

DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 13 SEPTEMBER 2006

QUESTIONS AND REPLIES UNDER PROCEDURE RULE CP25

EXTRACT

3. Question from Councillor Harbon

“On 19 July Council agreed to ask Cabinet to consult for 12 weeks on the principle of closure of the Lancaster Sports Centre. This was accepted at the next meeting of the Cabinet on 1st August. Who has been involved in this consultation so far and how is it progressing?”

Reply by Councillor Graves, Council Cabinet Member for Leisure and Direct Services

Thank you Councillor Harbon for your question although I do believe you are being mischievous in the way you phrase your question. First of all, you will be aware that I have tried very hard to explain that consultation is really the wrong terminology. Misleading the public is not what I am about and no doubt your party will misconstrue my words within your dubious publications. I have never said we would consult on the principle of closure but that I would consult the private sector about running the centre for us. This is the essence of the motion and this is what I have done.

I would like to praise the Sports and Leisure Division team who have consulted with 46 different user groups about relocation. 38 groups have opted to take up alternate accommodation in other leisure facilities rather than await the decision on the future of Lancaster Sports Centre. Some groups are awaiting the final decision.

All Lancaster Sports staff have also been appraised of the situation.

Advertisements inviting expressions of interest from organisations interested in taking on the responsibility for running Lancaster Sports Centre were placed in the Derby Evening Telegraph and Leisure Opportunities. Six organisations responded to the adverts and requested information that has been supplied to them. Two other groups directly contacted the Sports and Leisure division. The deadline for submission of expressions of interest is 19 September and a report will be brought to Council Cabinet on 3 October.

END

M A Foote

**Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services
and Deputy Chief Executive**

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