

These minutes are draft subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the sub-committee

Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee

26 January 2016

Present: Councillor S Day (Chair)
Councillors K Bolger, J Cassidy, D
Drummond, P Earley, E Hodson, L Miller, A
Newman, P Oliver, M Thirlaway.

CL30/01/16 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Munby and J Pickard.

CL31/01/16 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members appointed.

CL32/01/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

CL33/01/16 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CL34/01/16 Budget Implications for Culture and Leisure

The sub-committee received a report and presentation on how the Cabinet's budget proposals would impact upon the delivery of the main services within the remit of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee. At its meeting on 7 December 2015 Cabinet considered its 2016-2019 initial budget proposals in relation to General Fund, Schools, Housing Revenue Account and North Tyneside Investment Plan for 2016-19. It was noted that the Budget Engagement process, following Cabinet's initial considerations, began on 8 December 2015 and would conclude at the end of January 2016.

Members were informed that the NET controllable budget for Sport & Leisure was £1,972,489 and for Cultural Services £6,264,774. Proposals to save £485k included a reduction of £333k from back office/management savings, increased income of £50k (Sport & Leisure) and a reduction of the Council's contribution to Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums (TWAM) by £50k.

In relation to back office/management reductions, the sub-committee was informed that the savings had been achieved through a restructure and reduction of the Sports Development and Outdoor Facilities Teams, reduction of Sports Centre back office and management teams and a reduction of Library back office and outreach teams. The changes equated to the reduction of 5.5 FTE posts. It was highlighted that some staff had been moved to roles in the Public Health Outcome teams, which combined with some voluntary redundancies and removal of vacancies, had resulted in no compulsory redundancies for the service

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area. It was accepted that following the restructures there would be less capacity and a greater reliance on self service.

In relation to the increased income target of £50k, it was noted that there would be a 3% increase on Ease and Non Ease card charges. Priority Ease Card charges and Contours Annual Membership charges would be frozen at current price. A member of the sub-committee asked how much the monthly charge was for Contours and how this compared to the wider market. It was noted that the typical monthly membership was £28.50, which was middle of the market. Budget gym memberships could be obtained at a lower cost but did not include access to swimming and sauna facilities or fitness classes, which were all available as part of the Contours monthly fee. With 8,300 members across all the leisure centres, Contours was a very successful part of the business. Members asked how far marketing of Contours was distributed and it was noted that it was across the boundaries with other local authorities. It was noted that North Tyneside Council had worked closely with South Tyneside Council to help them replicate the Contours model.

Members of the sub-committee were informed that TWAM operate George Stephenson Railway Museum and Segedunum on behalf of North Tyneside Council. The reduction of the Council's contribution to TWAM by £50k represented around a 10% reduction of the overall contribution. This would be offset by an increased income target and a programme with more activities and events aimed at generating additional income. It was noted that when large exhibitions had been on display at Segedunum there had been a peak in visitor numbers, which in turn increased income. Members referred to the Segedunum proposed Masterplan and the £500k grant administered in April 2015 to develop parts of the site. It was noted that, due to the historical significance and national importance of the proposed works at Segedunum, there could be opportunities to access additional funding for the site. Such works would enhance the offer for visitors and in turn increase the income generated.

The sub-committee was informed that additional savings would have to be made for the financial year 2017/18 and more ideas would have to be generated as to how things could be done differently. There would also have to be a focus on how self serve could achieve further efficiencies going forward. The sub-committee congratulated all those involved for making the required savings with limited impact on customers and jobs.

It was **agreed** to note the information provided in relation to the budget implications for Culture and Leisure.