

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,
KIDDERMINSTER

21ST FEBRUARY 2012 (6.00 PM)

Present:

Councillors: J-P Campion, N J Desmond, M J Hart, T L Onslow and J Phillips.

Observers:

Councillors: H E Dyke, F M Oborski, M A Salter and J A Shaw.

CAB.92 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.93 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.104 Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, 8th and 9th February 2012

a. Future Arrangements for the Management of Sports and Leisure Centre

Members were informed that this item had been deferred from the last Cabinet meeting in order for Scrutiny to look at further information that had been received. During the course of the meeting, concerns had been raised but Members had the opportunity to ask pertinent and searching questions.

The Committee were thanked for their work on the topic and Members felt that it should be something that the Council should be proud of. It was pointed out that at the beginning of the exercise, it had not been the Council's intention to build a new leisure centre but it had become apparent during the scrutiny exercise, that a new build was the most viable option. Moreover, if the current facility was maintained then there would have to be a capital investment of £8.8m over the next 20 years and together with the need to have a 25m swimming pool and upgrading of a gym this could increase considerably and this was also with installing any new energy devices, e.g. solar panels and ground source heat pumps. No five-a-side football facilities would be able to be held and there was a possibility of an increase in the management fee. It was also thought a new build would increase the number of people using the facilities. It was anticipated that approximately £40,000 per annum of costs could be saved with a new build. It was also agreed that any final decision be made by Cabinet on the site to be purchased.

The Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being agreed to circulate to all Members details on the financial information which had culminated in the recommendations being made.

Decision:

- 1. In order to meet the future needs of the District as this is the most affordable and sustainable option a new leisure centre based on Option 3, including a swimming pool, should be progressed,**
- 2. That to enable the provision of at least one swimming pool in the District by the Council until such time as a new leisure centre is built, that the current contract with DC Leisure be extended for 3 years, with an option to terminate at 6 months notice.**
- 3. Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre closure will be the earliest of:**
 - (a) when a new leisure centre is complete; or**
 - (b) if the site needs to be vacated in order to allow its development by any purchaser of the site; or**
 - (c) the end of the 3 year extension to the current contract in March 2016;**
but not before 30th September 2013 in any case.
- 4. Stourport Sports Centre will cease to be operated by Wyre Forest District Council when the new leisure centre is complete or at the end of the 3 year extension to the current contract in March 2016 if an asset transfer has not been possible and that further consideration should be given for the continued use of the site for community sport (not to exclude use by any commercial sports providers).**
- 5. The transfer of Bewdley Leisure Centre and playing fields should be secured and a negotiated withdrawal from the dual use agreement.**
- 6. The Director of Planning and Regulatory Services and the Director of Legal and Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Well-being be authorised to enter into negotiations for the acquisition of a suitable site for the new leisure centre, with the final decision on acquisition to be taken by Cabinet.**
- 7. Following acquisition of the site the appropriate Directors in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Well Being, commence the procurement exercise using the restricted procedure for a Design Build Operate Maintain (DBOM) contract for the build and operation of the new leisure centre.**
- 8. That the Capital and Revenue Budgets associated with Option 3 as set out in Section 5.3 of the report and Exempt Appendix 2 be approved and included in Cabinet's final budget strategy proposals in February (exact phasing to be confirmed together with final costs following site acquisition and competitive procurement).**