

## **Reasons for me to be retained on the board of LSK**

I should like to make it absolutely clear that I have treated my appointment as totally separate to my role as a Councillor and have approached the issue as I would do if appointed to any other business as a board member.

My first reaction was to question the financial management of LSK up to the date of my appointment. As I explained in my email to other members of the board, this is what I would have done in any other situation. However, this issue was addressed by the appointment of Paul Sutton (interim Finance Director) to the board and his subsequent and ongoing great work with Ash in the Finance Department.

I have also requested that the accounts be broken down by Leisure Centre to enable us to see where the successes and issues are. This has now been done and will be refined going forward.

Over the past 5 months I have brought my considerable business experience and acumen to the board and believe that I have injected energy, enthusiasm and passion into the board.

I have visited all three sites to view them and discussed the various issues/successes with the relevant personnel. I have brought to the attention of the relevant cabinet member the issues regarding maintenance issues, chief amongst these was the urgent requirement for a new boiler at the Stamford Leisure centre. This is now being addressed.

All board members were required to complete a Skills Set Assessment and it is my understanding that we are a very balanced board in terms of skills.

I am also the only member of the board who is the most experienced in terms of marketing and P/R. I requested that the current marketing company make a presentation to the board which they did in July. One of the items that was discussed was the use of the Marketing Company's use of national data for demographics. I suggested that they contact Charles to understand the SKDC demographic data which they have done. I also arranged a teams meeting with the Marketing Company and the Contracts Manager to discuss the way forward in terms of marketing and P/R. We have a great story to tell but we are not getting it out there. I also connected LSK up with the Comms team of SKDC to enable them to get any new initiatives into the public forum.

I attended the appraisal of the Contract Manager and would like to think that I made a useful contribution to this. Included in this conversation was the requirement to ensure that there will be training for the Contract Manager and other employees. We also requested that the various Centre Managers present to the board on a rotating monthly

basis so that they feel engaged with the board, and also to promote accountability (not that we feel that it is lacking).

As referred to above, I do think that the current board is a very strong and effective one. The last thing that LSK needs now is a change of leadership and would therefore urge you to consider extending my directorship. It should also be noted that this is a non-remunerated position and requires a considerable amount of my time, but as I said to the Committee when I was appointed, failure is never an option for me.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to praise the amazing work of other members of the board, who have also acted in an independent manner and who have given enormous amounts of their time to the board. I ask you to put your trust in us.

Patsy Ellis