

- (iv) the funding options to meet the projected shortfall against the 2009/10 budget were currently being investigated by the constituent authorities;
- (v) at its meeting on 2 March 2009, Plymouth City Council approved the prudential borrowing to meet the balance of funding required for additional works and £125,000 to fund the fitting out of the new commercial areas.

The Chair thanked the officer for her report.

Resolved that the report is noted.

44. **PARK PROGRESS REPORT 2008/09**

The Director for Community Services submitted a report on the park's progress 2008/09 which outlined the following issues –

- (i) visitor numbers to the Park had shown a reduction, although numbers to the House had increased;
- (ii) a total number of 3721 students had used the Park for organised activities including team building and studying the Tudors and Stuarts;
- (iii) thirty-four weddings and one naming ceremony had taken place;
- (iv) the Christmas fayre had been extremely successful and had attracted 3200 visitors over the two days;
- (v) the new branding of the Park within the heritage project was progressing;
- (vi) only two actions had not been achieved, which related to the -
 - preparation of tea room as gallery for oil paintings subject to Western Morning News collaboration;
 - preparation of tea room kitchen for display of water colours from Western Morning News collaboration.

The Chair thanked the officer for his report.

Resolved that the report is noted.

45. **OPERATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR 2009/2010 AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Director for Community Services submitted a report on the operational action plan 2009/10 and risk management, which outlined the following issues –

- (i) the action plan had been broken down into the core areas of work as follows -
 - formal areas
 - camellia collection
 - amphitheatre
 - woodlands
 - beaches and foreshore
 - footpath/signage/roads
 - costal areas
 - built environment
 - special events

- Mount Edgcumbe house and collection
 - health and safety
 - heritage project
- (ii) as previously approved by the joint committee, a condition survey was being undertaken on all the buildings within the Park which included 56 listed buildings.

The Chair thanked the officer for his report.

Resolved that the operational action plan for 2009/10 is approved and the risk management strategy that supports it is noted.

46. **FUTURE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Director of Planning, Transportation and Estates submitted a report on the future governance arrangements for the Joint Committee, which outlined the following issues –

- (i) an options appraisal had been completed which identified the advantages and disadvantages of the following three options -
- the continuation of the Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee
 - a Mount Edgcumbe Management Board and Advisory Forum
 - a Mount Edgcumbe Partnership
- (ii) the governance arrangements for Cornwall would be radically different with the operation of 'community networks' under the newly formed single tier council;
- (iii) a key aim of reviewing the governance arrangements was to enable a greater engagement with the local communities both in Plymouth and Cornwall;
- (iv) the new commercial operations would play a more pivotal role in enabling greater income to be generated to assist the revenue budgets funded by the constituent authorities;
- (v) option 3 had been identified as the proposal to replace the existing joint committee arrangements as the partnership would ensure there were opportunities for members of the two constituent authorities to directly engage with others and vice versa;
- (vi) both the constituent authorities would need to ratify the decision of the joint committee.

The following responses were provided to questions raised by the joint committee -

- (a) it was not envisaged that Option 3 would cost more to administer than the existing arrangements;
- (b) staff employed at the Mount Edgcumbe Country Park and House would remain in the employment of Plymouth City Council.

During the discussion, the following concerns were noted –

- the legal implications of the term 'partnership';
- who would be responsible for making the decision on the appointment of partners.

Recommended to the constituent authorities that -

- (1) a Mount Edgcumbe Partnership is constituted (as set out at Option 3 in the Options Appraisal report attached to the agenda);
- (2) the Mount Edgcumbe Partnership takes over the future governance of the house and country park in place of the current joint committee;
- (3) the draft terms of reference and constitution of the Partnership are drawn up jointly between the two authorities and approved by both authorities;
- (4) the Partnership comprises of a maximum of four elected councillors from each constituent authority with a maximum number of 12 partner members;
- (5) the legal implications of the term 'partnership' are investigated.

47. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

Resolved that under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

48. **PROPERTY MATTERS PROGRESS REPORT**

The Director for Community Services submitted a report which outlined the progress of property matters within the park since the last report to the Committee on 14 January 2009.

Resolved that –

- (1) a licence is granted to Trinity House to utilise an area at Penlee Point as a helicopter landing area for flights to the Eddystone Lighthouse;
- (2) a new lease is granted to the Sandways Campsite Association for part of the waterfront at Sandways, Kingsand, to commence upon the expiry of the existing lease on 24 March 2009.

(Councillor Mrs Lingard declared an interest in the above item but the joint committee allowed her to remain at the meeting whilst this item was discussed. She did not comment on the matter).