

SCRUTINY

DRAFT REPORT OF THE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY LEISURE COMMITTEE

November 2009

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To outline the findings of Performance Overview and Scrutiny in relation to the Leisure Review, and to inform Cabinet (17th December 2009) and Full Council (18th February 2010) of the findings and recommendations for consideration when making a final decision on Leisure.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 A decision was taken at Full Council on 26th February 2009 to pursue Option H of the Leisure and Recreation Report. Part of the recommendation of Option H was to agree £513k funding for Rossendale Leisure Trust conditional upon:

- Establishing a regular Overview and Scrutiny process on Leisure to oversee transition and amend the constitution to accommodate this.

A request was subsequently made by Cabinet that Overview and Scrutiny undertake a review of leisure. The review of leisure was added to the Work Programme and would run until December 2009 when a report would be submitted to Cabinet to outline the findings and recommendations of the Committee. The recommendations would be considered by Cabinet on 17th December 2009 as part of the leisure review, and following consideration of the report Cabinet would make a recommendation to Full Council on 25th February 2010 where a final decision would be made.

The review would be undertaken by the existing Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee which would aim to meet on an 8 weekly basis. These meetings would be additional to the Performance Overview and Scrutiny workload, and the meetings set up would be entirely dedicated to the Leisure review.

In addition to the review undertaken by the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee two additional groups were set up to specifically review Bacup Leisure Hall and the pools. The Pool Review Panel and the Bacup Leisure Hall Review Panel would keep the Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure) Committee updated to allow their findings to be considered as part of the final report.

The first meeting of Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure) was organised for 21st April 2009 where the Terms of Reference and Structure was agreed and the Rossendale Leisure Trust Action Plan 2009/2010 and Financial Report was received by the Committee.

2.2 The Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure) Committee met five times before finalising their report in November 2009.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (LEISURE) AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1 The Members of Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure) were Councillor Sandiford (Chair), Councillor L. Barnes, Councillor Crawforth, Councillor Lamb,

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Councillor Neal, Councillor Stansfield, Councillor Thorne and Co-opted Member Bernard Divine.

Invitees

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Adrian Leather (Chief Executive, Lancashire Sport) and Mr Ian Cameron were also invited to participate in each meeting.

3.2 In addition to the existing Terms of Reference of the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the following Terms of Reference were specific to the review of leisure:

- a. Monitor the revised funding and legal agreement agreed with Rossendale Leisure Trust and receive monthly financial/performance monitoring reports on a facility by facility basis.
- b. Oversee, monitor and respond to progress reports on:
 - Pool Review
 - Leisure Hall Review
 - Strategic Leisure Review including options around the leisure delivery mechanism

4. METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

In determining how to take the work forward and to ensure they consulted with all the necessary officers and partners, it was agreed that the following people should be invited to meetings:-

- Head of Finance
- Communities Manager
- Service Development Officer (Culture)
- Chair of Rossendale Leisure Trust
- Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust

5. FINDINGS

5.1 To monitor the revised funding and legal agreement agreed with Rossendale Leisure Trust and receive monthly financial/performance monitoring reports on a facility by facility basis.

Rossendale Leisure Trust presented their Corporate Action Plan 2009/2010 and Financial Monitoring Report to the first meeting of the Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure) Committee. Regular updates were tabled at each meeting and included details of expected milestones, details of Local Area Agreement targets, key performance indicators and the extent to which targets were being achieved. The

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Financial Monitoring Reports provided a year to date and facility by facility update and identified financial variances compared to the previous year.

In response to a request from the Chair of Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure), the Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust agreed to use a traffic light format when highlighting areas of discussion.

Financial Monitoring

The Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust informed the Committee that the income and expenditure was regularly monitored by service managers. The Trust also met on a monthly basis with the Council's Head of Finance. In response to a question about assumptions in the financial monitoring report the Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust agreed to include assumptions together with risks in reports to the Committee. Financial monitoring reports were provided and an update was given at each meeting.

A number of questions were raised in relation to the budget figures including impact of staffing following the redundancies and marketing strategy. Questions were also raised in relation to grant funding, how much interest the Trust had paid on loans since 2004, an update on Passport to Active Living, sickness absence and an outline of Capital Expenditure. Reports and updates were brought to the Committee on 23rd June, 6th August and 19th October 2009 detailing the requested information.

The Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust reported on proposals to reduce head office costs and reporting of head office costs was provided within the Financial Monitoring Reports.

