



Report of the Head of Active Recreation

Outer East Area Committee

Date: 9th February 2010

Subject: Update on 'Vision for Council Leisure Centres' – Outer East Area

Electoral Wards Affected:

Temple Newsham
Kippax & Methley,
Garforth & Swillington,

Ward Members consulted
(Referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

In August 2009, the Executive Board approved the proposed 'Vision for Council Leisure Centres' which included plans for the future of East Leeds, Garforth and Kippax Leisure Centres

This report seeks to update members on the plans for these centres and the proposal to continue maintaining and operating them until the plans come to fruition.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

- 1.1 To update members on the progress of the 'Vision for Council Leisure Centres' with regard to East Leeds, Garforth and Kippax.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 In August 2009, The Executive Board approved the 'Vision for Council Leisure Centres' which sets out a ten year plan for the replacement, refurbishment and asset transfer of the current stock of leisure centres in Leeds.
- 2.2 With particular regard to the east area of Leeds, the Executive Board agreed:

Outer East: *To re-provide Kippax and Garforth Leisure Centres in the form of one new or refurbished swimming pool, fitness suite and other appropriate dry side sports facilities to serve the communities of Garforth and Kippax, with a commitment to deliver and resource by 2017.*

Inner East: *provision of Fearnville and East Leeds Leisure Centres in the form of one new, purpose built, well being centre, with a commitment to deliver and resource by 2013/15.*

To seek expressions of interest to transfer East Leeds and Fearnville Leisure Centres to a Community Organisation.

East Leeds Leisure Centre and Fearnville Leisure Centre to remain under Council management until such time that:-

- a) *a new well being centre is confirmed; or*
- b) *a suitable community organisation has been identified to whom to transfer the asset(s).*

To seek to transfer the management of Richmond Hill Sports Hall to a Community Organization.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 Originally, Outer East was considered as a potential wellbeing centre site with the possibility of future PFI funding, however, it will now require an alternative funding solution to be developed as a consequence of not being considered a priority by the local NHS or Adult Social Care in Leeds. However, the original proposal of replacing both Garforth and Kippax leisure centres with one improved site remains; although there is no clear funding solution at this stage and further feasibility work is required to determine the best location. Any re-provision must take account of other sports halls provided in both the Garforth and Kippax localities. Equally, any future facility mix must take account of existing extensive squash facilities provided at Garforth Leisure Centre. In the meantime, the status quo would remain.

- 3.2 Consequently, the two sites are being maintained and will operate as they are for the time being, while consideration will be made of opportunities for both funding and sites in the future.
- 3.3 Recently, the ceiling at Kippax pool has been replaced at a cost of £150,000 and a large amount of maintenance work has been carried out at both sites in an effort to ensure the service remains until alternative provision can be agreed.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The proposals for the East Leeds leisure centres are in line with the Vision for Leisure Centres.
- 4.2 Through its Vision, 'Increasing participation in sport and active recreation contributing to healthier communities', delivered by both direct services and effective partnership working, the Sports and Active Recreation Service supports the achievement of significant parts of the Leeds Strategic Plan 2008-2011, and a number of strategic outcomes and improvement priorities. The most obvious outcomes supported are:
- Increased participation in cultural opportunities through engaging with all our communities - Enable more people to become involved in sport and culture by providing better quality and wider ranging activities and facilities.
 - Reduce health inequalities through the promotion of healthy life choices and improved access to services - Reduce rate of increase in obesity and raise physical activity for all.
- 4.3 Other Leeds Strategic Plan improvement priorities are supported due to the potential collocation of services through the wellbeing initiative:
- Reduce premature mortality in the most deprived areas
 - Improve the assessment and care management of children, families and vulnerable adults
 - Improve psychological, mental health and learning disability services for those who need it
 - Increase the proportion of people in receipt of community services enjoying choice and control over their daily lives
 - Improve safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable children and adults through better information, recognition and response to risk

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 Maintenance revenue and capital funding is still being allocated to these sites to ensure they remain open whilst the Vision for Leisure Centre's plan is being implemented.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 It is recognized that leisure centres are an important resource for the local communities and that they provide important opportunities for people to be more active, thereby increasing the health and wellbeing of the local communities.
- 6.2 The Sport and Active Recreation Service propose to continue operating the current centres until opportunities can be sought to improve the provision in the local areas.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 That members note the contents of the report.

Background Papers

Report to Executive Board August 2009 – Vision for Leisure Centres