



This is an open report

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## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Select Committee No. 1 – PACTs

13 November 2008

#### Present at the meeting:

Councillor J S Birch (Chairman)    Councillor J Moodie  
Councillor Mrs B Bourne  
Councillor B J Fagan  
Councillor Mrs P L Holland

- .1 **Apologies for absence:** Councillors M Aldred, M Klieve, R T Splaine and P A Tushingham
- .2 **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2008 were approved as a correct record
- .3 **Interview on PACT Process with the Executive Director (Environmental Management and Sustainability), Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust:** On the Select Committee's behalf, the Chair extended a welcome to the Leisure and Culture Trust's Executive Director – inviting him to introduce himself, his role and responsibilities, reminding members on the works of the wider Trust and their coverage as well. Referring to the Select Committee questions provided in advance, the Chair invited him to share his considered responses with colleagues in attendance – noting that supplementary questions may be presented for answer as the meeting progressed.

The core Select Committee questions and Executive Director responses, focused on:

- organisational involvement with PACTs to date, corporate reflections on experience, 'value added' and lessons to be learned in forward refinement of the process;
- new ways of working to which PACT has given risen in leisure and cultural service development and delivery – particularly in terms of multi-agency partnership/strategic and operational join-up;
- PACT governance and agency accountability – evolving arrangements;
- sustainable outcomes from early PACT work; growth of community capacity and commitment to leadership on project activity/positive response to local issues for the medium/long-term;

- the impact of the PACT process on service improvement and the assurance of value for money.

Supplementary questions followed on:

- awareness and accessibility of the Trust's community-based provision for young people;
- community involvement methodology deployed and communication arrangements set in place by the Leisure and Culture Trust to ensure the maintenance of connection with local people;
- the Trust's core responsibilities towards green space, parks and countryside maintenance as a part of its service portfolio, and those areas serviced on the basis of contractual agreement;
- grass cuttings' presentation of a hazard for older residents of Marsh Green;
- opportunity for renegotiation on contractual agreements to provide for greater flexibility and enable a more informed approach to core and community-led service planning;
- the scope for efficiencies' achievement through new partnerships and service-level agreements;
- intentions towards join-up in capacity-building and legacy assurance;
- Trust experience in the logistics of multi-agency working where competing pressures and priorities are at play alongside the recognition of common purpose and responsibility in respect of particular community issues, aspirations and priorities; and
- the effectiveness of PACT Practitioners' Groups.

Resolved: The Select Committee:

- formally notes its gratitude to the Trust's Executive Director for attendance and fulsome responses on the questions put/challenges presented;
- members request the composition and circulation of an email to all Councillors reminding on the work of the Trust in local community settings, particularly its provision of sporting and physical activities for young people;
- ask the Trust to keep its consultation and communication methodologies under review where engagement is concerned – always working to ensure inclusion and optimum effectiveness in engagement and information;
- require the Trust's provision of a map highlighting green spaces, parks and countryside sites maintained as a part of its core leisure portfolio and those facilities/pieces of land looked after through contractual agreement with service providers active across the Borough – and its due feed-in to WISDOM.

#### **.4 PACT Review Process: Work Plan Update:**

The Policy Officer updated the Select Committee on interview dates agreed with colleagues from Children and Young People's Services and

Environmental Services, also noting her contact with the Service Director – Business Transformation and due agreement on her invitation to a meeting in February 2009 once the consultation on Townships' refreshed remit is complete.

It was reported that work on the identification and investigation of other authorities' approaches to community involvement and locality working was just underway. The Policy Officer further proposed that officer invitation to come and share other areas' experiences might help inform the Select Committee's review, likewise visits and detailed desk-top research. Members agreed that the Policy Officer and her Support should progress the desk-top work now and revisit opportunities of invitation from/visit to other areas on the occasion of their next meeting when it is hoped that more will be in attendance.

Resolved: The Select Committee requests:

- that the Policy Officer circulate Members with questions proposed for colleagues from Children and Young People's Services and Environmental Services, inviting their additions by return;
- that the Policy Officer and Support now go-ahead with research into other authorities' locality working arrangements and their effectiveness/impact – drawing out elements of good practice from which Wigan might learn in evolution of the PACT process and broader provision for community engagement, neighbourhood intervention, third sector partnership and collaborative service delivery focused on local priorities;
- that on 8 December the Select Committee consider the worth of research visits and inviting officers from other areas to come and present on their works and engage with a question and answer session – advising the Policy Officer and Support on their preferred way forward in laying the foundations for the report and recommendations due to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the Spring of next year; and
- that the Select Committee look forward to receipt of a first draft report on review findings, improvement proposals and recommendations early in the new year; the opportunity of constructive appraisal and addition.

5. Date and time of future meetings: Resolved: The Select Committee agree the following dates and times for future meetings:-

- 24 November 2008 at Wigan Town Hall
- 8 December 2008 at Wigan Town Hall
- 15 December 2008 at Wigan Town Hall
- All meetings will commence at 6.00pm

Chairman