and finished at 7.00 pm].

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

9 June 2009

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

Playbuilder Project

Summary

1. City of York Council has been allocated £1,165,391 from the Government Playbuilder Project, for the development of 22 play areas across the city. Eleven sites must be built or refurbished each year and the whole scheme completed by 31 March 2011.
2. The purpose of this report is to agree the proposed sites for investment in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Background

3. The Playbuilder programme is investing £235 million nationally as part of the Government's commitment to the play agenda, along with the launch of the recent national Play Strategy and Children's Plan. City of York Council has been allocated £1,165,391 for the development of 22 play areas across the city. This consists of £1,120,453 capital and £44,938 revenue.
4. This initiative is intended to develop public, open access, outdoor play spaces close to where children live that are safe, exciting, stimulating and accessible to all, as well as promoting active, imaginative and adventurous play and targeting predominately the 8 - 13 year age range. This will directly link into York's play strategy 'Taking Play Forward', and assist in our aim to raise the local standard of play provision.
5. Funding became available from 1 April 2009 and is for a two-year period. Each area has to be developed in consultation and in participation with local children and young people, families, communities and representatives as appropriate. The scheme was added to the Council's capital programme at the meeting of the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services and Advisory Panel on the 12 March 2009.
6. The grant comes with a stringent monitoring regime from the Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) to be managed by the regional office of Play England. The Council has produced a project plan and this has been very favourably received. Further updates have are to be produced for Play England on a monthly basis, and as part of the ongoing reporting process, a formal adoption of the short listed sites for improvement / development is required. To

date Play England have been very satisfied with the approach and progress made by this Council in delivering Playbuilder.

Consultation

7. The availability of the Playbuilder grant has been widely circulated to Members, community groups, Parish and Town Councils. A press release was issued on 11 February which resulted in a significant article featuring the Executive Member for Children's Services in the York Press that day. Suggestions for suitable sites to use the money were received through the YorOK web site, and direct to the Head of Parks and Open Spaces and to the Play Manager. In total 12 Local Councils, 9 City of York Councillors and 5 members of the public / community groups responded. These responses have been taken into account when drawing up the list of proposed sites for investment. As described earlier this grant enables delivery on elements of our existing play strategy which had been subject of earlier consultation.

Options

8. The following criteria have been used to identify the recommended priority areas for investment:
 - a) those areas of the city where there is no or under provision for 8 - 13 year olds
 - b) those sites which score lower in quality
 - c) community support being available to help design and possibly deliver the scheme
 - d) the availability of a suitable site to deliver the scheme within the DCSF timetable
9. The primary tool for assessing sites against the first two criteria has been PPG17 Planning for Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation audit, undertaken as part of the Local Development Framework process. This study identified where equipped play areas and facilities for teenagers exist in the city and then identified the gaps in provision. Where facilities exist these were assessed looking at both quality and accessibility issues.
10. The PPG17 audit has been supported by feedback from consultation recently carried out in preparation for the new Children and Young People's Plan, local representation and information from Ward Committees.

Analysis

11. The selection criteria have been used to identify 11 new play areas, and 11 refurbished or expanded play areas. The recommended sites for investment are named below.

Proposed Sites for 2009/10

	Ward	Location	Managed by	New / Existing
1	Bishopthorpe	Keble Park	Parish Council	New
2	Skelton	Brecksfield	Parish Council	Existing
3	Naburn	Vicarage Lane - Village Hall	Parish Council	New
4	Elvington	Sports field	Parish Council	New
5	Haxby	Mancroft	Town Council	New
6	Holgate	Balfour Street – Back Park	City of York Council	New
7	Huntington	Orchard Park	Parish Council	Existing
8	Copmanthorpe	Recreation ground	Parish Council	Existing
9	Acomb	Viking Road	City of York Council	Existing
10	Clifton	Ashton Avenue	City of York Council	Existing
11	Westfield	Chesney's Field / Gale Lane	City of York Council	Existing / new

