

## **Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion Portfolio Report** **Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

### **Neighbourhood Management Review**

I am currently instructing a review of the Neighbourhood Management Unit, as I feel there are areas of duplication between its work and that of our Street Environment Officers and Housing Estate Managers.

With the pilot that has been taking place, as well as the Capable Guardian scheme, it seems to me to be an ideal time to take stock of recent developments and set out how the service will operate in the years to come.

### **EFLG - Equality Framework for Local Government**

The Council Leader and I recently underwent mock interviews in advance of the council's formal equalities assessment, to establish where the council sits currently on the extremely important equalities agenda. Although officers were keen to project the authority and seek an 'excellent' rating, from my own experience I felt this was far too optimistic at this stage.

The results of the mock peer review upheld that view and so we are therefore currently seeking a level of 'achieving', which indicates there is much more we can be doing, reflecting my own opinion as to where I think we are at present.

We propose embedding equalities in a much more fundamental way over the years of this administration, and are committed to achieving an 'excellent' rating during that period.

Whilst some areas of the council are doing reasonably well in relation to Equalities, other areas are rather more problematic; however, I am confident that strong leadership from the top of the organization will ensure that progress is made along the road to achieving an 'excellent' rating.

### **EAG - Equalities Advisory Group**

This Group is important not only to my portfolio but to the work of the council more generally. I feel it has not been attached the importance it deserves by the previous administration, and I plan to change this. EAG needs more teeth and when it provides comments on Cabinet reports, the Advisory Group should get feedback and a clear idea on how its comments have influenced decision-making.

## **Community Stadium**

We are getting things moving once again with the Community Stadium after the long hiatus before the election. We are committed to delivering this project and are working with all partners to achieve that goal.

This will not be easy, but I believe by maintaining a dialogue with those involved that success is achievable. Planning will be the most challenging obstacle.

## **Libraries Review**

The original review of the libraries service was not carried out as I would've wanted it to be, so I plan to undertake consultation on the planned changes before Equalities Impact Assessments are carried out, rather than the other way around as happened before. The Peer Challenge process identified this as a problem that needed to be rectified.

Cllr Sonja Crisp

Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion  
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