

Time commenced - 6.00 pm
Time finished - 9.42 pm

**MINUTE EXTRACT
COUNCIL MEETING
19 JULY 2006**

31/06 Notices of Motion

3. *Lancaster Sports Centre*

It was moved by Councillor Hickson, and seconded, that Council notes with dismay the proposed closure of Lancaster Sports Centre especially as it is very well used by the public, has been recently expensively refurbished, is in a prime city centre location and provides the best disabled facilities in the city.

Whilst Council acknowledges that budgetary pressures are always a problem, the obvious solution for Lancaster Sports Centre is surely to put it out to competitive tender and allow the private sector to manage it on behalf of the Council.

Management of the Chapel Street car park could also be included in the same tender if this makes a more viable tender package.

Council therefore requests Cabinet to make immediate arrangements to:

1. Halt plans to close the centre and immediately put the management of the Lancaster Sports Centre out to competitive tender
2. Consider a "Parksafe" option similar to the hugely successful scheme at Bold Lane and package it with the Sports Centre tender if this makes the Sports Centre tender more viable.

It was moved by Councillor Graves, and seconded, that the motion be amended by the deletion of the words "dismay", "the public, has been recently expensively refurbished, is in a prime city centre location and provide the best disabled facilities in the city", the obvious", "surely", "put it out to competitive tender and allow", "on behalf of the Council", "Management of the Chapel Street car park could also be included in the same tender if this makes a more viable tender package", "Halt plans to close the centre and immediately put the", "out to competitive tender" and "2. Consider a "Parksafe" option similar to the hugely successful scheme at Bold Lane and package it with the Sports Centre tender if this makes the Sports Centre tender more viable" and the insertion of the words "regret", "a variety of sports users including disabled people", "one", "invite expressions of interest from" and "Invite expressions of interest for the".

(The effect of the amendment, if approved, was that the motion would read as follows:

"Council notes with regret the proposed closure of Lancaster Sports Centre especially as it is very well used by a variety of sports users including disabled people.

Whilst Council acknowledges that budgetary pressures are always a problem, one solution for Lancaster Sports Centre is to invite expressions of interest from the private sector to manage it.

Council therefore requests Cabinet to make immediate arrangements to invite expressions of interest for the management of the Lancaster Sports Centre.”)

The amendment was put to the meeting and carried on the casting vote of the Mayor.

Councillor Hickson proposed to move an amendment the effect of which would have been to include in the motion paragraph 2 of the original motion which had been deleted on amendment. In accordance with Rule CP64, this could only be done with the support of at least one third of the Council members. The Mayor asked the Council to indicate its support for Councillor Hickson’s proposal and fewer than 17 members indicated their support. Accordingly Councillor Hickson could not put his amendment to the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Care, and seconded, that the motion be further amended by the deletion of the last paragraph and the insertion in its place of the words “Council notes the lack of consultation over the proposed closure as opposed to alternative arrangements for users. Council therefore agrees to ask Cabinet to suspend any decision on the closure until consultation on the principle of closure has taken place for a minimum of 12 weeks (the Government’s recommended period for public consultation).”

The amendment was put to the meeting and carried.

Resolved that Council notes with regret the proposed closure of Lancaster Sports Centre especially as it is very well used by a variety of sports users including disabled people.

Whilst Council acknowledges that budgetary pressures are always a problem, one solution for Lancaster Sports Centre is to invite expressions of interest from the private sector to manage it.

Council notes the lack of consultation over the proposed closure as opposed to alternative arrangements for users. Council therefore agrees to ask Cabinet to suspend any decision on the closure until consultation on the principle of closure has taken place for a minimum of 12 weeks (the Government’s recommended period for public consultation).

END