

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - 18TH APRIL, 2005

REPORT OF THE CABINET

LEISURE AND SWIMMING FACILITY IN THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider the recommendation of the Committee on a proposal by the Select Committee on Culture & Recreation that the Cabinet prepare an action plan to finance the re-provision of Brierley Hill Baths by building a new facility within the Brierley Hill Area Committee Area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 8th September 2004, following a report from the Director of Urban Environment, the Cabinet recommended to the Council that Brierley Hill Leisure Centre be closed with no replacement. It also decided that the Select Committee on Culture & Recreation be requested to consider the feasibility of providing alternative leisure and swimming facilities in the Brierley Hill area. This was confirmed by the Council at its meeting on 18th October 2004.

- 2.2 The Select Committee met on 20th October 2004 and agreed the following additional meetings and workplan in order to complete the task requested by the Cabinet.

20/10/04 Agree project brief, timescales and reporting structure.

11/11/04 Review of supply and demand assumptions (delayed to 27th January 2005 and an additional meeting on 7th February 2005).
Plan Health Impact Assessment.
Agree extent of public consultation survey (content and process).

06/01/05 Consider other sporting needs in Brierley Hill.
Review analysis of existing users of Brierley Hill Leisure Centre.
Consider other sport and recreation facilities in the Brierley Hill area.

27/01/05 Agree public consultation survey.
Consider provision for school swimming in public pools including transport issues, impact of additional costs and access to school pools. (On the 6th January 2005 and 27th January 2005 the Committee agreed that the issue of utilising school facilities should be reported by the Assistant Director of Culture and Community to the Select Committee on Lifelong Learning).
Review options to relocate clubs and learn to swim sessions.
Consider options to access alternate facilities for public swimming.

10/02/05 Consider facility reprovision issues.
(10/03/05)

- Location
- Facility specification
- Funding

15/03/05 Consider final report.
(12/04/05)

- 2.3 Subsequently the dates of some meetings and reports were changed. These are shown in brackets and an additional meeting was arranged for 7th February 2005.
- 2.4 The Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation attended the Select Committee meeting on 20th October 2004 and agreed to make available to the committee the resources it needed to complete the project. The resources allocated were the Head of Sport and Recreation (AW) and PMP Consultants. PMP were the Consultants who had carried out the review of the borough's leisure centres, which led to the Cabinet decision on 8th September 2004. He also gave an undertaking that if the Committee formulated proposals for reprovision that were feasible he would have no difficulty in giving them his full support.
- 2.5 Based on information provided at the 20th October 2004 meeting it was agreed that for the purpose of this project "The Brierley Hill area" would be the area covered by the Brierley Hill Area Committee. It was also indicated that the likely closure date for Brierley Hill Baths would be the end of 2005. It was also noted that the Select Committee on Good Health had asked for a report back to them from the Assistant Director Culture and Community on the outcome of the Health Impact Assessment.
- 2.6 The Committee has a public consultation slot and this has been used extensively by representatives from the various swimming clubs and the Chairman agreed that they could ask questions throughout each of the meetings, rather than just in the public consultation session at the start of the meeting.
- 2.7 The Select Committee agreed that Liverpool and Nuneaton Councils should be contacted about the cost of their new leisure centre facilities and the information obtained be included in the report about reprovision, due to be presented to the Committee on 10th March 2005.
- 2.8.1 On 7th February 2005 an additional meeting was held to consider a report from PMP Consultants on the Sport England, Sports Facility Calculator (SFC). The SFC is used in calculating theoretical supply and demand and this new model was introduced around the time the PMP study came to a conclusion. The PMP study had used the model in existence at the time, which was the Facilities Planning Model (FPM).
- 2.8.2 The difference between the assumptions in the two models is that using the FPM model the conclusion was that the borough has an overprovision of water area (pools) and that using SFC there is a poor level of provision in the Borough.

2.8.3 The conclusions presented by PMP to the Select Committee on 7th February 2005 were:

- The current Brierley Hill Pool has a limited life.
- Condition surveys suggest refurbishment is not cost effective (If refurbishment is more than 75% cost of new building it is more cost effective to go for a new building).
- There is theoretical unmet demand for a pool in the Brierley Hill area.
- Capacity at existing pools and access might suggest that demand could be met within existing stock.

2.9 When the Committee met on the 7th February 2005 the future work still to be completed and considered by the Committee relating to reprovion included:

- Public consultation survey to establish views on requirements/needs.
- Finalise work on capacity programming and access to other pools
- Costed (review and capital) options.

2.10 After receiving the interim report on 7th February 2005 the Select Committee agreed that reprovion of a pool was necessary. They voted and resolved to recommend to the Cabinet that the Cabinet review and prepare an action plan to finance the reprovion and building of a new swimming baths in the Brierley Hill Area.

2.11 On consideration of the above, the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 16th March, 2005, resolved to recommend the Council as set out in Section 3 below.

3. **PROPOSAL**

3.1 That the Council be recommended that the proposal of the Select Committee on Culture and Recreation set out in paragraph 2.10 of the report submitted to the meeting be not approved.

4. **FINANCE**

4.1 The report to the Cabinet indicated:

4.1.1 The cost of the review would be funded from existing Sport and Recreation revenue budgets.

4.1.2 When the costs of the reprovion option have been finalised, a funding package will need to be considered in terms of the long term costs of the scheme.

5. LAW

5.1 The report to the Cabinet indicated:

5.1.1 Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.

5.1.2 Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972, enables the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions under the 1976 Act.

5.1.3 Under Section 2 of the Local Government Act, 2000, the Council may do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the economic, social or environmental well being of its area.

5.1.4 There is a duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1999, to take into account the implications of the impact on community safety of actions and decisions relating to service areas. Provision of good leisure facilities is considered to lead to a reduction in anti-social behaviour problems.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 The report to the Cabinet indicated:

6.1.1 The proposals of the Select Committee on Culture and Recreation took into account the Council's equality and diversity policy.

6.1.2 July 2003 research of users of Brierley Hill Leisure Centre indicated that: 55% are female and 45% male; 96% are White British and 20% of the respondents considered themselves to have a disability.

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That the proposals set out in Section 3 above be approved.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Minutes from 8th September 2004 Executive.
Minutes from 18th October 2004 Council Meeting.
Culture and Recreation Select Committee reports and minutes;
20th October 2004
11th November 2004
6th January 2005
27th January 2005
7th February 2005

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LEADER OF THE COUNCIL