

Time Commenced – 6:00 pm  
Time Finished – 7.30 pm

## **Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Review Board**

**20 October 2020**

Present: Councillor Russell (Chair)  
Councillors Carr, Pearce and West

In Attendance: Councillors P Pegg and Wood  
Claire Davenport – Director of Leisure and Culture  
Wayne Sills – Area Manager Leisure Centres  
Matt Palmer – Head of Housing Options and Homelessness  
Phil Taylor – Operations Manager, Derby Rough Sleepers  
Service  
Karen Brierley – Principal Housing Development Manager

### **09/20 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Evans and McCristal.

### **10/20 Late Items**

The Board agreed that the next meeting of the Board would be held on 18 January 2021 at 6pm, this was due to a clash of meeting on the scheduled date.

Members of the Communities Board had been invited to the meeting to hear a presentation on the Moorways Sport Village.

### **11/20 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **12/20 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

### **13/20 Moorways Sports Village**

The Board considered a presentation on progress with the Moorways Sports Village.

The facility would create an exciting leisure destination for the city. The project received planning consent in 2018 and the approved capital budget for the project was £42m. The Council appointed Bowmer and Kirkland as the construction contractor. The Derbyshire-based firm have a track-record of

delivering major leisure projects such as Derby Arena, which was completed on time and within budget.

At Moorways Sports Village there would be a 50m, 10 lane swimming pool, a learner pool and a water park as well as gym and exercise facilities, soft play, meeting rooms and a cafe.

The 50m swimming pool was one of only a few pools of this size in the country. It had state of the art moveable floors and walls altering the depth and shape of the pool to maximise the programme opportunities. It would provide ease of access for people with disabilities. There would be 450 spectator seats and 300 competitor seats.

The Learner Pool had internal blinds allowing 'private' sessions for example women/girls; people with disabilities, learn to swim and school children.

The extensive gym would have up to 120 exercise stations and a great range of equipment. There would be three studios including an indoor cycling studio.

The exciting soft play facility would cater for young families and children and has slides, climbing frames, a ball pit and interactive features. The venue aimed to help customers improve physical and mental health as we had seen through the success of our Livewell Service.

Benchmarking had been undertaken for the Water Park by looking and talking with operators at Sandcastle Water Park in Blackpool, the Splash Park at Huddersfield Leisure Centre and Corby International Pool.

The design of the pool level enabled it to open up and link all the pools together providing a unique swimming experience for the whole family – from the slides and rides in the Water Park, to floats and toys in the Learner Pool through to the Atlantis Splash Run in the 50m Pool.

The water park had a number of attractions, including the dual Racer Slides and Body Slides. The WoW Ball and waver rider slide were the first in England.

The splash pad had a number of water jets that spray up from the floor. The beach area made it easy for older and disabled people to access the water safely. There was also an interactive water play structure for younger children with tipping buckets and sprinklers etc.

Photographs showed construction was well underway and stakeholders had been engaged in the design of the venue. They included Voice in Action, Learning Disability Partnership Board, Deaf Forum, Disability Hub, Aquatics Clubs, Derby Athletics Club and residents. The feedback had been invaluable and thanks to all was noted.

The opening of Moorways Sports Village would be spring 2022 as planned.

The facility would have a key role in supporting the economic recovery of the city. Construction has continued in a Covid-19 safe way, throughout the

lockdown and there are currently around 100 people working on site. As construction continues the site would continue to provide employment to a number of trades.

The venue would provide employment opportunities for more customer service staff, cleaners, lifeguards and swimming teachers.

From an events perspective there was an opportunity to further raise the profile and reputation of Derby with regional swimming and new aquatic competitions etc. It would also promote the city and encourage people to stay over to see local attractions such as the Silk Mill Museum etc.

A Member of the Board asked about the running track and stadium adjacent to the site. It was reported that this was still in use and had been upgraded over the last few years; refurbishment of the athletics facilities in 2012/13, more recently boilers replaced and structural work carried out on the grandstand. There had been a good events season last year, though it was noted that the pandemic had understandably affected this years events. The Council works closely with the Athletics Club to bring events to Derby and it was anticipated that the new sports village would attract more people to the athletics events.

A Member of the Board welcomed the update and asked about the how far the newsletter referred to in the report was circulated, how much delays had cost, if the Spring 2022 date for opening was likely to change and whether the project would still be delivered within budget.

