

**REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF THE CULTURE AND LEISURE DEPARTMENT
TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY LESTER QUERIPEL**

Question

As you are aware, the purpose of the Financial Transformation Programme is to transform departmental delivery of services and identify efficiency savings wherever possible. With this in mind, I ask the following questions:

A) Can you tell me if there are any areas within your department, that staff or Board members, consider to be areas where transformation of delivery of services and efficiency savings could be made, but for whatever reason, these areas are considered to be 'untouchable' by staff and Board members?

B) If the answer is 'yes' can you give me a list of these 'untouchable' areas and reasons why they are considered to be 'untouchable'?

Answer

A) The Board members and management team of the Culture and Leisure Department do not consider that there are any areas that would be classed as “untouchable” in the context of the delivery of service and efficiency savings. The Board will continue to look at all the areas under its control and make savings and efficiencies whenever possible, accepting that some savings will take longer to be realised.

B) No answer necessary.

Question

The Treasury and Resources department saved £5,400 by printing the 2014 Budget in black and white instead of the usual colour version. With this in mind, I ask the following questions:

A) How much did your department spend on printing leaflets, reports and literature in general, in colour, in 2012?

B) How much would it have cost to print these same documents in black and white?

Answer

A) In 2012 the Department spent approximately £8,750 with print companies on printing colour leaflets and literature.

The Department is increasingly using commonly shared multi-functional devices in order to reduce the number of stand-alone printers which are in use and to print in-house and in black and white when possible. This is expected to reduce costs further in the future.

B) It is estimated that print costs would reduce by twenty per cent if output in black and white. However it is vital that the Department is able to market its services effectively in a

competitive environment. Consequently using black and white is not always the most effective medium. Further, the Department is increasingly seeking to use its web site and social media to market its activities and services thereby further reducing print costs.

Question

In October 2009, the Scrutiny Committee produced a report entitled 'Investigating Vandalism'. In this report, the committee set out recommendations for every States department to consider in relation to vandalism in the island. Can you give me an update on the progress that your department has made regarding these recommendations?

Answer

This question covers a broad range of issues and listed here are the main areas of the Board's involvement:

- Sport and the arts play a key role in guiding young people and giving them a recreational outlet and the Department works with both the Guernsey Sports Commission and the Guernsey Arts Commission in the provision of facilities at its sites.
- The Department has supported the Guernsey Extreme Sports Association in the construction of a skate park in Beau Sejour Park. This is proving to be extremely successful and this is an outlet for young people (and adult users too) and a popular sport. At Delancey Park the Department has worked with the Admiral De Saumarez Trust and the Constables and Douzaine of the Parish of St Sampson to facilitate the provision of outdoor exercise equipment.
- The Department's ground staff, though fewer in number than in 2009, continue to check the sites regularly and deal with any damage as promptly as possible.
- The Department's staff continue to liaise with the Education Department over the provision of dual use facilities in school developments so that the island's sports can be best served.
- The Culture and Leisure Department maintains its zero tolerance stance on vandalism (both indoor and outdoor) and will use appropriate measures such as banning perpetrators from its facilities and involving the police when this is considered necessary. At Beau Sejour, and other sites, CCTV continues to be an effective tool in curbing anti-social behaviour and making a visit to the facilities a pleasant experience for users.

Question

Bearing in mind that your department are mandated to 'advise the States on matters relating to the promotion of all sport and recreation in the island': also bearing in mind that your department are desperately in need of identifying 'new avenues of income' for Beau Sejour Leisure Centre: can you please tell me if A) There are any plans to re-introduce a cinema at the centre, even if only for a trial period? B) Re-introduce a Games Area with pinball machines, for children and teenagers, even if only for a trial period?

Answer

- A) The management team are currently investigating the potential for films to be shown in the theatre. It is planned that during 2014 discussions will take place with film distributors to

establish which films they would be prepared to hire to the Centre, the costs involved and when the films would be available relative to their release dates. The Centre's 35mm projection equipment would need to be replaced and firm costs will be obtained for the purchase of digital projection equipment if film can be brought back to the Centre.

As part of its investigations the Department will also consult with the existing providers of cinema to establish if there are mutually beneficial opportunities to work together in partnership.

- B) The management team does not believe that there is an area in the Centre which is suitable for the installation of games machines. The considerations were an area that would not impact on other users and would be able to be supervised properly.

Question

Can you tell me why the Outdoor Trim Trail at the centre was removed and are there any plans to re-introduce it, even if only for a trial period?

Answer

The majority of equipment on the Trim Trail was installed in the late 1970s and early 1980s and was constructed largely from timber in the form of used telephone poles. By the mid-1990s usage of the area had dropped off, as people moved to indoor gyms, and by the late 1990s a lot of the timber was rotten and beyond repair. In 2000 the then Recreation Committee applied to IDC to remove the remaining equipment and this work was completed by 2003. There are currently no plans to reintroduce a trim trail.

Question

Can you tell me why the former car park at the western end of Beau Sejour, which was used by softball players and footballers alike for many years, has been removed and 'grassed over' resulting in permanent parking problems for anyone playing either sport on the adjacent pitches?

Answer

The area at the western end of Beau Sejour Park was reclaimed as parkland because the wear and tear in the area had caused it to become unsightly, rutted and dangerous underfoot with cars encroaching ever further onto the grass. In addition, the Environment Department had raised concerns about the damage caused by cars to the tree roots which had become exposed. There is ample parking within the main Beau Sejour car park for softball players and footballers alike.

Date of Receipt of the Question: 19th December 2013

Date of Reply: 3rd January 2014