

DRAFT

Scrutiny Board (Leisure)

Inquiry into Leisure Centres – Provision and Maintenance Terms of Reference

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 12th June 2006 Scrutiny Board (Leisure) agreed to undertake an inquiry into the future provision of Leisure Centres and the continued improvement and maintenance of existing facilities.
- 1.2 Members recognised that there are two approaches being developed by the Council; the possibility of building new facilities through a PFI scheme and placing the existing facilities into a not for profit Trust creating an arms length management organisation. Members felt that the inquiry should cover both these approaches in order to explore and understand the future arrangements for all leisure centres in the city, both existing and newly built.
- 1.3 Members are also aware that work had been undertaken during 2004 by a previous Leisure Scrutiny Board, which has provided some ground work for understanding the background to the proposals. It is clear from this work that there has been high level of public concern with existing leisure facilities regarding their quality, affordability and accessibility. The scrutiny work also covered the potential opportunities for funding, including developing an arms length trust and a PFI scheme.

2.0 Scope of the Inquiry

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:

Background information

- Information on the work undertaken by the previous scrutiny board in 2004
- Updates on investment requirements and performance of centres
- The background to PFI and Trust options

PFI scheme

- The business case and progress relating to the proposed PFI scheme for the provision of new facilities
- The geographical locations of the proposed provision
- The relationship between new facilities and the management arrangements proposed for the existing facilities

Existing facilities

- Summary of the current position including identified maintenance and refurbishment needs, review of provision and usage and proposals for short and medium term maintenance/usage
- Details of the proposed arms length management Trust including the benefits, challenges and timescales identified
- Details of capital investment required and identified
- Details of current and future charging policy

Strategic Overview

- Long term plans for existing and new facilities, projected usage and linkages to corporate priorities, including the links to health.

3.0 COMMENTS OF THE RELEVANT DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER

3.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.4 the views of the relevant Director and Executive Member have been sought and have been incorporated where appropriate into these Terms of Reference.

4.0 TIMETABLE FOR THE INQUIRY

4.1 The inquiry will take place over three sessions with a view to issuing a final report in December/January 2006.

4.2 The length of the inquiry is subject to change

5.0 SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE

5.1 September

Background information

- Information on the work undertaken by the previous scrutiny board in 2004
- Updates on investment requirements and performance of centres
- The background to PFI and Trust options

5.2 October

PFI scheme

- The business case and progress relating to the proposed PFI scheme for the provision of new facilities
- The geographical locations of the proposed provision

- The relationship between new facilities and the management arrangements proposed for the existing facilities

5.3 November

Existing facilities

- Summary of the current position including identified maintenance and refurbishment needs, review of provision and usage and proposals for short and medium term maintenance/usage
- Details of the proposed arms length management Trust including the benefits, challenges and timescales identified
- Details of capital investment required and identified
- Issues arising from previous session

5.4 December

Strategic Overview

- Long term plans for existing and new facilities, projected usage and linkages to corporate priorities.
- Issues arising from previous sessions