Ski Rossendale continued to be a concern for the Leisure Trust and they were continuing to look at different ways of bringing innovations to this facility. The Chair of Rossendale Leisure Trust informed members that although the ski slope was making a profit in 2005, it was now making a loss and there were issues in relation to investment and value for money. Although good work was being achieved through GP referrals and coaching sessions, there had been an impact with the opening of the Chill Factor in Manchester. The Acting Chief Executive indicated that there was a need to look at a long term sustainable structure for leisure, and the Leisure Trust would need to work around investment needs for Ski Rossendale and consider opportunities for private sector investment.

There were a number of additional questions raised by Members in relation to staff pay rises, spend per population head for leisure provision and also assumptions made when drafting the proposed budgets for the coming year.

It was confirmed that 1.5% had been factored in for staff pay rises and the forecast for next year would also be in line with the Council's forecast.

Specific updates on performance and financial monitoring was detailed for each facility as follows:

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Ski Rossendale

The Chief Executive and Acting Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust provided information to the Committee on the following:

- Revised opening times for the ski slope: opening times were extended from 1st October 2009 in response to the autumn and winter season demand.
- Restructure within the facility resulting in savings of £100k.
- The opening of the Chill Factor and the impact on visitor numbers to ski slope.
- Initiatives including 2010 winter Olympics and proposals for adventure/play at Ski Rossendale.
- ‘Taster sessions’ – party packs and ‘2 for 1’ family offers on skiing/tubing. Children’s parties and tubing had increased to an average of 13 per week.
- Passport to Active Living and the need to revise the qualification criteria.
- Autumn and winter marketing campaigns.
- Voluntary programme on the ski slope was likened to the ‘V’ Programme facilitated through the lifestyle team.
- Engaged with Lancashire Life, Lancashire Living and Jet 2 airlines to obtain knowledge about the best marketing potential at the lowest cost.
- Links to education, schools and sports colleges remained strong, engagement in the Sport Unlimited project linked the slope into the government drive for the five hour offer for sport and PE.
- Engaged with a specialist marketing company to look at refreshing the Ski Rossendale website. The new website went live week commencing 28th September 2009 and would include ‘hidden’ marketing techniques and hooks.
- High-quality internal marketing templates were designed to allow staff to turn around ‘quick fix’ promotions in a very short space of time.
- Ski Rossendale hosted the Summer Race League, the Grand Prix and the Celtic Cup, all successful race days ensuring that the Ski Slope obtained a high profile Nationwide.
- Funding was obtained via the Children’s Trust to deliver affordable holiday courses with new activities such as archery being introduced. Further funding through the Green Partnership Awards has allowed the Trust to work in partnership with the Borough Council toward the improvement of the grounds and linking in with the Shoe Trail.
- A Travel Agent event day was planned for Thursday 17th September, in an attempt to showcase the Ski Slope, and to explore the possibilities of partnership working across the private sector with regards to vouchers redeemed against winter ski bookings.
- Exploratory meetings took place between Rossendale Leisure Trust, Groundwork, and Accrington and Rossendale College to look at the potential of apprenticeships, placements, vocational courses and potential linkages through the Pennine Lancashire Adrenaline Gateway.
- Sport Unlimited taking place upon slope delivering both ski and snowboarding opportunities to a potential new user group.

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Members asked a number of questions concerning the summer activities programme and attendances, benchmarking, promotional offers, return rates following taster sessions, medium and longer term actions, and staffing concerns.

It was confirmed that:

- The Trust undertook benchmarking on admission fees and were at the lower end of pricing and considerably lower for tubing activities.
- The Trust offered promotional offers on skiing and tubing.
- Return rates for taster sessions and numbers of Rossendale users had tried to be measured and varying results from different pieces of work had been obtained.
- Medium term actions for the ski slope included the 2010 winter Olympics.
- Longer term the ski slope needed to diversify to meet significant challenges. Proposals for a family adventure centre would increase summer usage.
- The Trust had been keeping the staff updated although staff were leaving owing to uncertainty.

The Chair of Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure) confirmed that the Council had stated they had no plans to close the ski slope. In response to a request from Members the Action Plan for 2009/2010 and Long Term Action Plans were made available to Committee meetings.

At the final meeting of the committee the Communities Manager informed that they had received 3 submissions in relation to exploring private investment following the issue of the Prior Information Notices (PIN). Members would be considering entering a dialogue to identify an optimum bid.

