

Minutes of a Meeting of the External Partnerships Select Committee held at Surrey Heath House, Camberley on 13 November 2012

+ Cllr Josephine Hawkins - Chairman
+ Cllr Bob Paton – Vice-Chairman

Cllr Glyn Carpenter	- Cllr Adrian Page
Cllr Ian Cullen	+ Cllr Ken Pedder
+ Cllr Paul Deach	+ Cllr Ian Sams
+ Cllr David Hamilton	- Cllr Pat Tedder
- Cllr Beverley Harding	+ Cllr Alan Whittart
+ Cllr Paul Innicki	+ Cllr John Winterton
+ Cllr Lexie Kemp	

+ Present

- Apologies for absence presented

Substitutes: Councillor Charlotte Morley substitute for Councillor Beverley Harding

In attendance: Councillor Chris Pitt

12/EP Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 September 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Committee was informed that, in relation to Minute 008/EP, the Counter Terrorism training sessions had not been arranged at that stage.

13/EP Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Graham Scandrett, Chairman of Surrey Heath Arts Council. She also welcomed Councillor Charlotte Morley who would be delivering the presentation for Surrey Heath Sports Council.

PART I

(public)

14/EP Surrey Heath Sports Council

The Committee was informed that the objective of Surrey Heath Sports Council was to promote, support and encourage all forms of sport recognised by Sport England. The Sports Council also aimed to examine the need for improving existing facilities, to offer advice to the Council and others on the provision of sporting facilities, and to assist with dissemination of information on available sporting facilities.

The majority of the Sports Council's work was to administer and allocate grants to non-profit organisations made available to the Sports Council from public funds. The Sports Council provided grants to individuals within the borough for the initial purchase of sports equipment, clothing and technical apparatus directly related to sporting participation. The majority of grants

awarded were between £150 and £250; however, smaller grants, for example for the purchase of a tennis racket, had been awarded.

It was reported a trend had developed in the past 2 years for requesting coaching grants, due to the requirement that coaches must obtain a qualification. In such cases, the Sports Council would usually provide a grant to cover half of the costs of the course.

Membership of the Sports Council was open to all sporting groups within the borough and represented a wide range of sports.

The work of the Sports Council was carried out by its Executive Committee, which was comprised of up to 2 representatives per sport, 4 borough councillors, 2 representatives from schools, Active Surrey, the Council's Sports Development Officer, and Surrey County Playing Fields Association.

The Committee was reminded that the Council had provided a grant of £3,500 to the Sports Council in 2011/12. The Sports Council currently held £3,000 in reserves, equivalent to 1 year's funds.

Members were informed that the Sports Council's running costs were under £50 per year. Its costs included a small fee for the website, a contribution to Surrey County Council's Sports Award, and an audit fee.

Future proposals for the Sports Council's development included a new website in order to encourage applications, introducing new hardship grants, encouraging more sports to join the committee, including grants from Paralympic sports.

The Committee considered opportunities for fundraising, including charging a membership fee. It was advised that the Constitution did not provide for charging fees and it was recognised by some Members that charging a fee may reduce sports clubs' take up of membership. Members were further informed that sports clubs usually conducted fundraising for their individual clubs and their representatives on the Sports Council may not, therefore, be inclined to conduct further fundraising on behalf of the Sports Council.

Members enquired whether the Sports Council could receive donations from other individuals or organisations, which could be used as a source for it to award further grants. It was suggested that a separate bursary, with different eligibility qualifications from the existing scheme, could be established to enable grants to be awarded from such donations. It was, however, recognised that this would require the amendment of the Sports Council's Constitution.

The Committee considered the Sports Council's promotion of its work and, whilst noting that a new website was under development, it was felt that further improvement of its online presence would be beneficial, including improving the links to its website from the Council's webpages. Members proposed that the Sports Council could try to attract a local sports personality to be its patron. It was also suggested that an article could be published in Heathscene.

