

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT AND CRICKLADE AREA BOARD

Wednesday 30 May 2012

Subject: Proposed Reinstatement of Swimming Facilities at Lime Kiln Leisure Centre

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report has been prepared at the Area Board Chairman's request following discussions with the Royal Wootton Bassett Shadow Community Operations Board's (SCOB) Chair about the future work programme of the SCOB.
- 2 The report proposes the reinstatement of a minimal level of swimming facilities at Lime Kiln leisure Centre pending the delivery of the SCOB's preferred campus option .

Background

- 3 In December 2010 a fire at Lime Kiln Leisure Centre caused significant damage to some parts of the building, including the health suite, changing rooms and some of the pool plant infrastructure. In the early part of 2011 limited work was carried out on site to make the building safe and to prevent further damage pending the development of campus facilities to meet the future needs of the wider community in Royal Wootton Bassett.
- 3 Full reinstatement of Lime Kiln and its associated swimming facility immediately following the fire would not have been a prudent use of public funds at that time. The council is now progressing the work required to develop a full business case as approved by Cabinet and given the most likely timescale for this to be completed, alongside continued positive discussions with partners, it is suggested that a limited reinstatement is now appropriate to provide an interim facility whilst this work continues.
- 4 Following extensive consultation the SCOB announced on 6 July 2011 that their preferred campus solution was for a split site campus, retaining the library in the town centre and with a new purpose built facility to replace the existing Lime Kiln Centre. The initial working hypothesis was accepted by the Area Board, which then subsequently approved, at an extraordinary meeting held in Royal Wootton Bassett on 19 September 2011, a more detailed campus proposal. The SCOB proposal was recognised as being an ambitious one that would require funding partners in addition to Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council cabinet authorised officers to begin negotiations with potential funding partners, including MOD on 13 December 2011.
- 5 Wiltshire Council and partners are jointly discussing potential improvements to local infrastructure to help facilitate the establishment of the Defence Technical Training Centre at Lyneham and support full integration of the Defence Training Centre within the wider local community. Whilst the details of the discussions are

commercially confidential they are continuing in an active manner and all existing partners are fully engaged. Wiltshire Council will therefore now continue to work with the SCOB in the preparation of a full business case for their preferred option. It is hoped this will be considered by Cabinet in the autumn 2012, although the reinstatement of swimming facilities to a minimum interim standard will allow some flexibility in this date depending on the progress of discussions with partners.

- 7 There remains a strong view from local people that swimming facilities should be available for the community and a number of approaches have been made and continue to be made to the Council to reconsider the reinstatement of swimming facilities at Lime Kiln. Assuming the Area Board support this paper then it is envisaged that basic swimming facilities will be reinstated in the summer of 2012.
- 8 The expenditure required for a full and modernised reinstatement would require significant capital sums. Given the recognised limitations and lifespan of the existing building this cannot be justified at this time against the background of a prospective new campus facility with significantly improved swimming provision. However, the importance of public swimming facilities has always been recognised. Minimal expenditure to provide this on a initial basis can now be justified when considered alongside the ongoing progression of partner negotiations.
- 9 We want local people to benefit from these facilities whilst we continue to progress a business case to provide a fully funded campus with new purpose built state-of-the-art services in Royal Wootton Bassett and the surrounding area. The new facilities, which will be subject to planning consents, will replace the existing Lime Kiln Centre.

Recommendations

The Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board is:

- a. Invited to note and welcome the ongoing negotiation between Wiltshire Council and partners regarding improvements to local infrastructure associated with the COBS campus vision and establishment of the Defence Technical Training Centre at Lyneham;
- b. Asked to approve the reinstatement of the Lime Kiln swimming facility to a minimal standard, and at least cost, pending ongoing work to progress the delivery of the SCOBs proposed campus option for the Royal Wootton Bassett area.
- c. Ask to approve the Head of Campus and Operational Delivery Models to work with DC Leisure to ensure that the revised programme of availability of the pool maximises its use by members of the local community.

Councillor Peter Doyle
Chair, Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board

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