Pools

Rossendale Leisure Trust provided information to the Committee on the following:

- The Trust was looking at increasing revenue and they were engaged with marketing and awareness campaigns. The Trust aimed to link in with local campaigns including the PCT initiative, Saving a Million Years of Life, etc.
- A short term action plan had been implemented in all but three areas.
- Pool staff were engaged in the new teaching programme for children and new strategic link forged with the newly restructured Amateur Swimming Association.
- The strategic links with the Primary Care Trust had been achieved, although there was an acknowledged lack of suitably qualified low impact aqua deliverers throughout Pan Lancashire.
- Promotion material made available from SMYL and Change4Life. There is a need to link in Trust activities to the National and Sub Regional campaigns.
- School links were good with attendance at a number of road shows through June and July. Also attended the Extended Schools Conference.

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- The Trust worked together with the Pools Review Panel to help establish a clear action plan for a proposed new pool helping coordinate actions to improve relations with swimming development forum further.
- The Amateur Swimming Association New National Teaching plan was in place and fully functional from October 2009. All except one primary school was engaged in school swim sessions at either Marl Pits or Haslingden Pools.
- Open nights have been delivered at both Marl Pits and Haslingden with a view to attracting potential new customers and allowing staff the opportunity to outline the New National Teaching Plan to parents.
- Family sessions have been introduced on Sunday afternoons at Haslingden, linking parents/health suite and the swimming pool.
- A new family marketing campaign was launched as part of the Rossendale Leisure Trust cohesive marketing campaign. A new fun time inflatable was in use during fun sessions at Marl Pits on Saturday afternoons.
- Two corporate memberships were now in operation with a new one under discussion.
- Both pools were offering sessions under the GP Referral Scheme ensuring equity across the Trust facilities.
- Swimming lessons for the period September until December 2009 stand at 87% capacity at Haslingden, and 84% at Marl Pits.
- Both Pools had given lifeguards the opportunity to skill up to a Level 1 swim teacher qualification in an attempt to allow lifeguards to widen their skill set.
- Sport Unlimited would be delivered at Marl Pits Pool linking the swim forum and new potential customers and participants.
- The Pools Manager continued to support the work of the Swimming Forum and the Pools Review Panel.

Members discussed the use of the swimming pool by secondary schools in the Borough, to which the Chair of Rossendale Leisure Trust confirmed that secondary schools were more concerned with the academic side of schooling, nevertheless, all but one primary school were participating in school swim sessions at Marl Pits or Haslingden pools.

Bacup Leisure Hall

Rossendale Leisure Trust provided information to the Committee on the following:

- There was reduced revenue during January and February 2009, although the target was reached in March.
- There was a small programme of entertainment events planned and it was hoped that a community solution could be found for the future management of the Hall.
- A short term action plan had been implemented in all areas. The events programme saw an increase of activity with emphasis on links to promoters.
- Work was being undertaken on engaging with past hirers and new potential markets. This work is still continuing. Attempts were made to 'lift' the feel of the

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hall with a number of new marketing tools being initiated. These marketing tools were aimed at children, adults and seniors.

- New activities were programmed from September and aimed directly at the hard to reach groups: young people and teenage girls.
- Internal staff training took place in early July. The Lifestyle Team was briefed on the needs and support required by the Leisure Hall and its staff.
- The rationalisation of core staff hours took place allowing staff greater flexibility for weekend and evening cover. Casual staff recruitment took place to ease the burden placed on some Trust personnel.
- Partnership arrangements with 'Hairy Dog Promotions' were active whilst new banners were now visible on the Leisure Hall.
- The Sport Unlimited Programme stimulated Dance, Drama and Cheerleading at afterschool times through September, October and part way through December. Links made with Rossendale Dance and Drama provide an exit strategy for interested young people. The School Sport Co-ordinators network continues to use the hall for Primary Link Teachers and School Sport Co-ordinators training days.
- New Weight Management classes were delivered by the Lifestyle Team Health Coordinators centring on low impact physical activity, education classes and signposting.
- The Rossendale Sports Awards were hosted on 14th August 2009 with over 120 people plus 23 shortlisted nominees in attendance, with the event receiving extemporary feedback. The Rossendale Sports Awards fed into the Regional Awards in Blackpool on Friday 13th November 2009.

Members asked questions in relation to bookings at Bacup Leisure Hall to which the Acting Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust confirmed that private hire bookings remained stable until the end of February 2010.

