COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Tuesday 3 August 2010 at 6.00pm

Panel Members Present	Councillor L. Harrison (Chair)
	Councillor O. Bennett
	Councillor R. Martin
	Councillor G. Perry
	Councillor K. Sears

Officers Present	Jamie Morris – Executive Director, Neighbourhoods
	Keith Stone – Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods
	Chris Holliday – Head of Leisure & Community Health
	Kevin Kendall – Head of Property Services
	Jez Holding – Customer Service Manager
	Kevin Reader – Asset Management Programme Manager
	Leesha Chetty – Asset Management Interim Project Director
	Craig Goodall – Acting Principal Scrutiny Officer

24/10 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors P. Bott, C. Creaney and P. Shires.

25/10 **SUBSTITUTIONS**

The following substitutions were made for the duration of the meeting:

26/10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip for the duration of the meeting.

27/10 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes, as amended, of the meeting held on 13 July 2010, copies having been previously circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

(annexed)

28/10 **PUBLIC ACCESS TO COUNCIL SERVICE OUTLETS**

The Panel considered a presentation on public access to council service outlets.

The Head of Property Services delivered a presentation (annexed) on improving accessibility of services through localism. He explained that this fitted in with the asset management project which was apart of the Council working smarter programme which was aiming to make substantial revenue savings over the next few years. He set out a range of property baseline analysis; an assessment of community needs for services; the concept of a community hub including potential examples of how this could work across the borough and some case study examples where other local authorities had completed similar work.

The following are the principal points from the ensuing discussion:

- The Panel supported the concept of community hubs and felt that the voluntary and community centre and local youth groups should be considered as suitable partners for sharing premises. To engage these types of groups barriers, such as large volumes of bureaucracy, should be kept to a minimum.
- The cost of creating a community hub had not been established. If it was decided to implement the concept that the costs of individual schemes would be established and offered into the budget setting process with a business case. It was expected that the capital receipts from any redundant properties would be used to reinvest in any new buildings.
- The Asset Management project has assessed each building in the Councils property portfolio. This had taken into account factors such as: condition, suitability and energy efficiency.
- Members noted the range of school sports facilities that were often unused at evenings and weekends. As public property it was felt these facilities should be available for local residents to use. It was noted that many excellent swimming facilities were based on school sites.
- It was noted that a community hub did not have to be based in a single building. A hub could take the shape of a campus with several buildings in close proximity offering different facilities.
- Members felt that in some cases existing buildings may not be located in the best locations to create a community hub.

The Chair thanked the Head of Property Services for the presentation and invited him to present more focused information to the Leisure and Libraries Working Group.

RESOLVED:

THAT:

1. the voluntary and community sector be included as potential partners in the development of community hubs;

   and;

2. the Head of Property Services be invited to a meeting of the Leisure and Libraries Working Group to present detailed data on the

boroughs Leisure Centre and Library estate.

29/10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 7 September 2010.

The meeting terminated at 6.33 p.m.

Signed:

Date: