

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

14 November 2016

Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

Summary

This report reviews the outcome of the revised Holiday Activities Programme following a recent review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Members will be aware of the recent review of the Council's Holiday Activities Programme undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier this year. The review considered activities currently undertaken directly by the Borough Council including Easter/Summer Activate, Y2Crew and Summer Playscheme.
- 1.1.2 A full copy of the recommendations approved at Cabinet on 11 February 2016 can be found at **[Annex 1]**. In summary, the review recommended the Council withdraw from the direct provision of these activities, and work in partnership with external providers in their future delivery. Attendance by children from financially disadvantaged families was protected, with the Council funding concessions for Leisure Pass holders.
- 1.1.3 Discussions with potential external providers were positive and, in particular, a key partner (Premier Sport) was identified to deliver activities similar to the Summer Playscheme.

1.2 Summer 2016 – Activities

- 1.2.1 Following the implementation of the new arrangements over the Summer holidays a review has been undertaken to assess both financial savings to the Council and the provision of services to young people.
- 1.2.2 Summer Playscheme – The new arrangements provided 12 venues across the borough including the priority communities of Trench Tonbridge, East Malling and Snodland.

- 1.2.3 Extended provision was provided both in terms of additional weeks (the scheme ran across the whole school holiday period) and hours (venues operated from 9:00am to 3:30pm to mirror school hours).
- 1.2.4 The provision remained available to children aged from 4 to 11 years old at a value for money cost of £59 per week, with a Leisure Pass subsidy of 50%.
- 1.2.5 Attendance levels compared to the 2015 Summer Playscheme were as follows:-
- Overall bookings were 854 compared to 1,100 in 2015.
 - Individual children attending the scheme increased significantly from 649 in 2015 to 967 this year.
 - The majority of those attending took up the option of the full day.
 - Whilst places booked by Leisure Pass holder fell from 503 to 270 the number of individual Leisure Pass holders on the programme only fell from 231 to 192. Some sites saw an increase in Leisure Pass attendance including East Malling, Cage Green and Hillview.
- 1.2.6 Activate – External providers were contacted to market their activities in the Holiday Activities Programme. Parents booked direct with providers rather than with the Council. A wide range of activities were on offer with Leisure Pass discounts once again subsidised by the Borough Council.
- 1.2.7 Attendance levels compared to 2015 were as follows:-
- 81% of places on offer (590) were booked this year. This compares to 74% of places (667) booked in 2015.
 - Places booked by Leisure Pass holders fell slightly from 134 to 113.
 - Individual Leisure Pass holders fell slightly from 48 to 40.
- 1.2.8 Y2Crew – The Y2Crew programme was once again run in partnership with Kent County Council's Early Help & Preventative Services. Financial support was sought from the Community Safety Partnership, Parish Councils and voluntary groups. A full range of positive and engaging diversionary activities were provided from the funding received and Leisure Pass discounts applied.
- 1.2.9 Attendance levels compared to 2015 were as follows:-
- There were 143 bookings this year compared to 190 in 2015.
 - 55 young people in total were engaged this year compared to 67 in 2015
 - 16 young people took advantage of the Leisure pass rates compared to 22 in 2015.

1.3 Overview

- 1.3.1 I am sure Members will be pleased to note that despite significant changes, including the transition to external providers, the holiday activity programme remained popular, and the objective of the Scrutiny Review has been met. It is the view of Officers that attendance levels were encouraging for the first year of the new arrangements and hopefully the partners can build on this success next year. No complaints over the new arrangements have been received and a number of compliments were made regarding the professional approach adapted by the providers.
- 1.3.2 Following the experience of this year, opportunities exist to refine and improve arrangements in the future, and it is hoped that the remaining costs to the Council, such as marketing, can be reduced further.

1.4 Leisure Pass Review

- 1.4.1 Members will note from **[Annex 1]** that one recommendation arising from the Scrutiny Report was to review the level of support given to Leisure Pass holders in the light of the Council's current financial position.
- 1.4.2 In total £21,000 was allocated through the Scrutiny Review to provide a subsidy to Leisure Pass holders. Following the first year of operation this figure has been reduced and a revised figure of £11,000 has been reflected in the 2017/18 draft revenue estimates. It is proposed that the level of discount for activities in 2017 remains the same.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 Following implementation of the new arrangements agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to date a saving (including savings from a proposed restructure of the Leisure Development Team to be reported to the General Purposes Committee in January 2017) in the order of £57,000 is reflected in the draft 2017/18 estimates.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 The health and safety, insurance and safeguarding procedures of all the external providers are checked by the Council in advance of the activities being provided.

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.7.1 The consideration of the Public Sector Equality Duty identified in the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was noted and financial provision made, as set out at paragraph 1.6.4 of the report, to mitigate any impact on children with disabilities who require 1-2-1 support. A review of the equality impact assessment will be

completed and reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within one year of the report.

1.8 Policy Considerations

1.8.1 Community, Healthy Lifestyles, Young People.

1.9 Recommendations

1.9.1 It is **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that:

- 1) the positive financial and service delivery outcomes of the revised holiday activities programme for 2016 be noted and
- 2) the Leisure Pass subsidy rate for activities provided in 2017 be retained at current levels, with a revised budget of £11,000 being reflected in the 2017/18 draft revenue estimates.

The Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Stephen Gregg

Nil

Robert Styles

Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services