

Executive - 24 September 2003

Present: Councillor Williams (Chairman)
Councillors Bishop, Mrs Bradley, Mrs Bryant, N Cavill, Edwards, Garner, Hall and Mrs Lewin-Harris

Officers: Mrs P James (Chief Executive), Mr A Hartridge (Director of Development), Ms S Adam (Head of Finance), Mr C Brazier (Head of Housing), Mr D Woolnough (Community Services Policy Unit Manager), Mr M Western (Housing Manager - Private Sector and Development), Mr J Seabrook (Housing Manager - Property Services), Mr D Harrison (Housing Strategy Manager), Mrs K Dyson (Leisure Development Manager), Mrs N Heal (Public Relations Officer) and Mr G P Dyke (Member Services Manager)

Also Present: Councillors Gill and Lisgo

(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm).

40. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 27 August 2003 were taken as read and were signed.

41. Subsidising Children's Tickets for the Proms and Pop Concerts in Vivary Park 2004

Reported that the Health and Leisure Review Panel had considered a full report on the outcome of both of these concerts. As a result, it had recommended that the Executive consider agreeing that children's tickets for the annual Proms and Tribute Band concerts in Vivary Park be subsidised to a greater extent than was the case in 2003.

The organiser of the Proms and Pop Concerts, Performing Arts Management, had increased the ticket prices for these events to a commercial level but had indicated that if the Council wished to cover the costs it might extend the reduced prices for children's tickets.

The current children's ticket prices at the concerts were as follows:

Proms Concert		
Under 5 years	-	Free
5 - 16 years in advance	-	£12
5 - 16 years on the night	-	£16
Tribute Concert		
One child under 14 years	-	Free per adult
14 - 16 years in advance	-	£8
14 - 16 years on the night	-	£15

Details were considered of a number of options for possible methods of further subsidy for child tickets. It was apparent that operating a discount for children was both quite difficult and potentially costly to operate. It was felt that a better way of

helping all young people would be to ensure that any income received by the Council from ticket sales be reinvested in activities in the Park for young people.

During the ensuing discussion of this item, members felt that the relatively high cost of tickets, especially for children, made the events too exclusive. It was thought therefore, that an alternative organiser who would ensure wider access should perhaps be considered.

However, as it would be very difficult to identify another party who would be able to manage the concerts in time for 13 and 14 August next year, it was accepted that Performing Arts Management should be invited to agree a further one year contract. It was also felt that no alteration to the ticketing structure, which was used nationally by Performing Arts Management, should be made in relation to the 2004 concerts.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The method of subsidising children's ticket prices remain unchanged;
2. A one year contract to organise the concerts in Vivary Park in August 2004 be offered to Performing Arts Management;
3. Consideration be given to other potential operators, including local organisations, regarding who should run the concerts in 2005; and
4. The income received by the Council for ticket sales be reinvested in activities in the Park for young people.

42. Updated Housing Strategy and HRA Business Plans

Consideration was given to the updated Housing Strategy and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plans documents which would contribute towards establishing the Council's baseline position for the HRA stock option appraisal process. This matter had also been considered in detail by the Housing Review Panel at its meeting on 17 September 2003. Details of its recommendations were submitted.

Since these documents had been produced last year, a number of issues had emerged or the circumstances relating to a range of existing policies and procedures had changed. It had been necessary therefore to modify and update the documents to reflect the latest positions. Details of the various modifications were submitted.

During the next financial year it was proposed to revise the two documents and submit them to the Government Office for the South West to seek approval under the "Fit for Purpose" criteria which, if achieved, would reduce the need for the Council to write detailed plans for housing each year.

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to adopt the updated Housing Strategy and HRA Business Plan documents.

(The meeting ended at 8.05 pm).