
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

16th November, 2005

Report of
Cabinet Member
Adult Education & Libraries, Leisure & Sports

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Coventry Sports Trust (CST)

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 At their meeting on 10th May 2005, the Cabinet approved a process of reporting back to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the work of those outside bodies appointed to by the City Council. This reports sets out details of the work of the Coventry Sports Trust (CST) over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee notes the report back and the work undertaken by the body.
- 2.2 That Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that Council continue to appoint members to the Board of the Coventry Sports Trust on an annual basis.
- 2.3 That Scrutiny discusses the current practice of automatically appointing the Cabinet Member for Sports & Leisure onto the Coventry Sports Trust and makes appropriate recommendations to Council.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Formed in April 1999, CST promotes a healthy lifestyle through the delivery of health and fitness, play, relaxation and sporting activities to those who live, work or visit the city.
- 3.2 CST is a 'not for profit' company and gained charitable status in August 2002.
- 3.3 The main facilities managed by CST are Coventry and Foleshill Sports & Leisure Centres, Brandon Wood Golf Course and the new "Splash and Play" feature previously known as the Memorial Park water feature. CST also manages leisure programmes on behalf of Sidney Stringer Community Technical School, Foxford School & Community Arts College and Ernesford Grange School and Community College.
- 3.4 CST facilities generate about 1.5 million customer visits every year. With membership and pay & play options, discounts for students, over 50's and Passport to Leisure & Learning

holders, CST is able to offer healthy lifestyle options to all members of Coventry and Warwickshire's diverse communities.

- 3.5 CST makes an active contribution to many City Council and Coventry Partnership objectives by helping to tackle social exclusion and health inequalities in the City. The practice of managing City Council sports and leisure facilities through a Trust status body is also in keeping with the Governments agenda of partnership working and involving the many talents that people in the wider community have to offer in the running of local public services.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 CST is responsible for managing a number of sporting facilities on behalf of the City Council that remain owned by the City Council. The Trust receives considerable annual financial backing from the City Council and it is essential that the City Council has an insight and an influence into the workings of the trust.
- 4.2 In addition to this it is important that the City demonstrates its faith and commitment to CST & the board of directors during what have been potentially difficult times.
- 4.3 An issue for debate, in my opinion, is whether or not the current system of automatically appointing the Cabinet Member for Sports & Leisure, plus one other member, is continued or reviewed.
- 4.4 Through discussions with the Trust they have made it clear that they believe the practice puts the Cabinet Member in an awkward position in terms of differentiating their role as a Cabinet Member and separately as a Director of the Trust.
- 4.5 The City Council appoints two Members to the Trust, the Trust have suggested that they would prefer the Member from the controlling group to be a non Cabinet Member as they would not be inhibited by the same constraints as the Cabinet Member. The Cabinet Member would then be invited to attend board meetings as a non-voting City Council representative.
- 4.6 In the context of these reporting back procedures the issue is worthy of a debate by Scrutiny Members with appropriate recommendations being made back to Council.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 There have been four meetings of the Trust over the last twelve months. Councillor Ridley and Skipper are the current City Council representatives, at the City Council's Annual Meeting in May, 2005 Councillor Ridley replaced the Councillor Ahmed as the representative from the controlling Group. Of the four meetings Councillor Skipper has attended three, Councillor Ahmed attended two and Councillor Ridley has attended one (Councillors Ahmed and Ridley each being eligible to attend two meetings).
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH61