

CABINET (LEISURE CENTRE) COMMITTEE

17 July 2017

Attendance:

Councillors:

Griffiths (Chairman) (P)

Ashton (P)

Warwick (P)

Other invited Councillors:

Gottlieb (P)
Huxstep

Laming (P)
Prince (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Porter

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Weir

1. **MINUTES**

In response to queries, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services clarified that Minutes of formal meetings were available on the Council's website ten working days following the meeting (and this was publicised to Members in their weekly update). In addition, it was the practice that the individual Members comments and questions were not attributed directly to them, unless the Member specifically requested this (which was usually only in exceptional circumstances).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 12 June 2017, be approved and adopted.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

3. **WINCHESTER SPORT AND LEISURE PARK UPDATE REPORT**
(Report CAB2951(LC) refers)

The Committee received a presentation from Graham Stephens (Stride Treglown Architects) which provided an update and emerging findings from the recent public engagement. The presentation was available on the Council's website: <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/files/30760/CAB2951-LC-Presentation.pdf> Mr Stephens highlighted that 90% of 536 respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the proposals/concept at Bar End.

The Committee noted that Round 2 of consultation commenced on Friday 21 July for a four week period ending 18 August 2017. The timing of the consultation sessions had been extended to later in the evening to take account of comments received during the previous consultation exercise. The questionnaire would link through to the fundamental principles of the Urban Design Framework.

The Chairman introduced the Report and drew Members' attention to the additional consultant appointments made since the previous Report. In addition, the Council were expecting to hear shortly regarding progress on the dedication of King George V Playing Field.

With regard to the former Council depot site, the Assistant Director (Policy and Planning) confirmed that discussions were underway with potential interested parties but, as these were of a commercial nature, it was not possible to give further details at this time. The Council was required to show best consideration for the use of the site and further details would be brought to a future Committee meeting when available.

During discussion of the above Report a number of questions were asked and responses given, as summarised below:

- The Assistant Director (Policy and Planning) advised that the recently appointed transport consultants (Stuart Michael Associates) would primarily focus on the Bar End site itself but would also link into the wider County Council Transportation Study.
- Consultants had been appointed to assist with the concept design stage and other consultants would be required to assist with later stages of the project. Break clauses had been included in consultants' contracts to coincide with key project milestones. Although, it was a relatively large team of experts, consultants were only used as required and payment was based on a fee schedule provided at the tender stage.
- It was anticipated that the Sports Consultancy report on Built Facilities would be received shortly.
- The consultation that had just been undertaken focussed on the local area and was deliberately timed to engage people before any detailed proposals had been drawn up. The next round of consultation would focus on the Urban Design Framework including an indication of approximate building size and siting. Another phase of consultation in the Autumn

would start to show actual design proposals. In addition, there would be public consultation as part of the planning application process.

Members then discussed the contents of the presentation and a summary of questions asked and responses given is provided below:

- It was noted that Round 2 of consultation would take place partly during the school summer holidays which would impact on the proposed involvement of local schools and colleges, in addition to other groups such as Scouts. Members expressed some concern as the response from younger people had been lower in the first round of consultation. However, it was explained that there was likely to be a further round of consultation in the autumn where this age group could be targeted.
- One Member suggested that the option of a crèche could be investigated as a way of encouraging parents with young children to access the new facilities. It was noted this could be included as part of research into people's reasons for choosing to use a particular leisure centre.
- One Member emphasised the impact of the cost of using facilities on the different socio-economic groups and requested that further rounds of consultation investigate this.

The Committee noted a correction to Page 4 of the Report to note that MACE were appointed in November 2016.

The Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

4. **WINCHESTER SPORT AND LEISURE PARK RISK REPORT**
(Report CAB2952(LC) refers)

The Chairman highlighted that Page 4 of the Report included a risk register key, following a number of queries raised at the previous meeting.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Porter addressed the Committee and in summary expressed concern that the financial implications appeared to be underestimated. She also expressed concern about the implications on use of any increase in costs. In addition, she believed that consultation should be extended to engage with the wider District and expressed concern about the timing of the next stage over the school holidays. She suggested groups such as Streetreach could be used to engage with young people. She highlighted that improvements to Junction 9 of the M3 were anticipated around 2025 which could potentially impact on the first two years of use of the new centre. Finally she requested that further information on possible funding from partners be made available.

The Chairman noted the comments made and stated that a number would be taken up as part of the development of the business case. Graham Stephens (Stride Treglown) also noted the suggestions regarding consultation groups and mentioned that he was considering options for further engaging with schools etc in September.

The Assistant Director (Policy and Planning) explained that the financial implications were assessed at relatively low levels as it was considered that the risks were being controlled. In addition, it assessed the risk compared with the outline business case and finances already approved by Council.

In response to questions as to why the current risk score of Risk Number 1 of Appendix 1 was assessed as “likely”, the Assistant Director explained that measures were in place to reduce the residual risk score to “unlikely”. One Member noted that the input of Sports Consultancy was vital and expressed concern that they had only just been appointed. The Assistant Director confirmed that they would be involved and highlighted that prior to their appointment, the previous consultants, Robin Thompson and Partners had been fully involved.

The Chairman highlighted that a number of Members from the Committee would be meeting with the Assistant Director together with MACE (the external project manager and cost consultants) shortly where a number of detailed comments and any questions could be raised. An updated Business Case would be brought to the Committee in the Autumn.

The Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the risk register be noted.

5. **WINCHESTER SPORT AND LEISURE PARK TIMETABLE**
(Report CAB2953(LC) refers)

The Committee noted that the timetable had not been amended since it was considered at the previous meeting (Report CAB2944(LC) refers).

In response to questions, the Assistant Director (Policy and Planning) advised that one of the roles of The Sports Consultancy would be to draft the Operator Specification using the Sports England model and this would be brought to the Committee in due course.

The Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

6. **WINCHESTER SPORT AND LEISURE PARK FINANCE REPORT**

(Report CAB2954(LC) refers)

One Member queried why the estimated project costs had increased from £29m approximately one year ago to £36m estimated in Table 2 on page 3 of the Report. The Assistant Director advised that MACE had reviewed the estimates and agreed to provide further information regarding this query.

The Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 4.30pm and concluded at 5.55pm.

Chairman