

Scrutiny Board (Leisure) 2006/07

Leisure Centre Inquiry Recommendations– Responses from the Department

Recommendation	Response from the Department
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>That during the next municipal year, the department and the Executive Board Member use the relevant Scrutiny Board to discuss where possible issues and major decisions regarding any future bidding rounds for PFI Credits for Leisure projects to establish a process of consultation with the Scrutiny Board Members.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>That the department continues to implement the consultation and communication strategy which commenced in November 2006 and is proving successful with Stakeholder Boards established in Morley and Armley. It is recommended that this approach is adopted for any future leisure PFI projects under subsequent bidding rounds.</p>	<p>Agreed – this is the intention of the Department.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>That as any new PFI leisure project develops, the department brings to the appropriate Scrutiny Board details of potential sites and the associated studies.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>Executive Board in 2005 approved a robust governance structure for PFI projects which is adhered to. Each project team reports to a Project Board. In the case of the New Leaf Leisure Centres Project the relevant Project Board is the Education / BSF PFI Project Board chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive. It is</p>	<p>Agreed – this is the intention of the Department.</p>

<p>recommended that this approach continues to be followed.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>That the relevant Executive Board Member be briefed regularly throughout the project and be made aware of any circumstances that may lead to budget and timing issues.</p>	<p>Agreed – regular briefings already take place and will continue throughout the lifespan of the project.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>That the Sports Trust has within its governance arrangements the obligation to consult with local communities when a change to the service is proposed.</p>	<p>Noted. The Council will propose customer forums are continued or created and that the Trust develops its own customer participation framework. Likewise the Council will suggest proposals for significant change will be consulted with the relevant local community. However, minor changes to programme (e.g. a new activity class) are unlikely to be consulted upon. The Trust has indicated it will agree these proposals.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7</p> <p>That irrespective of any other consideration the Trust shall have no power to dispose of assets, to close Centres or significantly reduce services without the approval of the authority.</p>	<p>The Council is proposing the Trust will not be able to transfer the leases of sports facilities. The Trust has indicated it will agree this proposal.</p> <p>The Council and the Trust will need to agree a process for closure of a centre where it can be demonstrated on certain specified criteria that a centre is no longer viable. The full agreement between the Council and the Trust will contain details of this process.</p> <p>In relation to the level of services provided, this will have to be sufficient to meet the key outcomes and performance levels specified in the performance management arrangements which are to be agreed with the Trust.</p> <p>Details of the specification for all of these matters will be included in the report to Executive Board in October 2007.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8</p>	<p>The Council has powers under Section 2</p>

<p>That Scrutiny Board sees and discusses the powers contained in the lease agreement establishing the Trust before the lease agreement is signed</p>	<p>of the Local Government Act 2000 (well-being powers) to enter into arrangements or agreements with the Trust and powers under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 to grant leases of the facilities and premises to the Trust.</p> <p>Details of the lease agreement will be included in a report to Executive Board in October and Scrutiny Board may wish to consider that report at their next meeting after this.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9</p> <p>That the Executive Board recommends to Council the inclusion of some resources for refurbishment of leisure centres in the budget for 2008/09.</p>	<p>Agree. Current work being undertaken to develop a leisure centre capital investment plan, jointly owned by the Trust and the Council, will ensure that this issue is raised.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10</p> <p>That the department report back to the appropriate Scrutiny Board the resources to be released by the establishment of a Sports Trust and how this is to be allocated.</p>	<p>The October 07 Executive Board report will reinforce how monies will be allocated, however, the Trust will have ultimate responsibility for deciding this allocation. The majority of such expenditure will relate to capital investment, as identified within the capital plan.</p>