



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
13 January 2009

ITEM 17

Report of the Corporate Director of
Environmental Services

**Feasibility Study – Sport, Recreation and Leisure Facilities -
appointment of consultants**

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the current position with regard to council-owned sport and leisure facilities, and in particular, the need to modernise and upgrade provision for the future. In order to identify preferred options for future service delivery in line with the Council's objectives the report seeks Cabinet approval to procure a suitably qualified and experienced, independent Leisure Consultant to undertake a review and report their findings and recommendations..

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the procurement of Leisure Consultants to work with the Council to produce a feasibility study to inform future decisions on the future provision of council leisure and sports facilities.
- 2.2 To request the Director of Environmental Services to report the key findings and recommendations to Cabinet at its July 2009 meeting.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Council would benefit from independent external advice with expertise and direct experience of similar, complex feasibility studies.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 The current position – Leisure and sports facilities

The Council currently manages and operates four Leisure Centres namely Moorways Sports Complex, Queens Leisure Centre, Springwood Leisure Centre, Shaftsbury Sports Centre and operates a joint use agreement with Derby College. Many of the Council Leisure Centres are old and moving beyond their natural design life.

Due to competing capital priorities the Council's facilities have not received planned maintenance and refurbishment and deterioration is accelerating and the risk of partial or full closure is increasing. In 2006, the Council avoided the total closure of Lancaster Sports Centre by transferring the management and maintenance responsibilities to Derby Gymnastics Club.

Over the past two years, key facilities at Moorways and Queens Leisure Centres have had to close in order to carry out repairs and maintenance. The Moorways running track will become unusable at its current level from 2011 unless a minimum of £600,000 is spent on resurfacing and reconstruction.

Leisure Centre condition surveys highlighted the financial challenges faced by the service in order to refurbish, modernise or replace the existing facility mix provided by the City Council. In 2005 the surveys revealed that the Council would need to initially find £6.9 million for basic refurbishment of the existing stock of council facilities, £20.9 million for modernisation and £52.3 million to rebuild. (like for like).

Although, in the short term the Council has identified funding for investment in Health and Fitness facilities at Springwood Leisure Centre, the Council needs to develop a long term plan and vision for the service.

The Way Forward

As part of a Best Value Review undertaken in November 2004 a number of plans and assessments were undertaken on existing supply and demand of sport and leisure facilities. The feasibility study will use these plans, assessments and surveys to develop the options for the next twenty years. It will also need to consider a number of issues and opportunities that have the potential to contribute to the next generation of facilities including;

- Building Schools for the Future proposals
- Opportunities for co location with the public or voluntary sector
- Community use of schools.
- Coordinated Programming of facilities
- The concept of a city centre facility with local satellite sports facilities.

The requirement for a feasibility study is driven by a number of factors:

1. The City is in the process of securing funding for the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme and we will need to identify how these plans can help develop a local network of community sports facilities along side plans to develop the City Council's Leisure and Sports Facilities.
2. There is a need to replace, refurbish or rationalise many of the City's ageing sport and leisure facility stock, and look at developing more efficient and sustainable facilities that contribute to the regeneration of the City and that dovetail with plans for BSF and partners plans for developing sport, recreation and physical activity.
3. Over the past three years the Council has made significant progress in leading a partnership approach to increasing sport, recreation and physical activity participation. b active has cultivated new thinking amongst partners and has opened up new ways of working with internal and external partners and it's important that this is built in to our future plans.
4. To assist the Council in achieving Government and LAA targets associated with the level of participation in sport and physical activity amongst Children and young people and adult participation in sport and active recreation.
5. The City Council enjoys a strong relationship with the Primary Care Trust and we are working together on commissioning a comprehensive lifestyle service that looks at intervention and treatment relating to physical activity and diet. Opportunities to expand these services in to the network of new facilities will need to be considered.
6. With the exception of Springwood Leisure Centre the remaining Council run Leisure facilities fall short of expected standards, the design and layout does not support efficient running of modern sports facilities and we are nearing a position where clear decisions need to be made as to their future. In view of this it's important that we establish an agreed vision for the Service and a plan on how we will invest revenue and released capital into new or existing provision provided by the Council or by others including Schools, National Governing Bodies of Sport, and Sports Clubs.
7. The Council recognises the key role in providing facilities for swimming and athletics. The study will need to examine how any future plans can help develop these key sports in conjunction with the club and performance structures we have in place in Derby.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Although officers could undertake this work it was felt that there was not sufficient capacity or expertise in strategic leisure provision and as the scope seeks new radical approaches to provision and sustainability the use of specialists in this area is considered extremely important to ensure new ways of working both within the United Kingdom and abroad are considered in this proposal.

For more information contact:	Name 01332 XXXXXX e-mail xxx.xxx@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The cost of the feasibility study is likely to be in the region of £50,000; this will need to be found from Environmental Services budgets.

Legal

- 2.1 There are no legal implications

Personnel

- 3.1 There are no direct personnel implications, although offices within the Division will need to manage the project and support the appointed consultants.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The Council's facilities need to be able to provide adequate access and opportunities to all of Derby's communities and to visitors.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The report contributes to the corporate objective that we would want our 'Community to become healthy, active and independent'.