
MEETING	LEARNING & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	27 APRIL 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS LOOKER (CHAIR), BROOKS (VICE-CHAIR), CRISP, TAYLOR, WAUDBY, FIRTH (SUBSTITUTE) AND B WATSON (SUBSTITUTE)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS HOGG AND MR W SCHOFIELD

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting Members were asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda or any general interests they might have within the remit of the Committee. Other than those listed below none were declared.

Councillor Brooks	Employee of The Manchester College Member of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)
Councillor Crisp	Governor at Poppleton Road Primary School Member of Board of York Theatre Royal
Councillor D'Agorne	LEA Governor at Fishergate Primary School Employee of York College, Guidance Service
Councillor Looker	Governor of Park Grove Primary School Governor of Canon Lee Secondary School Company Secretary, York Theatre Royal Member of York Museum Trust
Councillor Taylor	Employee of City Screen, York
Councillor Waudby	Governor of Lakeside Primary School
Councillor Firth	Governor of Wigginton Primary School

46. MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting of the Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 March 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

47. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

48. REVIEW OF CASUAL PLAY OPPORTUNITIES

Members considered a report which presented information in support of the ongoing scrutiny review of casual play opportunities across the city. Members were asked to investigate further the introduction of a pilot scheme within a specific area of the city with the aim of identifying a suitable strategy for the provision of play opportunities, which would involve all the relevant agencies.

The Chair thanked those Members who had been in contact with a selection of parents from Fishergate, St Paul's and Deighton Village Primary Schools. Parents were asked to complete an informal survey on their play experiences and their children's current experiences. Members found the results interesting and commented on the barriers to play such as:

- Traffic
- Stranger danger
- Drugs & gangs
- Parents own anxieties
- No facilities
- Unable to locate safe play areas

Members felt that play space should always be available within new housing developments. Some Members suggested consulting with the planning department to see how they could encourage useable play areas on new housing development sites rather than taking a Section 106 payment.

Members discussed York Playspace and agreed that this scheme needed to be well publicised. Playspace officers confirmed that it was advertised in the Schools Out Magazine and posters were distributed around each Parish. Members suggested advertising in the Local Ward Committee Magazine. Officers stated that they had in the past, but found the timings of the publication were not always suitable. Officers and Members agreed to consult with the relevant Neighbourhood Officers and Ward Officers to confirm the publication dates.¹

Members discussed the options available regarding the pilot scheme and the importance services such as the Police, Planning, Housing and City Strategy had on ensuring safe areas to play. Officers stated that these agencies had come together to form a Strategic Board and Members agreed that in order for them to finalise a pilot scheme it would be helpful to receive the Board's opinions. The Head of Play agreed to inform the Board and would report their feedback to Members

The Scrutiny Officer agreed to forward the recommendations around the committee and add Casual Play Opportunities to next year's workplan.³

RESOLVED:

- i That Members of the committee receive a copy of the draft Play Policy (called 'Taking Play Forward'), in order to comment on any revisions, as part of the planned consultation process for the policy.
- ii. That the Strategic Board be informed of the Committee's views on a pilot scheme and play opportunities in the city
- iii. That the Committee receive feedback from the Strategic Board on the suggested introduction of a pilot scheme.
- iv. That the workplan for 2010-2011 includes an update on Casual Play Opportunities.

Reason: To progress the review in line with scrutiny procedures and protocols and identify the optimum recommendations arising from this review

Action Required

- | | |
|--|----|
| Contact Neighbourhood Officers and Ward Officers re: advertising in Ward Committee Magazine | MB |
| To inform the Board of the Committee's views on a pilot scheme and play opportunities in the city. | MB |
| Add Casual Play Opportunities to next year's workplan and send Committee Members a list of the recommendations | MC |

Cllr Looker, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 6.13 pm].

This page is intentionally left blank