

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 10 January 2006 at Shire Hall, Warwick**

### **Present:**

<b>Members of the Committee</b>	Councillor Les Caborn
	Jose Compton
	“ Jill Dill-Russell
	“ Richard Dodd
	“ Marion Haywood
	“ Nina Knapman
	“ Ian Smith
	“ Mick Stanley
	“ Ray Sweet
	“ Sid Tooth (Chair)

<b>Also Present</b>	Councillor Colin Hayfield, Portfolio Holder for Adult and Community Services
---------------------	--

<b>Officers</b>	Bill Basra, Corporate Review Officer
	Kushal Birla, Head of Library & Information Service
	John Bull, Head of Adult Services
	Louise Denton, Assistant to the Liberal Democrat Group
	Desmond Heaps, Principal Librarian Community
	Noel Hunter, Director of Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards
	Rosie James, Service Manager – Supporting People
	Chris Jeens, Head of Strategic Services
	Martin Lake, Principal Review Officer
	Helen Maclagan, Head of Museum Service
	Ann Mawdsley, Senior Committee Administrator
	Jane Pollard, Assistant County Solicitor
	Paul Williams, Area Support Co-ordinator
	Maggie Wood, Keeper of Social History

### **1. General**

#### **(1) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anita Macaulay and Mota Singh.

#### **(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Councillor Ray Sweet declared a personal interest as his brother-in-law received care from Social Services.

Councillor Sid Tooth declared a personal interest as his daughter received care from Social Services.

**(3) Minutes of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on the 22 November 2005**

The minutes of the meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 22 November 2005 were agreed as a correct record.

**Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**2. Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**3. Final report for the Scrutiny Review of Improving the use of ICT on Mobile Libraries**

Members considered the final report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development for the Scrutiny Review of Improving the use of ICT on Mobile Libraries.

During the ensuing discussion the following issues were noted:

1. Cllrs Caborn, Dill-Russell and Sweet reported that the review had been very thorough and carried out by a strong team of officers and members.
2. The resulting recommendations would ensure that the mobile fleet could provide any service available in static libraries and needed to be flexible and able to be updated to keep up with changing technology.
3. The Project Plan included looking at a range of areas in Warwickshire in an urban context.
4. There were currently five mobile libraries serving 223 communities with fortnightly visits to 440 mobile stops.

The Committee agreed to:

1. Approve the final report for the Scrutiny Review of Improving the use of ICT on Mobile Libraries.

2. Agree the Mobile Library Service proposition as outlined in Appendix 1.
3. The General Packet Radio Service/Third Generation (GPRS/3G) is used as the technical solution for the Local Service Libraries.
4. That further research and evaluation is undertaken regarding the use of GPRS/3G and Satellite solutions for the Travelling Library.
5. The outcomes of the recommendations made will need to inform the technical specification used within the invitation to Tender for the mobile fleet in March 2006.
6. That the recommendations from this scrutiny review be fed into the implementation action plan for the Building For the Future Best Value Review, and report to Cabinet.

#### **4. Collections for the Future**

Members considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards introducing a recent Museums Association publication, 'Collections for the Future' and presenting the response of the Warwickshire Museums Service and asking Members to make a recommendation to the Cabinet on the disposal of listed items within the collection.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:

1. Guidelines for disposals required a formal process to take place, which was important to retain the goodwill and trust of donors.
2. Items to be disposed were required to be offered to other museums and on the rare occasion when monies were received from the sale of items, this money was ring fenced into the acquisition fund.
3. Members agreed that where items in the collection were in a poor state and were irreparable, they should be released.
4. Members were informed that the Collections Service had still not been able to achieve funding for a computer management for the service and a bid for this system would be included in the budget round.
5. Officers were thanked for their work in this area, in particular with the collection at Alcester.

Members agreed to:

1. endorse the approach taken by the Museum Service to the issues raised in the Museum Association Publication 'Collections for the Future'.

2. recommend to Cabinet the disposal of items from the Museums Collection in accordance with the schedule in Appendix 2 to the report.

## **5. Warwickshire Arts Service: A Vision for the Future**

Members considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards setting out the results of a major consultation with stakeholders on policy and priorities for the County Arts Service and presenting recommendations based on the consultation.

During the ensuing discussion the following issues were noted:

1. Members agreed that the only way forward in delivering access to and developing the arts was through partnership.
2. The Arts Service were considering taking a different approach by increasing their influence on major developments rather than grant applications.
3. In the past cultural services (arts, museum, archives) had had few or no performance measures. Due to the expected culture block in the CPA, performance measures were now being developed and trialled for the future. The county would need to be prepared on the way they focussed cultural services to deal with the way they were examined or assessed.
4. The County Arts Service was expected to provide a consistent, co-ordinating role for other stakeholders, who provided a shifting pattern of provision. At present there was no joint planning and there was a need for better co-ordination and planning.
5. Members agreed that the provision of an arts service was crucial to the quality of life within all communities and there was a need to develop the service on a corporate basis to achieve a greater sense of purpose.

