

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

14th January 2008

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

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

Representatives of Etwall John Port School

Governors

B. Whyman, M.B.E (Vice-Chairman).

Officers

M. Crane and P Kenerdell.

Representatives of Derbyshire County Council

Councillors Bambrick and Hood.

Community Group Representatives

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

In attendance

R. Morrow.

EL/19. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th October 2007 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

EL/20. **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 following the successful trial of a summer holiday play scheme, a similar scheme was staged during the October half term.

In addition, it was reported that the swimming pool had been closed on Sunday 23rd December 2007 due to a fault with the main circulating pump. The pool reopened for the Boxing Day morning swim.

RESOLVED:-

That the Usage Information Report be noted.

EL/21. **PROPOSED BASE BUDGET – INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2008/09**

A report was submitted detailing the Leisure Centre's proposed Base Budget for 2008/09 and set out proposals for the level of fees and charges for 2008/09.

The budget for 2008/09 had initially been compiled at November 2007 prices. An allowance for inflation had then been added where this was considered unavoidable to cover for price increases to March 2009. This calculated the cash limit (original) estimate for 2008/09, in which the budget should be managed.

It was confirmed that inflation measures were based on data available from HM Treasury for various categories of income and expenditure. The effect of inflation was fairly neutral on the bottom line account, but all assumptions built into the estimates were detailed within the report. Estimates were also based on service levels in 2007/08 continuing, and included any full year effects of the previous year's growth. However, any non-recurring and one-off items had been removed.

It was confirmed that the overall expenditure for 2008/09 was estimated to reduce overall by £10,356 compared to the current base budget. This was mainly due to lower than estimated energy costs, together with a continuing increase in income, particularly from swimming lessons.

Additional costs were also being incurred, mainly through attempts to return full time staffing arrangements to pre-2003 establishment levels. The net impact of this had been to increase salary levels, but with a corresponding decrease in expenditure on casual staff. This had also resulted in a greater take-up of the pension scheme by current employees. The Centre Manager had verbally reported to the Joint Management Committee long term staff absences, the difficulties of filling Duty Officer vacancies and the various initiatives undertaken to remedy this problem.

The Committee was also made aware of the significant amount of time the Centre Manager was likely to spend in the next twelve months, on preparations for the move to the proposed new facility.

The proposed budget was based on running and maintaining the existing facility. When the new centre was operational it would have ongoing revenue costs and an income stream, which were likely to differ to those currently included in the proposed budget. During the next year, a business plan and cost model would be completed. Progress would be reported back to the Committee in due course.

RESOLVED:-

1) That the proposed estimates of income and expenditure for 2008/09 be approved.

2) That the proposed fees and charges for 2008/09 be approved.

EL/22. **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.

NEW LEISURE CENTRE PROVISION – JOHN PORT SCHOOL, ETWALL
(Paragraph 3).

An update was given detailing progress both in addressing management issues and also with the capital funding package.

STAFFING ISSUES (Paragraph 1).

An update was given with regards to current staffing issues.

J. L. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN