

Committee: Council
Date: 22 October 2002
Agenda Item No: 6 (i)
Title: Leisure (PFI) Board – Terms of Reference
Author: Frank Chandley (01799) 510417

LEISURE (PFI) BOARD

A Terms of Reference

Through the PFI process to provide new leisure centre facilities in Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet and the refurbishment of the Lord Butler Fitness and Leisure Centre in Saffron Walden (“the Project”).

B Terms of Delegation to Board

- 1 Authorise appropriate action and expenditure within budget provision and Council Financial Regulations and Procedure Rules (including contracts) in furtherance of the project.
- 2 Receive and action reports from the Senior Officer Leisure Board.
- 3 Report as appropriate, to Full Council.
- 4 Provide a coordinated information service on the progress of the project.
- 5 Receive and monitor as appropriate relevant construction and financial reports.
- 6 Meet as necessary with consultants, advisors contractors and other interested parties in furtherance of the project.

Committee: Council
Date: 22 October 2002
Agenda Item No: 7
Title: Local Service Agreement
Author: Elizabeth Forbes (01799) 510400

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Council’s endorsement of the initial response made to Essex County Council regarding possible areas for a Local Service Agreement

Background

- 1 At its meeting on 18 July the Council considered a report on the proposed introduction by the County Council of local service agreements with districts. Following that meeting further discussions have been held at an officer level and there has been one meeting of the agreed working group. Members of the working group are Councillors A Dean, Mrs Flack, Hibbs, Lewis and Stone.
- 2 The County Council provided some additional guidance on the concept of local service agreements and this was circulated to members of the working group as a basis for discussion with officer suggestions of possible areas to be included in an agreement for Uttlesford. The County Council requested initial expressions of interest by 18 October and a letter was accordingly sent from the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive with the enclosed Annex attached. The letter made clear that these proposals were subject to the endorsement of the Council.
- 3 The attached Annex sets out potential areas for local service agreement and for each service area summarises the issues to be resolved or improved. It is understood that the County Council will be considering responses from all districts and seeking to negotiate agreements with districts with a common approach where possible. Clearly it may be that not all areas are in the event pursued.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) The Council endorses the areas proposed to the County Council for consideration for the local service agreement;
- 2) The working group is asked to hold any further discussions as may be necessary to progress an agreement and report to a future meeting of the Council.

Local Service Agreement:: Uttlesford Issues for Consideration

Highways/Transportation

The Council has a number of concerns in relation to highways/transport matters and these tend to figure strongly in local complaints and issues raised by residents. There is scope for greater coherence of policies in this area with a stronger focus on meeting local needs. Specific improvements UDC would like to see include the following.

1. A greater share of the budget should be locally determined and the mechanism for UDC influence on all aspects needs strengthening. The logic of prioritisation on the repairs programme is not transparent.
2. Greater local input is needed in relation to decisions on speed limits including parish councils, UDC and, where appropriate, the Community Safety Partnership. The establishment of additional speed limits is not effective without stronger enforcement. The Council would also like more involvement in establishing principles for speed limits.
3. The quality and responsiveness of highways advice in relation to planning issues is very variable. A possible way forward might be to establish clear protocols/service standards especially on strategic matters.
4. There is a transport forum for Uttlesford which is an obvious focus for discussion on a range of issues including public transport. There is a need for increased commitment from ECC at officer and member level to participating in this forum and pursuing matters arising from it.
5. If decriminalisation of car parking is implemented, this needs to be with county support.
6. There should be a clear procedure for determining future arrangements for ownership/maintenance of highways land declared surplus as a result of changes to roadways and junctions.

Youth Service

This Council is very committed to working with and meeting the needs of young people and is keen to do this in partnership with the County Council. UDC already commits substantial resources to work with young people and works with the youth service and others but there needs to be much more openness and stronger shared direction. In terms of the LSA template, we would see this as initially at level B and moving towards level C. Specific issues include the following.

1. While some progress has been made in local liaison with the planning of services, there is scope to integrate planning further through the ECC Local Strategy group and others such as the Youth Initiatives Working Group. This should enable shared objectives to be developed and lead to more focused collaboration. It may be that this could result in merger of the two groups.
2. There is a real danger of confusion between the youth service and the new Connexions service in terms of delivery and accountability. This could undermine the coordination of local services. This reinforces the need for integrated planning at a local level.
3. We need a better mechanism for resolving operational issues with improved channels of communication.
4. There needs to be greater clarity of responsibility and communication on the Uttlesford youth forum and its relationship with other initiatives for the

involvement of young people such as the Learning Services work on the Youth Parliament.

5. ECC commitment to active participation in partnerships such as the Uttlesford Community Safety Action Team.
6. There is scope for greater joint planning on the use of accommodation, especially in relation to youth services.
7. The Council was very concerned to learn that it is proposed to reorganise youth service areas so that they will no longer be consistent with ECC area forum groupings. Greater consistency in areas is vital to developing genuine partnership working across the two tiers.

Social Services (Housing-related and elderly)

We need to maintain and develop liaison with social services on a number of fronts in order to provide more integrated services for local people. Specific issues are as follows.