Haslingden Sports Centre

Rossendale Leisure Trust provided information to the Committee on the following:

- Membership targets were being achieved with direct debit membership standing at 1400 (as reported at the meeting on 19th October). This created some pressure on car parking space and potential issues within the fitness suite at peak times. The relocation of the spinning bikes would create space for new pieces of fitness equipment within the main fitness arena. The membership growth continues to underpin the financial stability of the Trust
- A robust external marketing plan would be implemented in light of the current economic climate and regular forecasting would be undertaken.
- A short term action plan had been implemented in all but three areas.
- On maintenance issues: draining of the grass playing areas had taken place and a temporary car park (under construction) would alleviate parking congestion throughout the autumn / winter seasons. This was seen as vital as the membership base at Haslingden continues to increase.

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- Works was completed on the corporate membership packages with the release in September 2009. The new marketing plan for Haslingden had been completed and was in operation; a new quarterly newsletter was being delivered through the 'retention people' to all membership holders.
- The football tournament took place on 4th June with over 2000 people attending.
- The Centre linked to the community via the work of the Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) and Lifestyles Team, together with road shows delivered by Sports Centre Staff to the local schools. There was continued support of the club infrastructure leading to 'buy in' from sports forums and clubs.
- The refreshed Passport to Active Living Scheme was approved by the Trust Board and became operational on 1st October.
- There was new venture with Alliance Leisure regarding toning beds.
- Rossendale Leisure Trust delivered a cohesive marketing offer across Rossendale using the Sports Centre as the 'launch pad' to increase awareness of what was on offer at all Trust sites and to increase revenues. Early figures showed a slight increase in swimming lessons and gym membership.
- Haslingden Sports Centre celebrated its first milestone with the Lifestyles Centre reaching its first anniversary. Over 500 members and their families joined staff on 3rd September in a special birthday event.
- Two corporate memberships were in operation with one new one under discussion.
- Activity on the NTP continued to rise following its refurbishment in April.

Members discussed costs of direct debit and contracts in relation to membership at the sports centre and also asked questions in relation to car parking at the centre. The Communities Manager informed the Committee that work on creating a temporary hard core car park, with lighting, would commence 24th August 2009.

Lifestyles

Rossendale Leisure Trust provided information to the Committee on the following:

- A short term action plan had been implemented in all but one area. Health Coordinators continued to produce solid figures on the GP referral scheme, reporting back well above agreed targets. Sport Unlimited and Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) projects continued to pull the third sector and statutory organisations together and both reported back fully into the relevant Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Thematic Groups.
- Funding was agreed with the East Lancashire Primary Care Trust on a rolling three year agreement. Since 2004 this had only ever been an ongoing annual agreement, this is seen as a very proactive and supportive move by the East Lancashire Primary Care Trust borne out by the Trust's diligent reporting and responsible delivery.

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- The 'moving on pack' being developed by the lifestyle coordinators is expected to have an impact on the target of 20% GP referral entrants moving on to the long term membership packages available.
- A new GP referral programme was launched utilising all Rossendale Leisure Trust facilities and new marketing material was available at the end of September.
- The Lifestyle Team summer holiday courses were very popular and have seen circa 1150 young people involved in the multisport activities, whilst a further 188 young people were involved in the cricket camps and 13 volunteers and 14 casual staff were engaged to help throughout the holiday period. All casual staff were products of mentoring and training and all volunteers were linked to either the 'v' programme or sports leaders. All volunteer and casual staff were from within the Rossendale Community. Volunteer booklets distributed to all volunteers involved in the summer activities.
- The Sport Unlimited September Programme and Dance your Way to Health Programme were also timetabled.
- A new Club Development Officer was employed in June 2009 and was beginning to make an impact around the Borough. Over sixty Rossendale Clubs were interviewed within the club audit process. Five clubs were identified for working toward Club Mark over the next twelve months. A new club database and sports directory would be available, and a Festival of Sport was planned for November 2009.
- Sport Unlimited and Festival of Sport would support a strong infrastructure and school / club links.
- Negotiations were continuing with regards to the walking officer for Rossendale employed by Groundwork and how best the Lifestyle Co-ordinators could complement their work programme and delivery plan to achieve maximum impact.
- A new Football Forum was on Wednesday 23rd September at Rossendale United with support from The Lancashire Football Association.
- The following partner events were supported: - 'Lancashire Day' at Waterfoot and 'Catch Up' at Haslingden Community Link.
- Strong links continue to be fostered with National Governing Bodies: Sport England and Lancashire Sport.
- The partnership funding for the Rossendale Community Cricket Coach following protracted negotiation was renewed by the County Cricket Board for a further three years.

Members of the Committee noted the added value of healthy lifestyles and employment opportunities and commended the work of the Lifestyles Team. They also asked questions on the capacity of the schemes to which the Acting Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust responded by informing Members of the waiting lists and that if anyone missed an activity first time round they would be first on the list for the next scheduled activity.

