

A Community Campus for Corsham

This information sheet accompanies a presentation to be made at the Corsham Area Board on Wednesday 27 April 2011, where the Area Board will consider local views and may propose an approach to securing a community campus proposal for the Corsham community area.

Context

A community campus is a building, or buildings, in a community area that will provide the services the local community needs in an accessible location. Core services would be provided alongside the provision of specific services tailored to local requirements. Core service criteria include shared reception, community space, accessible IT provision, personal care facilities and café and catering facilities.

The re-provision of services in one location reduces the long term financial, environmental and operational pressures on operating ageing, low quality buildings. For example efficient new buildings can attract operational savings and a reduction in carbon emissions of up to 35%.

In addition the development of a community campus creates opportunities to secure the sustainable future of high-quality local services and the process of community consultation and engagement provides the conduit through which local communities can directly influence those services provided for them.

A variety of benefits arise from the co-location of services in one building, ranging from extended opening hours, increased multi-purpose visits and the sustainable and efficient operation of facilities.

The Council currently operates services from a number of the sites in the Corsham Community Area or owns buildings where other services are operated from. The current working proposal considers the relocation and/or provision of the following:

- Corsham Library
- Corsham Registration Outstation (service provided at the Town Hall)
- Springfield Leisure Centre
- The Mansion House (Youth Development Centre)
- Corsham Community Centre (operated by the Corsham Community Association)

The proposal considers the re-provision of the above services within a new community campus for Corsham, in addition to services that are currently not available but where a future need is identified. In addition there are opportunities for partner organisations and the voluntary and community sector to make use of facilities and services.

To clarify, the proposal does not recommend the re-location of all services or buildings that the Council owns in the community area, for example schools, children's centre or the Box Library.

The Proposal

An options appraisal was carried out to firstly identify the specification for the services to be provided within a theoretical community campus proposal for Corsham. This was combined with the findings from the first round of community consultation carried out by the Corsham Community Area Network (CCAN) under the instruction of the Corsham Area Board and resulted in the following broad proposal:

It is proposed that the following facilities and services be provided for the Corsham Community Area within a newly built and refurbished community campus attached to the existing Springfield Leisure Centre:

- Reception for all services and facilities and offering advice on other council services
- Leisure centre – a refurbishment and enhancement of the existing facilities to incorporate 25m pool plus ancillary facilities, 4 court sports hall, multi-activity sports rooms, fitness suite, squash courts and associated ancillary facilities
- Library including improved IT suite for community internet access
- Facilities and services for young people, including community recording facilities
- A variety of multi-purpose meeting/resource rooms for community, partner and council use
- Community café and licensed catering facilities
- Crèche
- Personal care room(s) (i.e. for disabled people and their carers)
- Desk and office space for community based Council and partner staff – to include provision for the community to meet with council officers by appointment, e.g. housing, revenues and benefits, planning etc
- Large multi-purpose (sprung floor) community hall – to incorporate stage facilities with appropriate other wider community ancillary facilities, e.g. skittles, darts, snooker etc.
- A variety of areas for dedicated storage – to be located across the facility and enough to cater for all needs
- Appropriate car parking and bicycle storage facilities
- Outdoor recreation and sporting facilities to include an all weather pitch

Area Board meeting – 27 April 2011

Following the development of the above proposal, CCAN have carried out a second round of consultation with local people in the Corsham Community Area. The specially convened Area Board meeting on 27 April provides the opportunity for local elected members to hear the results of this consultation and to hear the views of local people. The Area Board can then make recommendations on a campus proposal for the Corsham Community Area that will be subsequently be considered by Council's Cabinet in the summer of 2011. To clarify, this meeting will **not** look at the detailed design of a campus for the Corsham Community Area, but will identify the local community's preferred location and proposed content of a campus for Corsham.

Further Information

Further information regarding the proposal to develop a community campus for Corsham can be found on the Council's website at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/corshamcommunitycampus> or by making direct contact with Corsham Community Area Network.