

**REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
- 10 MARCH 2003**

**REPORT ON: OUTDOOR ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES REGULATIONS – COMPETENCE
ASSESSMENTS**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 111-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the cessation of internal Council validated assessments on work competences as from 31 March 2006.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 note the application for external financial support obtained from the National Opportunities Fund for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 August 2006 to facilitate the training and assessment to National Governing Body (NGB) standards for instructors/leaders involved in the tuition of licensed outdoor adventure activities.
- 2.2 cease the practice of internal Council validation assessments on trainee instructors/leaders as from the date of above financial award.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The National Opportunities Fund Award of £65,640 applied for under the PE and Sport Programme for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 August 2006 will enable existing holders of competence awards access to training and assessment to convert such awards to full NGB recognised national standards. Some 300 NGB award places are targeted for accreditation provision. The NOF Award grant decision will be advised in April 2003.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 On 14 September 1998 the Policy & resources Committee approved Report No 692/1998 which set out the Standard Operating Procedures for the tuition of designated outdoor adventure activities. These regulations also form the basis of Service Level Agreements with specialist commercial providers of such activities contracted by the Council.
- 6.2 The Standard Operating procedures form a key base for the award of the Council's operating licence from the Adventure Activities Licensing Agency which is the body responsible for ongoing annual inspection and moderation.

- 6.3 The Council has, in common with other tuition providers, operated a trainee leader/instructor competence based assessment scheme which is administered internally by designated, qualified technical advisers/assessors. This scheme is only validated within the Council and whilst accepted by the Adventure Activities Licensing Agency, falls short of national governing body award standards and recognition.

7.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 7.1 The Council's technical advisers and specialist Support Services personnel are of the view that the existing scheme should be phased out. Subject to the award of external finance to 31 March 2006 an ideal opportunity presents itself to convert existing competence assessments into accredited national leader/instructor awards at no cost to the participant for training or assessment fees.
- 7.2 Due to the national award regulations it is felt that a transition period of up to 3 years should enable all competence holders to make the necessary transition with no interruptions to existing tuition commitments.
- 7.3 The Ancrum Outdoor Education Centre is part of a local geographical consortium of Centres who are able to facilitate localised accredited training and assessment courses.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 These proposals will allow personnel increased opportunities to staff development opportunities which will in turn provide increased provision for participants to access outdoor adventure activities tuition from a variety of Council service Departments.
- 8.2 The initiative will also strengthen the Council's safety management within this activity area and gain the unqualified backing of the Adventure Activities Licensing Agency.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The Chief Executive, Directors of Finance, Education, Personnel & Management Services, Leisure and Arts and Social Work have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this Report.

The Council's Outdoor Adventure Activities Safety Group designated technical advisers and the Adventure Activities Licensing Agency have also confirmed their support.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 The following background paper as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 was relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report.

Report No 692/1998 Outdoor Adventure Activities Regulations, Policy & Resources Committee 14 September 1998.

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27 February 2003

ADB/AHPH