

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

15th October 2007

PRESENT:-

Representatives of South Derbyshire District Council

Conservative Group

Councillors Lemmon (Chairman) and Mrs. Patten.

Labour Group

Councillors Pabla and Shepherd.

Independent Member

Councillor Mrs. Brown.

Officers

S. Batchelor (Head of Leisure and Community Development), C. Mason (Leisure Services Manager), K. Stackhouse (Head of Finance and Property Services), S. Wright (Leisure Centre Manager) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services).

Representatives of Etwall John Port School

Governors

C. Clemens and B. Whyman, M.B.E (Vice-Chairman).

Community Group Representatives

Mrs. K. Bussell and Mrs. A. Wedgbury.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from County Councillors Hood and Bambrick, M. Crane and F. Briggs.

EL/12. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th July 2007 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

EL/13. **MATTERS ARISING**

With regard to Minute No. EL/6, the Leisure Services Manager advised the Committee of the current situation with regards to the Derbyshire County Council's contribution to new facilities at John Port School. He advised the Committee that Derbyshire County Council had made a lump sum payment of £260,000 on 31st March 2000. This payment was in respect of a buy-out by Derbyshire County Council of its involvement in the management of Etwall Leisure Centre and was initially dependant on the successful outcome of a lottery bid. The £260,000 contribution was calculated on the basis of its equivalence to 10-years of revenue cost contributions by Derbyshire County Council (at this time they paid £26,000 per annum). Pending the outcome of the lottery bid, it was agreed that Derbyshire County Council would continue to pay their annual share of the running costs from the interest earned on the lump sum. If the lottery bid was unsuccessful, it was originally envisaged that

the £260,000 would be returned to Derbyshire County Council and the existing arrangements for the Joint Management Committee would continue. If the lottery bid at this time had been successful, Derbyshire County Council would have been entitled to free use of the swimming pool for nine primary schools for ten years from the opening of the new Leisure Centre (up to and including 2010/11). In February 2001 the District Council sought an extension from the County Council on their contribution, on the basis that it was intended to resubmit the lottery bid. The timescale suggested by the District Council was 28th February 2002.

B. Whyman responded that this information was very helpful, however it should be noted that the Joint Management Committee had never discussed the issue of the Derbyshire County Council buy-out. It was understood that the proposal went to the District Council and not the Joint Management Committee, therefore no understanding or agreement of a buy-out existed. B. Whyman added that it was important that discussion take place with Derbyshire County Council, with regards to revenue and capital commitments for the future. A general discussion ensued and it was agreed that a meeting should be held with Derbyshire County Council to gain their understanding of the current situation. The Chairman responded that this should be resolved before the next meeting and that he would pursue this directly with the Chief Executive of the District Council to establish the current position. It was requested, that if possible the outcome from this should be reported back in advance of the next Joint Management Committee Meeting.

EL/14. **USAGE INFORMATION**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Leisure Centre Manager, which included a breakdown of public usage of the swimming pool, squash courts and tennis courts for the financial years 2003/04 to date.

It was reported that the Derby Triathlon Club held their annual event on 16th September 2007. This event had 427 competitors, and was the largest and most prestigious pool-based triathlon event in the East Midlands.

The annual Swimathon event held at Etwall in March had raised £2,442.55 in support of Marie Curie Cancer Care Charity.

In addition a summer holiday play scheme had taken place for children aged eight to twelve years. A similar scheme was programmed for October half term. Activities included football, rounders, kwik cricket, netball, squash, racket ball, bouncy castle, a climbing wall and entry to the pool fun session.

It was also reported that Etwall Eagles Swimming Club had reduced their Friday evening session by one hour due to the shortage of swimming coaches.

RESOLVED:-

That the Usage Information report be noted.

EL/15. **NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES, JOHN PORT SCHOOL – THE WAY FORWARD**

The Community Services Manager presented a report requesting that the Committee consider a number of issues that were essential to successfully

managing the development and delivery of the new facilities at the John Port School site. At the previous Committee Meeting, queries were raised with regards to a proposal to provide additional resources to manage the work involved in establishing suitable management and operational regimes for the new facility. Further work had now been undertaken to fully scope out the range of work required and this formed the main basis of the report.

In undertaking this exercise, the following areas of work had been identified.

- The revision of the existing JMC arrangement to establish formal arrangements for managing the new facility.
- To fully establish the revenue and capital implications of managing the new facility.
- Managing the transition from the existing to the new facility.
- Other operational issues.

Some of these areas of work were interlinked and within each of these areas was a range of other tasks. A flow chart was included, which highlighted these issues. An attempt had also been made to identify a timescale for the work. However, in many areas this was dependent on the timescales for the construction work, which still remained uncertain. Further work needed to be undertaken to identify the timescales for some of the tasks. There was a general acceptance that using existing resources was the preferred option, rather than appointing consultants. It was therefore intended that the Centre Manager undertake the majority of the research required to deliver the identified actions, with the support of the Leisure Services Manager. At this stage, given the uncertainty about project commencement, it was intended to initially progress this within the parameters of the Centre Manager's existing duties. However, as the project neared completion it was recognised that a significantly more concerted amount of Officer time would be required and it was unrealistic to expect that this could be provided from within current working arrangements.

The preferred and recommended option for dealing with this remained the temporary secondment of the Centre Manager from his existing duties and a probable maximum of 3 months would still be required. However, given the anticipated length of the construction project and current uncertainty over the commencement date it was proposed to leave any decision in abeyance.

B. Whyman responded that the School had required further clarity on many of these items, however, he thanked the Leisure Services Manager for his work on completing this report.

K. Bussell and A.Wedgbury registered concern over the village changing facilities proposed for the new facility. The Head of Leisure and Community Development responded that the current trend was for village changing facilities. It was agreed to carry out a visit to another facility to look at these in more detail.

Concern was raised over the lack of timescales included within this report. However, it was agreed that everyone concerned wished for this project to move forward quickly. It was requested that further details and timescales be provided when possible.

The Head of Leisure and Community Development confirmed the current position with regard to capital funding and advised the Committee that the target date for conclusion of the capital bid negotiation was the end of November 2007.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the current arrangements for the JMC and the operational management of the Centre be kept in place during the transition to the new facility.***
- (2) That, in discussion with key stakeholders, the JMC agreement be modernised to reflect the likely different arrangements for managing the new facility.***
- (3) That the list of tasks (attached at 'Annexe A' to the Minutes) for managing the transition from the existing facility to managing the new centre be noted.***
- (4) That the items listed in Minute No. EL/15, be formally approved by the Committee.***

EL/16. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

MATTERS ARISING

A verbal report was given with regards to recruitment of a Duty Manager.

J. L. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN