

Briefing notes on issues included in the Forward Plan Issue 2004/05

SERVICE AREA: SPORTS (Environment)

| Report ref | Report Title |
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| | Best Value Review of the Sports Service |
| <p>Summary:</p> <p>The Best Value Review (BVR) of the Sports Service 'officially' commenced in November 2003 and was written at the same time as the Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity in Brent was being drafted. Consequently, the best value review and the strategy are closely aligned and need to be considered alongside one another.</p> <p>The Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity in Brent was written as a strategy for the development of sport and physical activity for all providers in the Borough, not just the Council's Sports Service. The Strategy and the BVR recognise that there are many providers of sporting opportunities, both public, private and voluntary and the Council cannot deliver in relation to all these roles. However, it does have a role in co-ordinating work across the different sectors</p> <p>The Strategy identifies six key themes which all providers of sport and physical activity should look to address and these headings have been followed through into the BVR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Contributing to active lifestyles■ Raising awareness of opportunities■ Ensuring facilities are fit for purpose■ Reduce barriers to participation■ Supporting local sports clubs■ Increase participation amongst young people. <p>In addition to the work undertaken for the production of the Strategy, the best value review process entailed the examination of significant amount of information including analysis of all research undertaken, auditing facilities and sports providers, visiting other local authorities identified by the Audit Commission as representing 'best practice', reviewing the existing leisure contract and analysing the teams capacity to deliver. From this examination the BVR identified the following key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To re-tender the Leisure Management contract when the existing contract expires in April 2006.• To retain the management of Sports Development and Bridge Park 'in-house'.• To carry out an analysis of future facility needs• To strengthen the structure and skills of the Sports Service team <p>The Strategy provides the main policy and work areas for the Sports Service and from this an action plan has been developed. This action plan will form the basis of the Sports Service's annual service operational plan. As the strategy and BVR were running in tandem, the Strategy action plan mirrors the Best Value Review 5 year Improvement Plan. Both Plans follow the six key theme headings although the Improvement Plan includes an additional theme; 'Managing the Work of the Sports Service'. This additional theme will encompass some of the key findings that have arisen specifically through the BVR. These findings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ slightly remodelling the structure of the service to address areas of weakness,■ establishing robust financial management systems and monitoring processes,■ working towards achieving quality accreditation for the service and■ embedding a culture of performance management and measurement. <p>The implementation of actions within the strategy and best value review plans are already underway and the Brent Sports Forum, (a group of key sports stakeholders including schools, EAL, regeneration, the Primary Care Trust, Leisure Contractor and Brent Sports Council) will become the mechanism through which annual progress against the action plans will be monitored and reviewed.</p> | |