

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Decision Made: 22 January 2010

Review of the Hotfoot Summer and Easter Play Schemes

Issue for Decision

To consider the review of the Council's provision of the Hotfoot summer and Easter play schemes and the options presented within it (attached as Appendix 1 to the Report of the Assistant Director of Customer Services and Partnerships).

Decision Made

1. That the review be noted
2. That it be agreed that Hotfoot be reduced to 3 weeks at all sites, with staggered start dates for different sites over the summer period.

Reasons for Decision

Following the call-in April 2009 of the Hotfoot play scheme fees and charges 2009-2010 by the External Overview and Scrutiny Committee, I requested that a full review of the service be carried out.

The Hotfoot Play Scheme is run under the Council's power of promoting wellbeing. It is designed to promote the personal and social development of children with a particular focus on the child's role in respect of the wider community of Maidstone. It is open to all children and special support is available to enable a wide range of children to attend. By integrating children from a wide variety of backgrounds the scheme actively promotes social cohesion within the borough.

The review, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report of the Assistant Director of Customer Services and Partnerships, sets out to:-

- i. Establish a clear purpose for the Hotfoot play scheme and its links to priorities in the Council's Strategic Plan
- ii. To consider if the scheme meets current need and represents value for money.

- iii.To review practice and identify alternative funding streams, and;
- iv.To consider for the future of the Hotfoot play scheme.

In order to produce the report data has been obtained from historic Hotfoot records, from information received from a number of other schemes running in the Borough and in neighbouring Boroughs, from Ofsted records and from recent parent/carer responses to the scheme. The Council's Geographic Information Management team within the Information Technology Section have helped analyse spatially in order to establish patterns of demand across the borough.

Alternatives considered and why rejected

The Council could chose not to run its Hotfoot play schemes which contribute to a number of national and local performance indicators as set out in the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Background Papers

None

Should you be concerned about this decision and wish to call it in, please submit a call in form signed by any two Non-Executive Members to the Scrutiny Manager by: 29 January 2010
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