



Trowbridge Area Board Campus Working Group TABCWG Report to the Area Board January 2018

Meetings with Alliance Leisure Sport England & WC

On 5th December a meeting was held between members of TABCWG with Alliance Leisure, Sport England and members of WC including Tim Martiensson from Economic Regeneration and the Director of Sports Development.

Presentation of the draft report

Key elements of the draft report were presented.

1. Process

Alliance Leisure had worked with Sport England to trial a new approach to assessing the leisure needs of a locality. A wide range of data had been used as well as consultation with local people and stakeholders. The condition and levels of use of existing facilities had also been taken into account.

2. Key Proposals

The conclusion based on this needs assessment was that it was important to reach young people and also those who were currently not participating in leisure activity. On this basis the following were proposed

- A large fitness element to provide a sound financial basis
- Multi-use activity spaces for young people and the community
- Multi-use meeting and learning spaces
- Adventure play
- Soft play

The report also looked at the provision of a swimming pool and tenpin bowling as additional options. It concluded that both would add significantly to the cost without generating enough additional revenue. This was partly because it was felt the facilities would have to be added later.

3. Financial viability

The cost of the facility proposed above was around £12 million and would itself require an investment from WC.

Reaction from the Group

Representatives of TAB welcomed the thoroughness and detailed work that had been done but were disappointed with the facilities that were being proposed that fall far short of the original proposals made in 2013. Whilst recognising that the current financial situation is difficult the point was made that a decision to invest capital into the project is a political one as was the decision to invest capital in Corsham,



Salisbury, Melksham and the other campuses. The group asked that all the proposals including the swimming pool and tenpin bowling should be put to Cabinet.

Progress with the Site

An application for outline planning permission had been submitted and sent back for more work to be done. It would be heard again in March. The NHS are proceeding with the development of a business plan for the primary care centre which will need approval at national level.

Apologies for the lack of detail above but the author is still waiting for notes of the meeting, a copy of the presentation and of the final report.

Colin Kay
January 2018