RESOLVED that

- (i) articles to raise awareness of the Sports Council's work and the availability of its grants be included in a future edition of Heathscene; and**
- (ii) the Sports Council be advised to investigate the possibility of establishing a bursary fund from which donations from private individuals or organisations could be used to award grants**

Note 1: In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillors Charlotte Morley, Ian Sams and Alan Whittart declared non-pecuniary interests in respect of the above item as Council appointed representatives on Surrey Heath Sports Council.

Note 2: In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Cllr Chris Pitt declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a publicly appointed member of Surrey Heath Sports Council.

15/EP Surrey Heath Arts Council

The Committee was informed that the aim of Surrey Heath Arts Council was to facilitate the cultural aims of individuals or organisations and promote the presentation of public cultural events within the Borough.

The Arts Council represented a broad range of artistic fields. Schools were automatically members of the Arts Council and 3 representatives from the Borough Council were also appointed on an annual basis. It was reported that the Arts Council was currently in a process of re-organisation and the Constitution was being re-written.

The Arts Council had received a grant of £1400 from the Council in 2012/13. There were 3 major areas of finance for the Arts Council:

- **The Grant from the Council.** The grant was used to assist non-professional individuals or groups, who would need to live or be active within the Borough in order to be eligible for the grant. Examples of grants awarded included assistance to a dancer for the purchase of dance clothing, and support for a Camera Club exhibition in the Museum.

A small working committee would convene following the receipt of an application, which ensured a timely response to the application. The applications were reported to the Arts Council every quarter.

- **The James Winterbottom Bursary Award.** The Bursary had been established to support people in cultural development at a professional level. The funding for this award was allocated from the interest received from capital invested. It was reported that, whilst grants had sometimes been in excess of £500, recent low interest rates had limited the return on the investment and therefore funds available. The Arts Council was giving consideration to the future of this fund and potential alternative for its use/ better utilisation.

- **Self-financing projects.** Members were reminded that the Arts Council had organised a Young Musician of the Year competition in the past 4 years, although it had not held the competition that year. The Committee noted how the competition had developed over the previous 4 years and supported its continuation.

It was reported that, as the Arts Council was in the process of re-organisation, it had elected to not carry out any activity that year. The grant it had received from the Council that year had consequently not been spent.

Members discussed potential alternative use of the bursary capital and proposed that it could be invested in events, for example a concert, which could generate a return on the investment.

The Committee discussed the Arts Council's promotion of its activity and it was suggested that its website would benefit from updating and it should develop a presence on social media. Cllr Paul Deach offered to assist with the development of the Arts Council's website and presence on social media.

RESOLVED that

- (i) an article to promote the Arts Council be included in a future edition of Heathscene;**
- (ii) the Arts Council be advised to invest in greater promotion of its work, in particular through its website and social media; and**
- (iii) the Arts Council be asked to give further consideration to investing the James Winterbottom Bursary capital in events.**

Note 1: In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Cllr Ian Sams declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a Council appointed representative on Surrey Heath Arts Council.

Note 2: It was noted for the record that Cllr John Winterton declared that he had been involved in a production at the Camberley Theatre which had received a grant from Surrey Heath Arts Council.

16/EP Committee Work Programme

The Committee considered a report on the work programme for the 2012/13 municipal year.

Presentations from organisations in receipt of community grants had been scheduled for the committee meetings in January and March 2013. The Committee would also receive, at the January meeting, an update on Community Safety in the Borough in accordance with the Committee's role as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee.

The Committee was due to receive a presentation in March 2013 from the Ambulance Service to investigate the practicalities of imposing a financial charge on persistent avoidable users of emergency services. The Committee agreed that the presentation be removed from the Work Programme as it was recognised that the Ambulance Service did not have the authority to introduce

such charges. It was, however, agreed to schedule a presentation from the Ambulance Service in the 2013/14 Work Programme, which would not specifically address that matter.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme for 2012/13, as attached at Annex A to the agenda report, be agreed.

CHAIRMAN