

Time started	1.53pm
Time ended	2.24pm

Urgent Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Meeting

21 April 2016

Present: Councillor Banwait

In attendance: Councillors Care, Poulter, Rawson and Repton

Officers present: Christine Durrant (Strategic Director of Communities and Place), Janie Berry (Director of Governance), Martyn Marples (Director of Finance), Claire Davenport (Director of Leisure and Culture), Phil Derbyshire (Head of Property Design and Maintenance), Phil Massey (Team Leader, Structures, Design and Bridges).

31/15 Apologies

There were no apologies.

32/15 Late Items

There were no late items.

**33/15 Identification of urgent items to which call-in
 would not apply**

The item under consideration (detailed at minute 36/15) was a key decision. It was confirmed that consent had been granted from the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Board for the matter to be exempted from call-in. Following a question by a councillor, it was confirmed that the matter was exempted from call-in due to the urgency.

34/15 Declarations of interest

There were none.

35/15 Exclusion of Press and Public

It was proposed that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following item under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, due to commercial sensitivity.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, approval had been sought, and obtained, from the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Overview and Scrutiny Board for the matter to be considered in private despite 28 days' notice not having been given due to the urgency.

Resolved that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Key Decision

36/15 Queens Leisure Centre – Urgent Repairs Not Funded From the Capital Programme

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, approval had been sought, and obtained, from the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Overview and Scrutiny Board for the 'Key Decision' to be considered despite 28 days' notice not having been given due to the urgency.

A report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place requested consent to approve the appointment of a contractor to undertake urgent works to Queens Leisure Centre. The report also sought approval for £550,000 to be allocated from the budget risk reserve for the works. Following questions by members, it was confirmed the allocation included a contingency budget.

Councillors were updated on the decline of the roof structure at Queen's Leisure Centre following the fracture of a roof truss. It was reported that its rapid and sudden deterioration had led to the closure of the leisure centre. A proposed 14-week contract would enable the repairs to be carried out, with a view to reopening the rest of the leisure centre by 20 June and re-opening the affected family pool at the conclusion of the repairs.

Following questions by councillors, it was confirmed that all options were being looked at to ensure swimming facility provision, but the immediate priority was on making the building safe and useable as quickly as possible.

Options considered

1. Do nothing and allow the roof to fail. This was a high-risk option as the mechanism of failure was not fully understood as close inspection of the roof truss and its fixings had not been possible due to the structural damage. The worst case scenario if a roof collapse occurred was that it would push out part of the external walls or damage the pool tank. Air conditioning units on the roof would fall inwardly and potentially damage the pool tank and pool sides. This would result in the Family Pool not reopening;
2. Provide support to the failing roof. This would secure time to procure a contractor through open market conditions. This had been explored

but was no longer considered to be a safe option as the council could not allow people to work below the area of roof.

Decisions

1. To approve the appointment of Bowmer and Kirkland to undertake urgent works to the Family Pool roof as detailed in the report, in accordance with rule 57.4 of the Contract Procedure Rules;
2. To approve that £550,000 is used from the Council's budget risk reserves to fund the project.

Reason

The works needed to be undertaken urgently to avoid the failure of a section of the roof as this could lead to consequential damage to the building walls, pool tank and pool sides. The cost of such additional failure would likely be high in terms of the remedial construction works and the damage to the reputation of the Council.

MINUTES END