

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE  
WAYTEMORE ROOM, COUNCIL  
OFFICES, BISHOP'S STORTFORD ON  
TUESDAY 11 JULY 2006 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs D L E Hollebon (Chairman).  
Councillors A L Burlton, A D Dodd, J O Ranger,  
D Richards, N Wilson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor R L Parker

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Lorraine Blackburn	- Committee Secretary
Ceridwen Pettit	- Head of Performance
Jackie Sayers	- Scrutiny Officer
Will O'Neill	- Head of Community Planning and Housing

117 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of  
Councillors H G S Banks, S A Bull and L R Pinnell.

118 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman commented that consideration of the report on Diversity and the Action Plan regarding Best Value 2 (BV2), which should have been reported this evening, had been deferred until the meeting on 12 September, 2006. A report on the 2005/06 Backward Annual Efficiency Statement would also be included on the agenda for that meeting.

The Chairman commented that, as the work programme for the meeting on 14 November was heavy, she felt that it might be necessary to book a provisional meeting for

ACTION

21 November, 2006 for any unfinished business. The Head of Performance commented on the need to provide timely information. It was agreed that a possible future meeting be discussed at a later date.

The Chairman reminded members about the scrutiny training session which had been arranged on 12 July "Principles and Practices of Effective Scrutiny" and reminded members to contact Jackie Sayers if they wished to attend.

RECOMMENDED ITEM**119 YOUTH ISSUES (1)**

**The Director of Policy and Performance submitted a report detailing the work undertaken by the Community Planning Team in relation to youth issues in the District. The report took account of the obligations of the District Council in relation to the Children Act 2004 to participate and co-operate with agencies in the delivery of county wide plans and strategies. Youngsters defined under the Act were children up to 19 years of age (extended to 25 for an individual with learning difficulties). The work carried out across the Council by teams such as the Community Safety Team, Leisure Services and Housing Options was detailed in the report now submitted.**

**The Head of Community Planning and Housing explained the background to the activities of the Youth Council comprising 13 youngsters. The Youth Council was beginning to thrive and become more established. The Head of Community Planning and Housing explained the geographical constraints in trying to contact the hard to reach groups in villages and youngsters who might be disaffected.**

**The Head of Community Planning and Housing commented on the past successes of the Youth**

ACTION

**Conference and work which had been undertaken in relation in partnerships which were delivered through the Local Strategic Partnership. He explained the background to the Children and Young People's Trust Partnership (C&YPTP) and their proposals in relation to preparing a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for the District which would follow key themes identified by Central Government's "Every Child Matters: Change for Children Programme":**

- **Being healthy**
- **Staying safe**
- **Enjoying and achieving**
- **Making a positive contribution**
- **Achieving economic wellbeing**

**It was noted that a Play Strategy was in the process of being developed which would direct financial investment in children's play opportunities for the next five to 10 years. The success of a number of arts activities including Pop Luck, Club of Herts and Herts Youth Games was highlighted.**

**It was noted that funding to support youngsters striving to achieve excellence in sports had been increased from £100 to £250. Members questioned whether there was sufficient budget provision in relation to sports and arts excellence especially in the run up to the 2012 Olympics.**

**It was noted that the Council spent approximately £200,000 in grant aid to organisations providing services or facilities to young people. How this was allocated was detailed in the report now submitted. It was noted that the Council had provided play equipment in Cutforth Road Centre (and not**

ACTION

**Sawbridgeworth Football Club as stated in the report).**

**Councillor Parker commented that following a letter of concern to OFSTED in relation to revised guidelines on staff helping on play-schemes, a senior representative from OFSTED would be visiting the Council shortly to discuss the matter further.**