It was reported that the newsletter was produced by the building contractor it was distributed to residents that back on to the development. The officer would check how far the newsletters were distributed. It was currently anticipated that the project would be delivered on time and on budget.

It was reported that the small delay that had occurred so far were related to storms and floods earlier in the year affecting the groundworks on site and the effects of the pandemic was slowing down some progress, though this was being managed well by the contractor. There was still the possibility of some betterment of time going forward against some of the remaining construction milestones.

The opening date had moved from the old scheme due to design changes being made to enhance the Water Park element of the project. This was to make the facility more exciting for use by local communities and those from around the region for many decades to come. The opening date of spring 2022 for Moorways Sports Village was the only date that had been set for the new scheme and was still on track to be met.

It was reported by a Member of the Board that hoardings at the site had previously said the opening would be 2020. It was clarified that was at the time that the old scheme was being progressed and was not the case for the new scheme.

An explanation of how the contingency budget for the project was made up was given. Members of the Board requested that the specific details be circulated to them after the meeting on the overall budget headlines.

In relation to the contingency element of the budget this amounted to 5% of the budget. The Chair asked if the current delay due to flooding and the pandemic would be covered by the contingency fund. It was reported that this was the case. Currently, despite the challenges of the storms, flooding and Covid-19, the contingency budget was not overspent.

A question was raised by a Member of the Communities Board about if the £13m for the Assembly Rooms was part of the £42m capital budget for the Moorways Sports Village? Officers felt it was not, though agreed to clarify that level of detail and circulate it to Members of the Board.

A question was asked about if there would be any impact on the Arena from the health and fitness programme at the Moorways Sports Village. It was reported that the provision of the gym was based on an early latent demand report and showed there was sufficient demand at that time for both venues.

### **Resolved**

- 1. To note the report and thank officers for the comprehensive presentation.**
- 2. To request details of where the newsletters were circulated.**
- 3. To request information on the overall budget headlines for the project and what had been spent to date be circulated to Members of the Board.**
- 4. To clarify the position in relation to whether the £13m for the Assembly Rooms is part of the capital budget for the project and circulate it to Members of the Board.**

## **14/20      Update on Next Steps Accommodation Provision for Homeless People and Rough Sleepers**

The Board received a presentation which gave an update on the Next Steps Accommodation Provision for Homeless People and Rough Sleepers.

The presentation explained that the next steps accommodation programme followed the Governments 'Everyone in' initiative and sought to provide continued emergency accommodation and sustainable move-on accommodation for individuals brought in from rough sleeping in response to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Derby was one of a few areas that had managed to move clients from the hotel into a range of settled and supported housing. 143 unique individuals had stayed at the holiday inn express, 71 had moved to supported accommodation and housing, 16 had moved to settled housing, 5 had been supported to

return home and 51 had voluntarily left or been asked to leave. The hotel closed on 19 June 2020.

An explanation as given on what had been learned from the initiative. A bid for £1.2m capital funding matched by a further £1.2m of retained HRA funds had been agreed to purchase 20 new properties for rough sleepers. £455k revenue funding for 3.25 years to support for the new properties, £61,800 for emergency accommodation, £19,382 for Private Rented Sector (PRS) accommodation and support and £40k for winter provision.

20 properties had been identified and were progressing to purchase. This had been achieved by joint working from a range of departments across the Council and Derby Homes.

The Chair stated that this was nothing short of exceptional for the delivery of this project. Members of the Board echoed the sentiments.

**Resolved to note the presentation and thank everyone involved for the work undertaken.**

## 15/20      Remit, Work Programme and Topic Reviews

The Board considered a report which allowed the Board to study its Terms of Reference and Remit for the forthcoming Municipal Year. The report also allowed officers to inform the Board of any key work areas, issues or potential topic review subjects within the service areas for discussion or inclusion in the work programme.

In relation to the topic review the Board requested officers be invited to the January 2021 meeting of the Board to

- Establish how many new affordable homes were being built in Derby by developers and the progress of new homes being built by Derby Homes.
- Establish if the trigger point in developments to provide affordable housing could be reduced. If not could developers be required to provide a contribution in lieu which could then be pooled to allow the Council to use the money to build affordable homes.

**Resolved to approve with work programme with the addition of evidence for the topic review to be heard at the January 2021 meeting of the Board.**

## 16/20      Items Referred from the Executive Scrutiny Board

There were no items referred from the Executive Scrutiny Board.

MINUTES END