

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Leisure Facilities Cabinet Sub-Committee**
held on Wednesday, 12th August, 2009 at West Committee Room -
Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe

Present

Cabinet Sub-Committee Members:

Councillor Andrew Knowles (in the Chair)
Councillor Roland Domleo

Advisory Members:

Councillor Ainsley Arnold
Councillor Terry Beard (substitute for Councillor Flude)
Councillor Paul Edwards
Councillor Ray Westwood

Officers:

Rob Hyde, Service Development Manager
Paul Mountford, Legal and Democratic Services

Apologies

Councillor David Brown
Councillor Frank Keegan
Councillor Dorothy Flude
Councillor John Hammond
Guy Kilminster, Head of Health and Wellbeing
Mark Wheelton, Leisure and Green Spaces Manager
Keith Pickton, Leisure Facilities Manager

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2009 be approved as a correct record.

16 LEISURE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Members considered a report on the progress of the Leisure Management Options Appraisal being conducted by PMP/Genesis Consultants.

Andy Farr of PMP/Genesis attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the Options Appraisal.

Various leisure management delivery models had been used by local authorities over the last 20 years. PMP/Genesis had been commissioned by Sport England and Sporta to produce an evaluation of the experience of Trusts and local authorities in the North-West over the last decade. Five models were discussed:

1. in-house management (the current position in Cheshire East)
2. private leisure contractor
3. non-profit distributing organisation (Trust or social enterprise)
4. management buy-out
5. trade sale

The benefits and limitations of each model were outlined and examples from authorities in the North-West and elsewhere were discussed. The main alternatives to the Council's current in-house arrangements appeared to be options 2 and 3.

Members asked for details of the proposed consultation arrangements on the options. Rob Hyde advised that the unions had already been consulted. There was now a need to consult the public, customers, swimming clubs, head teachers and the primary care trusts, and this would follow when the consultants' recommendations were received.

There was also a need to consider how to consult Members and the political groups. Members indicated that they would wish their respective political groups to be consulted separately. Andy Farr proposed to give an updated version of his presentation on a number of dates to be arranged following the meeting.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chairman thanked Andy Farr for his presentation.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report and presentation be noted.

17 FREE SWIMMING – UPDATE FOR INFORMATION

Members received a report on progress with the free swimming initiative for people aged 16 years and under and people aged 60 years and over, which had been introduced on 1 April 2009.

Details of free swimming registrations completed for the swimming pools in the Cheshire East area prior to 1 April, including those completed in the first quarter of operation, had been circulated to Members. The free swimming initiative had increased participation and physical activity.

Cheshire East had received grant aid from the Government to help offset some of the lost revenue from offering free swimming.

Projects under development using the initial free swimming capital allocation (Total £108,000) were:

Wilmslow Leisure Centre

Limited refurbishment and redecoration of the male and female wet changing and shower areas.

(Estimated free swimming capital allocation - £35,000)

Sandbach Leisure Centre

Upgrade of the male and female wet changing area to include the replacement of the existing staffed cloakroom system with self service lockers.

(Estimated free swimming capital allocation - £35,000)

Nantwich Swimming Pool

Provision of a new DDA compliant pool entrance and reception (topping up funding earmarked within property services for DDA compliance work)

(Estimated free swimming capital allocation - £38,000)

Quotations for each scheme were being sought and final recommendations would be made in the early autumn.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

18 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday, 8 October 2009 at 2.00 pm in the Board Room, Macclesfield Town Hall.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.12 pm

Councillor A Knowles (Chairman)