**Members raised a number of issues in relation to:**

- **The need to get schools more involved in supporting the Youth Council; the success of Herts Mentoring Scheme and the need to recruit youth councillors from outlying areas and from those who were hard to reach or disaffected;**
- **Encouraging young people to take part in summer activities, who might have ABCs or ASBOs or were becoming disaffected;**
- **The need to explore ways to educate/discipline young people on the issue of littering;**
- **The possibility of submitting Youth Council minutes to full Council by the Youth Council Chairman or Youth Councillor;**
- **Whether venues of Youth Council meetings could be varied to encourage young people from other towns, villages and outlying areas to attend;**
- **Consideration be given to enable the Children and Young People's Trust Partnership to work with rural and countryside agencies such as the Countryside Management Service or providers of outward bound courses;**
- **Exploring ways in which Town and Parish Councils could work more closely with the Council on youth issues;**

ACTION

- **The need for a specific budget to be earmarked for sports and arts excellence especially in the run up to the 2012 Olympics;**
- **An approach be made to Northgate End School in an effort to find a youth councillor to represent the Bishop's Stortford area;**
- **The need to publish the range of free summer activities being offered to young people at various locations in the District;**

**The Head of Community Planning and Housing updated Members in relation to the Diversity Pathfinder scheme and its funding mechanism. Members welcomed the fact that one of the Pathfinder Schemes would be in Bishop's Stortford and focused around ASBOs. It was noted that many community schemes were funded in partnership from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Group.**

**Members acknowledged all the hard work in bringing together the diverse range of activities for young people. Clarification was sought on staffing needs in order that the community planning team could continue its good work. It was suggested that the Chairman could announce the range of summer activities available at the next meeting of Council. The Committee felt that Members should be encouraged to attend summer activities to see for themselves the service provided by the Authority.**

**Members welcomed and congratulated all officers on their hard work and requested that a further report be presented to Members updating the committee on the success of the free summer activities programme.**

ACTION

- RECOMMENDED – that (A) the activities aimed at recruiting Youth Councillors be extended to include young people who are hard to reach or disaffected;** DPP
- (B) the Youth Council be requested to investigate mentoring and explore its potential usefulness locally;** DPP
- (C) Youth Council minutes be received by East Herts' full Council with the option of these being presented by a Member of the Youth Council;** DPP
- (D) the Youth Council consider the possibility of varying the location of meetings in order to encourage young people in other towns and villages to attend;** DPP
- (E) the Children and Young People's Trust Partnership consider working with rural and countryside agencies such as the Countryside Management Service;** DPP
- (F) Officers explore ways of encouraging schools to educate young people with regard to litter;** DPP
- (G) Officers explore ways in which the Town and Parish Councils could work more closely with the Council on youth issues;** DPP
- (H) the Chairman of the Council be requested to announce to Full Council the range of free summer activities and that Members should be encouraged to attend. If they did so they should bring with them their identity cards;**
- (J) Officers explore the establishment of a specific budget for Sports and Arts Excellence, especially in the run up to the London Olympics.** DPP

ACTION

**(K) Officers approach Northgate End School in an effort to find a Youth Councillor to represent Bishop's Stortford.**

DPP

RESOLVED ITEMSACTION120 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of Performance Scrutiny committee held on 23 May 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

121 YOUTH ISSUES (2)

In recommending a number of items Members also requested that a report be presented to a future meeting of Performance Scrutiny Committee on the success of the free summer activities programme. Members also welcomed the Pathfinder Service in Bishop's Stortford.

Members acknowledged and complimented officers on their excellent work and requested that their formal thanks be recorded.

RESOLVED – that (A) a report be presented to a future meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Committee on the success of the free summer activities;

DPP

(B) the thanks of the Chairman and Members be formally recorded to all Community Planning Officers for their excellent work.

DPP

122 WORK PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive submitted a report detailing the work of the Performance Scrutiny Committee up to April 2007. A number of amendments were made to the report and the need for a

ACTION

further meeting in November/December was debated.

The Community Voice Scoping Document was appended to the report now submitted. It was noted that the task and finish group intended that a final report would be presented in December, 2006.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.27 pm.

Chairman	.....
Date	.....