

Committee: SCRUTINY 1 – COMMUNITY AND HOUSING
Date: 20 NOVEMBER 2002
Agenda Item No: 10
Title: COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES – 6 MONTH PERFORMANCE REPORT
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Summary

- 1 This report advises the Committee of the work position for Community & Leisure Services for 1/4/02 – 30/9/02.

Background

- 2 **Best Value Performance Indicators**

The half year (April – September) performance figures for Community & Leisure Services as measured by the Best Value Performance Indicators 2002/03 are as follows:-

Performance Indicator and Reference	Target	6 Months Outturn	Comments
BV170a Visits to/use of museums per 1000 population	(for full year) 323	321	District population 71,000
BV 170b Visits that were in person per 1000 population	(for full year) 303	310	
BV 170c Number of pupils visiting museums and galleries in organised school groups	7000	1767 Summer term and start of autumn term only.	Additional SATS days in summer term reduced no. of days schools are able to take pupils out

3 Best Value Reviews

In 2001/02 the Council undertook a Best Value Review of the Council's Community Safety, Emergency Planning and Drugs Prevention services. All of the work detailed in the Action Plan has been undertaken.

Other Specific Work

In addition to BVPI's and Best Value Review work and normal day to day services being delivered, a number of other specific area of work are currently being undertaken within the Service as follows:-

- Seeking grants, sponsorship and partnership funding/resources towards/projects and initiatives relating to Community Safety and Drugs prevention – officers have been able to secure over £110k towards projects and initiatives from government funds such as the Safer Communities Initiatives fund, Community Against Drugs fund, Partnership Development Fund and from other sources such as the High Sheriff Award, Uttlesford Community Partnership Fund, Essex County Council. However, of these grants only £10k can be used to off-set council resources as the criteria for the funding is for one-off projects and initiatives only.
- Review the Council's Emergency Plans, Policies and Training Scheme – officers are currently finalising the revised Emergency Plan and policies and a new training scheme. Both will come into effect from the beginning of the New Year.
- Introduce Pay & Display visitor parking on Residential Parking Streets – officers anticipate that the new scheme will be operational from the beginning of April 2003.
- Carry out a Best Value Review of Leisure & Cultural Services – the Final Report is to be presented to Scrutiny 1 at this meeting.
- PFI Contract handover to Leisure Connection – the contract will be handed over to Leisure Connection on 1 December 2002. Officers are finalising monitoring arrangements to ensure the provision of quality leisure facilities and activities is continued in Saffron Walden and is appropriate at the new facilities in Great Dunmow and Stansted. Opening of the new Centres is on schedule for August 2003.
- Encourage the involvement of the Youth Forum in local democratic processes and debate – the Youth Forum has undergone a transformation in recent months and is taking time to settle into a new structure. To ensure that there is a wider representation of young people on the Youth Forum, Forum representatives are to be selected from both Youth Centres/Clubs and schools across the district, rather than just from schools.

- Encourage and enable access to sports services to disadvantaged young people and people with disabilities – work is being undertaken with young people to encourage participation in sports activities through the Sports in the Communities initiative which has been financed with Safer Communities Initiatives funding. A Come and Try sports day was organised in May in conjunction with the Community Sports Forum for people with disabilities and this successful event will be repeated early next year. The Community Sports Forum has recently merged with the Disabilities Sports Forum to enable an inclusive approach to their work.
- Progress the project to find a new off-site resource centre and investigate sources of funding for the Museum – officers are following up various opportunities that have arisen for the provision of a new off-site resource centre. This includes consideration of the cellars at the Alms House in Saffron Walden and the potential for a partnership arrangement with BAA for a Visitors/Resource Centre at Stansted Airport. Early discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund indicate that there may be opportunities to access funding from this source.
- Seeking funds to develop essential work on collections and displays – officers are hoping to secure an award of at least £25,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the conservation and display of important historic tapestries in the Museum's collections. The Museum Society has agreed to fund a short-term documentation project on the botanical collections (of regional importance) with £8,000 spread over two financial years (02/03 and 03/04). Officers are also pursuing local funding to enhance the redisplay of the furniture and woodwork gallery.

RECOMMENDED that the Committee note the report.

Background Papers: BVPI's
Best Value Review of Community Safety, Emergency
Planning and Drugs Prevention 2001/02