

Salisbury Area Board 20 January 2011

Chairman's Announcements

Outcome of the Leisure Facilities Review

Wiltshire Council's cabinet has considered the results of the extensive consultation exercise undertaken between July and October and approved a refined proposal which shall;

- Retain a strategic view and ensure that the indoor leisure facilities are a key component of the emerging community campus programme.
- Ensure that the indoor leisure facility service in Wiltshire will be enhanced which creates more opportunities for local people to actively pursue a healthy lifestyle.
- Give a clear message about the Council's commitment to providing high quality and efficient local services.
- Deliver a refined proposal that has been directly shaped by local people.

The refined proposals as set out in the report will provide;

- The specification for new leisure facilities in Trowbridge, Melksham, Warminster and Durrington/Amesbury as part of the wider campus development project.
- Improvements to Devizes Leisure Centre, Five Rivers in Salisbury, The Activity Zone in Malmesbury, Marlborough Leisure Centre and Tidworth Leisure Centre as part of the Workplace Transformation Programme.
- For an indoor Bowls facility to be included as part of a Campus facility in Melksham.
- For the provision of a grant of £400K to the Wiltshire School of Gymnastics in Melksham.

The Council has been clear about its proposals to transfer some of the local facilities to the community to manage. The Council will now consider the proposal to transfer these facilities in a wider strategic context to enable it to assess the impact of a potential transfer alongside other council buildings and services. This will enable the Council to consider the practicalities and options for wider campus developments.

Whilst the investigations into campus opportunities are completed, the Council will not be looking to alternative management arrangements for indoor leisure facilities as a single service. The Council's approach is intended to retain community involvement in the campus development project as it is recognised that local input is critical to success.

This refined proposal for leisure acts as a pre-cursor to a report that the Workplace Transformation Team shall present to Cabinet in the early part of 2011. This report will set out the high level principles behind a sustainable and affordable campus development project and consider the financial implications associated with this refined proposal for leisure.

The Council will continue the on-going dialogue which has already been established with local community groups regarding the local management of facilities.