1. Develop further joint service planning between ECC, UDC and PCT on provision for elderly people.
2. There needs to be a thorough review of access to day care/day centre provision across the district in order to make best use of facilities and services which exist. UDC is planning a best value review of day centres in 2003 and this should present an opportunity for better coordination and service synergy.
3. Communication with and engagement of ECC in meeting needs of homeless people need to be improved, especially with the advent of supporting people requirements.

Libraries

Libraries are a vital local service. At present the service is run very separately from the district council and there is no UDC involvement in service planning at all as there is for other local ECC services. Some key points for the libraries service include.

1. Establish a mechanism for UDC involvement in the planning of the libraries service in the district. This should include some UDC input into the role and routing of the mobile service.
2. Develop the use of service points for shared information.
3. Consider the use of assets, especially accommodation to provide integrated services where possible.

Communications and Consultation

This is a broad area and there is scope over time to develop further a number of initiatives. Initial areas for joint work could be budget and other consultation exercises, including possible development of a citizens' panel.

Waste Management

Generally, this Council feels that the waste management partnership is working well and provides opportunity to develop further joint working. One specific local opportunity for increased collaboration will present itself in 2004 when a new shared use site is due to be opened in Great Dunmow. It is intended that this will include a civic amenity site and district council depot. In planning for this there should be an open examination of options for management of the site and its services and this should also consider the management of the Saffron Walden site.

Committee: Council
Date: 22 October 2002
Agenda Item No: 8
Title: The Future Development of Air Transport in the South East
Author: Elizabeth Forbes (01799) 510400

Summary

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief summary of action since the extraordinary meeting of the Council on 13 August and seek confirmation of the next steps in the process.

Background

- 2 The Council considered on 13 August the ministerial announcements regarding housing pressures in the South East and the Government's consultation papers on the future of air transport in the UK. The Council agreed a motion which included action on a number of fronts. Progress is summarised below.
- 3 A consultation document on options leading to Regional Planning Guidance for the East of England has now been published by the East of England Local Government Conference, in their role as the regional planning body. This document contains some important strategic options for the future development of the region, some of which have a direct bearing on this district including the future of Stansted Airport. The deadline for comments is 16 December. A report on the implications of this report for Uttlesford will be considered in due course.

Action to Date

- 4 Regular updates of action taken have been provided to members and a number of documents have been copied to all councillors. The Stansted Airport Advisory Panel has been meeting on a very regular basis and minutes for these meetings are included in the Minute Book.
- 5 Following the Council meeting, Public Affairs consultants have been engaged to advise and assist in developing and communicating key messages for the Council in relation to the SERAS report. The brief for the consultants (which has been circulated to all councillors) was drawn up in consultation with Group Leaders and seven companies were invited to bid. These companies were selected based on recommendations from colleagues in a number of other organisations and direct approaches to the Council. Group Leaders and officers interviewed a shortlist of four and advisers were appointed. The funding for this work has required a supplementary estimate. This was approved as urgent action in consultation with the Chairman of Resources

Committee and confirmed by the Resources Committee on 19 September. The Resources Committee has requested regular reports on expenditure related to the SERAS report.

6 Other action may be summarised as follows.

- Referendum ballot papers have been circulated throughout the district for return by 31 October. The exercise has received good media coverage and all electors are being encouraged to vote.
- A open letter from all four Group Leaders has been circulated to the local press and other organisations stating the Council's policy and urging local people to vote in the referendum
- A weekly newsletter is being circulated to a select list of key organisations and opinion formers; copies are also sent to all councillors.
- There has been active discussion at all three party conferences.
- There has been discussion in various meetings locally and in the region and informal contact has been made with a wide range of organisations to explain the Council's view and seek to understand other viewpoints.
- There is regular liaison with the Stop Stansted Expansion campaign to ensure complementary activity.
- The Council has agreed to contribute to technical studies commissioned jointly with Essex and Herts County Councils covering demand forecasts, the need for an additional hub airport in the South East, implications for infrastructure, urbanisation and the environment and potential air traffic congestion. These studies are due to report before the end of October.
- The Leader of the Council has written to all MPs drawing attention to the significant issues in relation to the Government's consultation.

7 The deadline for responses to the Government's consultation is 30 November 2002. However, with advice from Group Leaders, the Chief Executive has written to the Secretary of State requesting that this deadline be extended. At the time of writing no response had been received. It is the view of officers and Group Leaders that in the light of the timing of key meetings of partner agencies and the need to prepare a full case for the Council's argument, the date previously agreed for a further extraordinary meeting of the Council (18 November) is too soon. Depending on the response from the Secretary of State, a later date of 28 November or during December is proposed. The special meeting of Environment & Transport Committee may also need to be changed in the light of this.

8 Public meetings are being considered for November, one in the north and one in the south of the district, to give the opportunity for the Council to report on the outcome of the referendum and explain the key points of the Council's proposed response to the Government.

RECOMMENDED THAT

The Council:

- (a) Confirms the date for a further extraordinary meeting of the Council in November or December 2002 to determine the Council's response to the Government consultation document on air transport

Background Papers:

Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister on sustainable communities, housing and planning

Department for Transport consultation document on the development of air transport

Previous minutes of the Council and its committees

Council press releases and newsletters