

SPECIAL MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON GOOD HEALTH

Wednesday, 6th October, 2004 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT:-

Councillor Burt (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Faulkner (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Ali, Banks, Bradney, Crumpton, Miss Nicholls, Ms Partridge, Southall, K Turner and C Wilson, together with the Head of Personnel and Support Services (Lead Officer to the Committee), Mr S Ward (Scrutiny Officer to the Committee), Mr T Maher (Assistant Director of Finance) and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Law and Property).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE (BY INVITATION)

Councillor Fraser-Macnamara (Lead Member for Culture and Leisure), Director of the Urban Environment, Mr D Lownes (Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Culture and Community Services)) and Mr A Webb (Head of Sport and Recreation)

TOGETHER WITH

Mr C Potter (Chief Executive - Dudley South Primary Care Trust), Dr T Collins (Director of Public Health - Dudley South Primary Care Trust) and members of the public.

19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

20 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Aston, Boys, Harley and Musk.

21 **APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES FOR THIS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE**

The appointment of the following substitutes for this meeting of the Committee only was reported:-

- a) Councillor Crumpton for Councillor Mrs Aston.

- b) Councillor C Wilson for Councillor Boys.
 - c) Councillor Southall for Councillor Harley.
 - d) Councillor Banks for Councillor Musk.
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REVIEW OF DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE TO RECOMMEND THE CLOSURE OF BRIERLEY HILL LEISURE CENTRE

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted, arising from a request by the Chairman of this Committee that he would wish the Committee to review the recommendation of the Executive relating to the closure of Brierley Hill Leisure Centre on the grounds that this may result in health inequalities for the population of Brierley Hill and the surrounding area.

The report set out the recommendations of the Executive to the Council, including the recommendation that Option 4 in the report of the Director of the Urban Environment, involving the closure of Brierley Hill Leisure Centre, be approved. A copy of the report of the Director of the Urban Environment submitted to the meeting of the Executive held on 8th September 2004 entitled "Leisure Centres Review and Strategy for Future Provision" was attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted. Attached as Appendix 2 to the report submitted was a list of ten questions received from the Chairman to be answered by the Lead Member/Director of the Urban Environment. The responses of the Lead Member/Director of the Urban Environment had subsequently been received and circulated separately to Members of the Committee.

As part of the introductory remarks of the Chairman, he welcomed those present to the meeting and, following a request, received the consent of the Committee to enable members of the public present to speak and take part in the debate on this matter. Similarly the representatives from the Dudley South Primary Care Trust were also invited to speak and comment.

Following introductions, Duncan Lownes, expanded on the responses given to the ten questions raised by the Chairman. The Lead Member for Culture and Recreation and Andy Webb also responded, as appropriate, to questions asked.

Arising from the detailed consideration given to the questions asked, responses given and comments made by those present, it was

RESOLVED

That this Committee endorse the decision of the Council Executive on the 8th September, 2004 and recommend to full Council the endorsement of the Executive's decision to adopt

Option 4 of the recommendations as the most practical method of ensuring the future of Leisure Centre provision in Dudley Borough for the next twenty years and by so doing, ensure the continued provision of top quality sporting facilities.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm

CHAIRMAN