

Cabinet Member Briefing for Overview & Scrutiny – 10th Sept. 2007

Leisure, Culture and Lifelong Learning

Leisure

Recreation Services is a business unit /division of the new Adults, Culture and Community Services directorate. The Service has a net revenue budget of £8.4m (gross £16.5m), and currently manages a capital programme of £4m (54% externally funded). Approximately 245 staff are employed across Sports & Leisure Services (Tottenham Green Leisure Centre, Park Road Leisure Centre, and White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre), Parks Services (Parks, Conservation Areas, Allotments, Open Space), Bereavement Services (Enfield Crematorium/Cemetery, Wood Green and Tottenham Cemeteries), Policy & Development Team, and Business Support Team.

The key priorities and action for the next 2-3 years includes:

‘Making Haringey one of London’s Greenest Boroughs’ and ‘Creating a Better Haringey: cleaner, greener, safer.’

Our action plan will be drawn together and delivered through the ‘Improving the Natural Environment’ strand of the ‘Greenest Borough Strategy’. Our open space improvement programme will continue to focus on raising standards, renewing infrastructure, and improving access and use. It will be set within a wider public realm and area working focus, and contribute to the Local Area Agreement Implementation. Key projects include:

- Implementing and developing the Groundwork partnership.
- Delivering major open space regeneration projects at Markfield, Chestnuts, Belmont and Lordship Recreation Grounds, with an investment of £4m.
- Developing Local Development Plan/ Planning Policy Guidance for Open Space, Play and Sports provision standards.
- Sustaining and improving our renewal and upgrade programme, targeting ‘Green Flags’ and ‘Green Pennants’.
- Complete the review of open space staffing and supervision, and establish the ‘Parkforce’ for Haringey.
- Plan and deliver a £250k Tree Planting programme.
- Key PIs and Targets
 - Achieve and sustain 12 Green Flags and 7 Pennants by 2010.

‘Encouraging lifetime wellbeing at home, work, play and learning.’

Developing better facilities, improving access and extending opportunities will drive our improvement programme, with a focus upon increasing sports and physical activity participation, particularly amongst vulnerable communities and young people. Health, volunteering and outcome achievement targets will be closely aligned to both the CPA Cultural Block and Local Area Agreement priorities. Our action plan will be embraced and driven through the Wellbeing Strategic Framework, in partnership with Haringey’s Teaching Primary Care Trust. Key projects include:

- Maintaining and developing our Youth Sports diversionary/ development programme.
- Develop our Healthier Lifestyle programmes in Leisure Centres and Open Spaces.
- Sustain and develop the sports scholarships programme.
- Establish and develop a volunteering programme.
- Contribute to design, access and operation of BSF funded facilities, in developing 6/7 ‘Active Zones’ in the Borough.
- Develop master plan, business plan and funding package (capital and revenue) for White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre.
- Key PIs and Targets
 - Increase Adult Sports and Physical Activity participation by 4% by 2010.

'Delivering excellent, customer focused cost effective services'

Improving value for money, consultation and customer satisfaction will be our key improvement themes. We will be actively benchmarking/ market testing services on both cost and quality, whilst encouraging external assessment of the services that we provide. Projects will include:

- Completing the refurbishment of changing facilities at Park Road Leisure Centre, and plant upgrades at both Tottenham Green and Park Road.
- Complete a detailed review of Recreation Subsidy and Income Policy.
- Consider the preferred leisure management option.
- Prepare to market test our Grounds Maintenance Services.
- Establish an Approved Suppliers list for sports/ development/ coaching.
- Establish a marketing programme, including a specific focus on strengthening our branding.
- Increase satisfaction with Sports and Leisure facilities by 8% by 2010.
- Increase satisfaction with Parks and Open Spaces by 5% by 2010.

Culture and Lifelong Learning

Haringey Culture, Libraries & Learning is a business unit within the new Adult, Culture and Community Services Directorate. The service has a net revenue budget of 6.6m (gross £10.4m) and the libraries stock fund is supported by an additional £300k of capital funding. Approximately 224 staff (174.4 FTE) are employed across 9 libraries, Bruce Castle Museum, the Records Management Centre and two Adult Learning sites, one of these co-located in Wood Green Central Library. The Libraries, Archives and Museum, Adult Learning and all cultural services in the borough have been brought under the same management, allowing opportunities for synergy to be fully exploited.

In recent years, the performance and use of the Borough's libraries, archives and museum have improved dramatically and continue to do so. However, we wish to develop our services and facilities still further, with the aim of providing one of the best library services in London for the people of Haringey.

We aim to deliver excellent, customer focused, cost effective services. Improved value for money, consultation and customer satisfaction will be key improvement themes.

Key aims for service development are:

Culture

- The promotion of the Borough as a cultural centre of excellence. We are beginning by renovating our exhibition spaces and holding high quality art exhibitions throughout the year.
- The continued development of the *Art Brought to Book* programme, incorporating culture into libraries.

Libraries

- To improve perception and customer satisfaction with all our services.
- To strengthen the role of libraries as community hubs, providing safe, accessible and attractive library buildings for all communities to use.
- To expand the range of services for the library buildings, developing Libraries Plus Plus Plus, with a variety of additional facilities.
- To actively encourage reading and learning within our libraries, ensuring that all of our stock is in good condition, well displayed and appropriate to the needs of the community.
- To offer customers a broad range of modern ICT facilities and digital resources, reflecting their growing exposure to technology in their daily lives and meeting the ever increasing expectations of our customers in relation to ICT services.
- To ensure libraries continue to combat the Digital Divide and improve computer literacy within their communities. Contributing to the Wellbeing Agenda through the delivery of the *Libraries for Life, Libraries for Health* programme.

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- To contribute to the 'Greenest Borough Strategy' through the continued development of Community gardens around our libraries.

Museum

- To take forward plans to develop major finding bids, including those to support the development of Bruce Castle Museum and the regeneration of the Beam Engine Museum on the Markfield site.

Adult Learning

- To maintain levels of free provision offered in skills for life, learndirect, family learning and work based learning, extending provision where possible through securing additional funding streams.
- To provide competitively priced, personal and community development courses, with concessionary rates and additional discounts for library members.