

**Committee:** COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 16 MARCH 2006

**9**

**Title:** SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

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Item for decision

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## Summary

This report seeks Members' views regarding a change to the Summer Holiday Programme organised by the Sports Development and Youth & Arts Officers. At the then Community & Leisure Committee held in October 2005 Councillor F. Silver requested that a report be prepared for a future Committee investigating the possibility extending the holiday programme to provide a multi-activity provision for as little cost as possible to the participant. In order to establish if there is a market for an extension of the programme and to assess the operational requirements it is suggested that a pilot scheme be carried out during the 2006 Summer holiday period in Great Dunmow. After considering a number of possibilities the option recommended below was decided upon for Members' consideration.

## Recommendations

That Members approve the pilot scheme on the basis of the following options:

**Pilot Scheme Summer Holiday 2006** – multi-activity sessions on two days per week during the hours of 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. (The scheme details are set out in the situation section of this report.)

- Option a) Implement a charge of £3.00 per child, per day assuming venue hire fee is waived.
- Option b) Implement a charge of £3.00 per child, per day and if the venue hire fee is implemented then the cost would be subsidised by the District Council at a cost of £847 for the Summer holiday period.
- Option c) Implement a charge of £4.25 per child, per day if the venue hire fee is implemented.

## Background Papers

None

## Impact

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Communication/Consultation | N/A  |
| Community Safety           | N/A  |
| Equalities                 | Scheme available to those with a wide range of abilities |
| Finance                    | Advised  |
| Human Rights               | N/A  |
| Legal implications         | N/A  |
| Ward-specific impacts      | Pilot in Great Dunmow area – no adverse impact.          |
| Workforce/Workplace        | N/A  |

## Situation

- 1 The Council's holiday programmes are organised against a strict set of criteria in order to ensure that a safe, enjoyable and good quality experience is provided for the participants.
- 2 All staff working on the holiday programmes must obtain Criminal Records Bureau clearance (CRB checked) and they must attend training courses on the following subjects - child protection, equal opportunities, disability awareness and first aid. All Coaches are also required to have the appropriate coaching qualifications. Risk assessments are undertaken for all courses.
- 3 All course bookings have to be made using the official application and consent form as this provides Council employees with the authority to act in the best interests of the child in the event of an emergency i.e. calling an ambulance etc. Children are not accepted on a course without a completed consent form.
- 4 To date the holiday courses have been very successful and this suggests that the above is an appropriate method of managing such a scheme.
- 5 Currently, there is a requirement for the holiday programmes to break-even as opposed to being subsidised by the Council.
- 6 In establishing a way forward survey results have been taken into account to form the view that Members and the public who patronise the service wish the current holiday programme format to continue. Therefore, officers have tried to devise a pilot that will not have an adverse effect on our ability to deliver the current service especially in relation to staffing as we currently only have a small pool of staff available.

- 7 It should also be noted that the Leisure Centres operate the Kids for Life programme during the school holidays.

**Pilot Scheme Summer 2006**

- 8 The following addition to the programme has been identified as a possible way of establishing the pros and cons of expanding the scheme in the future.
- 9 Following discussions with the Town Clerk an application is being made to Great Dunmow Town Council to request use of the Dourdan Pavilion and Recreation Ground free of charge. At this stage, therefore, the calculations do not include a venue fee.

| Multi-activity sessions   | Maximum Nos. of Children | Total Cost of Five Week Course (Approx.) | Cost per Child    |
|---|--------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 session, 2 days per week:<br>10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.<br>8-14 year olds | 20 per session           | £119.58 per week<br>= £597.90            | £3.00 per session |

- 10 The courses above have the minimum of two members of staff allocated to them. The pilot would, of course, be subject to casual staff being willing to work the hours required.
- 11 Participants would have to book and pay in advance, as is the normal procedure.
- 12 The assumption in Option (a) has been made that Great Dunmow Town Council will waive the fees for hiring the Recreation Ground and the Dourdan Pavilion. At the time of writing this report the Town Council had not met to consider such a request. If, however, the fee is implemented for the hire of the facilities then the total cost of providing the course for the holiday period would be £847.
- 13 Option (b) is for the Council to subsidise the scheme at a cost of £847 for the 2006 Summer holiday period in order to maintain the cost per child to £3.00.
- 14 Option (c) is to pass the full cost of the scheme onto the participant increasing the cost per child to £4.25 per session.