

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

13th October 2003

PRESENT:-

Representatives of South Derbyshire District Council

Labour Group

Councillor Lauro (Chair) and Councillors Pabla and Shepherd.

Conservative Group

Councillors Mrs. Hood and Lemmon.

Officers

K. Stackhouse, C. Mason and P. Spencer.

Representatives of Etwall John Port School

Governor

Mr. C. Clemens (Vice-Chair).

Officer

G. Cole.

EL/10. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from I. Reid (South Derbyshire District Council), S. Wright (Manager, Etwall Leisure Centre), M. Crane (Governor, Etwall John Port School), F. Briggs (Etwall John Port School) and Councillors Mrs. Littlejohn and Routledge (Derbyshire County Council).

EL/11. **MINUTES**

The Open and Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th July 2003 were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chair.

EL/12. **MATTERS ARISING**

Further to Minute No. EL/5, the Chair reported on Meetings held at the District Council to discuss potential funding sources for the provision of new leisure facilities on the John Port School site. He confirmed that the Council was still enthusiastic about the project and would make a renewed effort to identify potential funding sources. Chris Mason added that once an initial funding commitment had been received, it should provide the impetus to progress the bid. A meeting would be held in early November with Paul Chambers from Derbyshire County Council to see how the Sports Forum could assist. There was a Section 106 Funding Working Group towards the end of October, which might identify potential funding sources.

Councillor Lemmon was pleased to hear the progress reported and he commented on the scale of funding required, which had delayed progress with this scheme. The Chair felt there was a possibility of pursuing a private finance initiative to raise funds for the new leisure facilities. Councillor Lemmon referred to an initiative, being led by the Primary Care Trust to provide new health facilities through a "LIFT" project. The bid had initially been unsuccessful, but it

had been expanded and sought to provide new health facilities in Swadlincote, Willington and Ashbourne. This scheme had subsequently been approved. The Chair confirmed that he had raised the need for funding for the Etwall Leisure Centre at the Council's Housing and Community Services Committee the previous week.

Under Minute No. EL/7, a report had been provided about the swimming pool shower refurbishment and Chris Mason confirmed that the works had now been completed. The Community Group had offered to fund the installation of new partitions in the Changing Rooms, but it had been possible to fund these works from existing Leisure Centre budgets.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EL/13. TOUR OF ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE

It was reported that the Leisure Centre Manager, Steve Wright had suffered an accident at the Centre, earlier in the day. Because of this, it was agreed to postpone the tour of the Leisure Centre until the next Meeting.

EL/14. USAGE INFORMATION

A report was submitted which identified public usage of the swimming pool, squash courts and tennis courts for the financial years 1998/99 to date, together with comparative monthly usage figures.

In the absence of the Leisure Centre Manager, Chris Mason confirmed that the facilities had opened one day later than programmed, following the reported improvement works. It appeared that usage of the facilities was at a similar level to that before the improvements, but it was hoped that use would increase over time. There had been some initial problems with the hot water supply, but these had been resolved. Councillor Pabla asked whether the improvements could be publicised to encourage use of the Leisure Centre. Mr. Mason confirmed that a press release was issued about the improvements, that there was a publicity budget and the opportunity to make use of a county-wide initiative to publicise the leisure facilities.

Mr. Clemens commented that due to swimming lessons, the pool was less available for public use. He questioned whether this could be reflected in the statistics provided. Councillor Shepherd noted the reduction in use of the swimming pool and it was confirmed that both nationally and throughout Derbyshire there was a decline in swimming pool usage. Recognised causes were private sector leisure provision and the range of choice available to customers. As an example, Mr. Cole referred to the private leisure facilities at Mickleover Court.

RESOLVED:-

That the Usage Information report be noted.

EL/15. FINAL ACCOUNTS 2002/03

It was reported that the Leisure Centre's final out-turn showed a net under-spend of approximately £16,400. This was due mainly to recharges from the John Port School for energy costs being lower than anticipated, together with an

increase in overall income. The report identified the reduced contribution required from each partner. The final accounts were appended to the report, together with the formal Annual Statement of Accounts for 2002/03. This was subject to audit and any changes or issues arising would be reported to the next Meeting. The Chair complimented the clarity of the accounts.

Chris Mason referred to the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and an audit had been commissioned for the Leisure Centre. The report had been received that day and identified works costing £160,600 to meet the requirements of the Act. There was a prioritised approach and initial estimates showed some £20,000 of essential works. The DDA report would be assessed and a further report would be made to the next Meeting of the Joint Management Committee. Members requested that information be provided on the types of work required, at the earliest possible date to enable consideration of this important issue.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the final accounts for 2002/03 be approved.***
- (2) That the under-spend for 2002/03 be carried forward to 2003/04***

M. LAURO

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 5.30 p.m.