Proposed Sites for 2010/11

	Ward	Location	Managed by	New / Existing
1	Heworth / Heworth Without	Monk / Heworth Stray	City of York Council	New
2	Holgate	Garnett Terrace	City of York Council	Existing
3	Hull Road	Badger Hill	City of York Council	Existing
4	Bell Farm	Byland Avenue area	City of York Council	Existing / new
5	Heworth	Barfield Road	City of York Council	Existing
6	Strensall	Exact location to be confirmed	Unknown	New
7	Guildhall	Exact location to be confirmed	City of York Council	New
8	Derwent	Exact location to be confirmed	Probably Parish Council	New
9	Holgate	Sowerby Road	City of York Council	Existing
10	Westfield	Chapelfields area	City of York Council	New
11	Woodthorpe	Exact location to be confirmed	City of York Council	New

12. The exact location of a number of sites has yet to be identified and this will take place later this year through public consultation. Work is ongoing with a number of community groups to see if their aspirations match those of the DCSF and if not funding will not be awarded to them. Where this is the case reserve sites will be identified and reported to the Executive member through

the capital-monitoring regime. It may also be necessary to move schemes between years in order to meet the DCSF spending regulations, e.g. where a scheme is running late and there is a risk of losing funding. Alternatively, another scheme may be brought forward to replace it.

13. Sites in year 1 have been provisionally allocated £47,000 and sites in Year 2 £53,000. The difference is a reflection of the amount of funding given by the government over the two years.

Corporate Objectives

14. The scheme contributes to the following Corporate Objectives:
- Sustainable City – by creating or improving local places to play
 - Inclusive City – by involving children, young people and their community in the design of their spaces
 - Healthy City – by improving the outdoor places for children and young people to enjoy healthy and active lifestyles

Implications

15. **Financial:** The Playbuilder grant has been allocated as follows:

	2009-10	2010-11	Total
Capital	526,725	593,728	1,120,453
Revenue	26,963	17,975	44,938

A minimum of 11 play areas must be delivered in each year; the average capital grant available to spend on each area is £47,884 in 2009/10 and £53,975 in 2010/11. It should be noted that the 2010/11 figure is indicative; the final figure will be confirmed in March 2010.

16. There will be an increased demand on the Council's playground maintenance budget with the creation of new playgrounds on Council land. The effect of this may be felt in the medium to longer term as equipment wears out and needs replacing or due to increased damage or vandalism. The playground maintenance budget was overspent by £16k in 2008/09. No additional ongoing revenue funding is being provided by the DCSF to fund this.
17. There may also be an increase in the double taxation claims from those Parish areas which have new play areas resulting from the Playbuilder project.
18. **Human Resources:** No implications.
19. **Equalities:** Equality considerations are part of the location, design and equipment to be installed in new and expanded or refurbished sites. Specialist advice will be sort from the Equalities Officer as appropriate.
20. **Legal:** Legal advice / action may be required e.g. updates or new documentation for use of privately owned sites.

21. **Crime and Disorder:** The Safer York Architectural Liaison Officer is part of the steering group overseeing the location, design and equipment to be installed in new and expanded or refurbished sites
22. **Information Technology:** No implications.
23. **Property:** Ownership and possible future land use issues are being considered with Property Services colleagues to ensure that any new or redeveloped sites have a long term future.
24. Highways Colleagues from Transport and Safety within City Strategy are part of the steering group and are looking at ways to improve pedestrian and cyclist access to Playbuilder sites.

Risk Management

25. The main risk to the scheme is not delivering all 22 play areas within the allotted time, i.e. by 31 March 2011. DCSF have stated that if the money is not spent within the time available it cannot be carried over and the opportunity will be lost. To mitigate this risk a start has already been made by visiting all of the proposed areas for 2010/11 and meetings have taken place with some of the Parish Council who want to host a Playbuilder site. Play England require that a detailed project plan is drawn up for each site and will be monitoring progress on a month-by-month basis.

Recommendations

26. The Executive Member is asked to:
 - approve the proposed sites named in paragraph 11
 - delegate to officers authority to bring forward substitute schemes if necessary, selecting such schemes using the criteria set out in paragraph 8, and reporting them to the Executive Member through the capital monitoring process

Reason: To progress schemes using the Playbuilder funding in 2010/11 and 2011/12 that satisfy the conditions of the funding.

Contact Details

Authors:

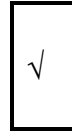
Dave Meigh
Head of Parks and Open Spaces
Tel. 01904 553386

Mary Bailey
Play Manager
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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Charlie Croft
Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning &
Culture)

**Report
Approved**



Date 26 May, 2009

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Katherine Finnie
Principal Accountant
LCCS
Tel. 554226

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Project file held by Mary Bailey, Play Manager