The Committee:

1. Noted the County Arts Service increased reliance on funding from external sources to respond to the priorities agreed.
2. Noted the recommendations regarding Key Areas outlined in 3.1.1 of the report.
3. Noted the recommendations regarding Grant Aid outlined in 3.2.1 of the report.
4. Noted the recommendations regarding Joint Working outlined in 3.3.1 of the report.
5. Agreed to communicate its views on future policy and priorities to Cabinet.

## **6. Taking the Cultural Strategy Forward**

Members considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards reviewing the Cultural Strategy and asking Members to consider the priority they wish to give it in the future.

Chris Jeens noted that a common Cultural Strategy had been adopted by the County Council and the five Borough/District Councils but the Strategy remained high level. If the CPA approach was to move towards Local Authorities being responsible for cultural services, the County would need to have a Strategy in place that was effective.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

1. There was an expectation that all partners, both internal and external, would contribute in some manner.
2. There were a number of Government papers published recently dealing with all ages, which provided a platform to look at practical outcomes to achieve a powerful agenda to take the Cultural Strategy forward.
3. In terms of working with older people, the new challenges provided an opportunity to improve mental wellbeing together with partners.

The members of the Adult and Community Services O&S Committee agreed to:

1. appoint a cross party group (comprising one of its elected members from each of the political parties) to work with officers and Portfolio Holder to:
  - Review the progress and impact within WCC of the Warwickshire Cultural Strategy
  - Review the priorities identified in the current strategy
  - Make recommendations on the future development of the strategy and its deployment within the overall WCC strategic planning framework.
2. Receive a further report containing those recommendations.

## **7. Supporting People**

Members considered the report of the Interim Director of Adult Social Services outlining the progress to date on the implementation of the Action Plan following the Audit Commission Inspection of the Supporting People Programme in Warwickshire. John Bull noted that a set-up meeting had taken place with the Audit Commission and Lead Inspector in preparation for the inspection expected to take place in the week beginning 27 March 2006.

During the ensuing discussion the following issues were noted:

1. Remedial action had been taken on all areas of concern to ensure systems and processes were in place in time for the inspection in March.
2. An inspection had been carried out by Internal Audit, which showed a general improvement with most problems resolved.
3. The review process undertaken to look at value for money in terms of money, quality and strategic services had identified savings, which would be used to fund Fairer Charging.
4. Members were assured that savings identified had not been at the expense of the needs of service users.
5. Limited support from the Audit Commission and the ODPM had been due to those bodies being overstretched.
6. The Supporting People National Strategy was currently out to consultation and was expected to be produced in the summer.
7. Members requested a visit to groups receiving support from the Supporting People programme.
8. A long-term value for money methodology had been established which was seen by the ODPM as an example of best practice. This had helped to establish costs in the programme but there was still a need to look at prices of services.
9. Service suppliers were monitored on a regular basis through quarterly performance indicators and self-assessment frameworks.
10. It was noted that there had been significant progress in working between the stakeholders of the partnership but that there were still some areas requiring formalization with the PCTs before the March inspection.
11. Clarification was awaited from the Lead Inspector as to whether the March inspection would be a full inspection as previously indicated or would be a re-inspection.
12. There was one representation from each Group from Warwickshire County Council on the Supporting People Partnership Board, which was chaired by the Portfolio Holder, plus representation from other partners.
13. Members requested a briefing note outlining the outstanding issues and the arrangements for the inspection.
14. Members paid tribute to John Bull and Rosie James for their hard work in moving the programme forward.

Having considered the progress, Members agreed to endorse the actions taken to prepare for the next Supporting People Audit Commission Inspection, expected to commence week beginning 27 March 2006.

## **8. Library Impact Measures**

Members considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards informing the Committee of the recently agreed Impact Measures for Library & Information Services, by DCMS.

The Committee noted the report informing them of a set of new Library Impact Measures, which have come into force and which will contribute to future CPA assessment for the 'Culture block'.

## **9. Integrated Community Equipment Service (ICES)**

Members considered the report of the Interim Director of Social Care (Adult Services) outlining progress of the work of the ICES.

John Bull reported that the new scheme had experienced a number of problems resulting in the suppliers being put on breach of contract. There had been fundamental improvement since then and the system was working well.

The Committee noted the progress made and the issues raised in the development of the Integrated Community Equipment Service.

## **10. Provisional Items for Future Meetings and Forward Plan Items Relevant to the Work of this Committee**

Members agreed the provisional items for future meetings and Forward Plan Items with the following additions:

The Chair and Spokes would investigate with officers the scope for a report on nutritional standards of older people.

Jane Pollard agreed to discuss with John Bull the current position regarding joint occupational therapist posts.

Costs relating to out-of-county services, e.g. provision of services to people with learning disabilities.

Progress Report on ICES after 12 months in operation.

## **11. Any other Items**

There were no other Items.

## **12. Exclusion of the Public**

Members passed the following resolution to exclude the public:

“That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the item mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.”

## **13. Exempt Minutes of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on the 22 November 2005**

The exempt Minutes of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 22 November 2005 were agreed as a correct record.

---

Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 12.00 p.m.