



**Trowbridge Area Board Campus Working Group TABCWG
Report to the Area Board March 2018**

Meeting of TABCWG

TABCWG held a meeting on Wednesday 24th January. Notes of the meeting are attached.

Change of Name

As the term 'Campus' is essentially defunct TABCWG would like to propose to the Trowbridge Area Board that the group's name should be changed to Trowbridge Area Board Wellbeing Centre Development Group.

Proposal

TABCWG believes that it is essential for all groups in Trowbridge should be united in pursuing the facilities which the town needs. It invites the Area board to adopt the following proposal already agreed by Trowbridge Town Council.

The Trowbridge Area Board welcomes the proposals for the redevelopment of County Hall East at Bythesea Road, incorporating a health facility, retail and residential elements, new footways and bridges linking the site to the town centre and proposals for a new indoor active leisure facility providing gym, activity spaces and youth facilities as well supporting the inclusion of a swimming pool within the development, and will work with Wiltshire Council and others to realise the opportunity and ensure that once developed the facility is managed for the benefit of the local community in conjunction with other local leisure facilities, both indoor and outdoor.

Future Meetings

TABCWG is seeking

1. A meeting with WC to discuss alternative approaches to the configuration of the East wing site. This will take place on Thursday 8th March
2. A meeting with Alliance Leisure once the full report is in the public domain. There has been no response to this request and there has not yet been any indication that the report has been published.

Colin Kay
March 2018



Trowbridge Area Board Campus Working Group

Notes of a meeting held at Trowbridge Civic Centre on Wednesday 24th January

Present

Cllr Peter Fuller (PF), Cllr Deborah Halik (DH), Cllr David Halik (DA), Cllr Edward Kirk (EK), Cllr Steve Oldrieve (SO), Lance Allen Trowbridge Town Clerk (LA), David Baker (DB), Martin Cooper (MC), Paula Drew (PD), Kendrick Jackson (KJ), Colin Kay (CK), John Knight (JK)

Apologies

Hayley Bell, Cllr Stuart Palmen

Name of the Group

CK proposed the word campus should be removed from the group's name as it is no longer current. This was agreed although an alternative was not discussed. A proposal should be made to the next TAB.

Draft Proposal

- CK had circulated the presentation in advance and LA projected key slides. CK explained the final report was now with WC for internal review but had not yet been made public. It is not yet on the WC Cabinet forward plan.
- CK went through the facilities on the dry side. The main element missing from the original proposal was the lack of a large sports hall. That is because it is suggested that existing school sports halls provide sufficient capacity for badminton, basketball etc. DH and DA expressed concern about the inclusion of the fitness suite. SO explained that this was essential to generate income. DA expressed the view facilities should be provided for the benefit of the community not to generate income. There was a concern about the lack of provision of indoor facilities for the elderly who prefer to exercise during the day when school sports halls would not be available. Questions were also raised about the climbing aspect. CK explained that this was not a climbing wall. Overall the group accepted the proposal.
- There was then a discussion about whether a swimming pool should be included. Whilst in general the group felt that Trowbridge did need a new pool there were two major concerns;
 - Cost – there is a concern that the additional cost makes it unrealistic. LA's view is that part of the additional cost is because of the proposals for the site which mean the height of the building would have to be raised to accommodate the pool. He felt the site could accommodate the pool without the need for that if the site was configured differently. In addition the need to phase the build to add the pool later also makes



it more expensive. KJ felt looking at repayment over a longer period as is common in public service projects could reduce the cost.

- Impact on the Clarendon pool. If there was a new pool the financial support for the Clarendon pool would be withdrawn and it would have to close because it would be too expensive for the school to run. This would mean the loss of the diving pit. This loss would impact on swimming at the school and on the primary schools that use it. The pool is 22 years old. The refurbishment included in the proposal would prolong its life for probably another 10 years. If a new pool was needed then there would be no central site.
- There were questions about the current use of the pool and how much more use there might be if there was a new pool even if the Clarendon one closed.

Next Steps

- CK made it clear that any proposal would require capital investment by WC in Trowbridge. This would be a political decision. To persuade Cabinet to make this investment Trowbridge would need to mount an intelligent campaign. That would depend on the WC councillors on TAB and the Town Council being united. SO proposed that the group should endorse the position taken by the Town Council and propose at the March Area Board that TAB should do the same.

The wording is

- : **The Trowbridge Area Board welcomes the proposals for the redevelopment of County Hall East at Bythesea Road, incorporating a health facility, retail and residential elements, new footways and bridges linking the site to the town centre and proposals for a new indoor active leisure facility providing gym, activity spaces and youth facilities as well supporting the inclusion of a swimming pool within the development, and will work with Wiltshire Council and others to realise the opportunity and ensure that once developed the facility is managed for the benefit of the local community in conjunction with other local leisure facilities, both indoor and outdoor.**

After some discussion proposal was put to the vote. This was approved with 11 in favour and 2 abstentions.

- CK proposed that the group should seek a meeting with Alliance Leisure once the report was made public. This was agreed.



Trowbridge Area Board Campus Working Group

- Information was needed on the level of WC investment in other communities via the campus programme. EK submitted a freedom of information request for this.
- CK was asked to prepare a document sending out the main arguments and evidence for an integrated indoor leisure facility including swimming pool on the East Wing site. CK will produce a draft and circulate it for others to add to.

Any Other Business None

Date of the next meeting To be circulated once the final report is made public and Alliance Leisure have proposed dates.