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5.2 To oversee, monitor and respond to progress reports on the Pool Review

The Pool Review Panel was set up to inform and support the 2009 leisure review in terms of swimming pool provision in Rossendale and to report progress/obtain feedback on particular issues (as necessary) from partner organisations. The Panel would inform and make recommendations regarding delivery of a project plan for the development of a new swimming pool, identifying budget and timescale: including the design, procurement, build and completion of the project.

Following a request from the Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure) Committee regular Pool Review Panel updates and reports were tabled at the meetings to inform of progress and developments. These were included as appendices to the Leisure Review 2009 Reports.

At the meetings of Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure) Committee the following information was considered:

The Communities Manager informed the Committee that the Pools Review Panel had looked at 2 options regarding the kind of swimming pool necessary for the Borough: a 25m option and a 50m option. The Panel group refined their option for a new swimming pool to a 25m pool with supplementary learner pool and spectator seating at the Haslingden Lifestyle Centre.

To complete the research on swimming pool design, visits to recently built community swimming pools were organised and questions were asked around finance, procurement, project management, operation and design which would help to inform the project plan. Officers also met with the Operations Manager at Haslingden Lifestyle Centre to look at car parking issues and other issues on site that would affect the design and build of a new pool.

Officers sought additional finance to support the development of the new pool and in August the Rossendale Partnerships Cultural Board submitted an expression of interest for the Performance Reward Grant that would provide a small amount of match funding (£250k) for the new pool. The outline application was successful and the Cultural Board was requested to submit a detailed business case for the project by December 2009. An Officer visited the Haslingden Swimming Pool, Customer Focus Group and the Swimming Forum to keep them updated on the progress of the review. A Community Impact Assessment has been completed regarding the building of a new pool at the Haslingden Lifestyle Centre

Officers met relevant organisations to gather information on building pools, information gathered from these meetings and the report from Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) consultants would inform the project plan going forward for a potential new pool.

At the final meeting of the committee an update was given by the Communities Manager on the recommendations being proposed by the Pool Review Panel to Cabinet. These included:

- To outline specifications for a new pool

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- To continue to meet and oversee developments
- To keep Haslingden Pool open until a new pool was ready
- To keep Marl Pits swimming pool open

5.3 To oversee, monitor and respond to progress reports on the Leisure Hall Review

The Leisure Hall Review Panel was set up to identify through consultation the various options available to maintain continued use and to identify the potential development of a community leisure facility within Bacup and Stacksteads for use by the whole of Rossendale and adjoining areas. The Panel would consider and develop all available options concentrating on the Bacup Leisure Hall, identifying budgets and timescales. This would inform and contribute to the delivery of a project plan for the review of the various options available for the provision of a community and leisure facility within Bacup and Stacksteads.

Following a request from the Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure) Committee regular Leisure Hall Review Panel updates and reports were tabled at the meetings to inform of progress and developments. These were included as appendices to the Leisure Review 2009 Reports.

At the meetings of Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure) Committee the following information was considered:

The Community Manager informed that the Leisure Hall Review Panel had agreed that there were three options to look at which were:

- 1) Community Take Over Option:
 - To look at the proposal of establishing a not-for-profit business made up of local business people and community minded residents (similar to the CLAW model).
 - To look at generating interest from existing using community user groups and groups within the area.
 - To look at the resurrection of the previous MySpace Application and whether this could be bolstered through additional support from other agencies such as the Princes Trust.
- 2) Use of building and land by Private Service Provider:
 - To undertake soft market testing of the site to gauge interest and obtain workable proposals from interested bodies.
 - To work with existing community user groups in developing and evidencing a business case for taking forward the scheme under a long term lease.
- 3) Closure of Building and other regenerative uses:
 - To look at other options including the potential for development as housing.

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- To work with an existing business who wants to move to the area and could potentially utilise this property.

Members asked questions in relation to public meetings to discuss the way forward.

The Communities Manager informed the Committee of developments and events that had taken place including the following:

The Panel discussed generating interest from the community and the third sector to bring forward a viable Community Takeover option. A concerted marketing and publicity campaign was undertaken to advertise and promote an event at which groups and volunteers from the community could come forward and work together to bring forward plans. Marketing of the event included the distribution and placement of 300 posters; press releases; 3 large scale banners; dedicated website page; and two sessions on Bacup Market meeting with residents and interested organisations. In addition, the use of the hall and land would be advertised to the wider market and due to European procurement rules a Prior Information Notice (PIN) was placed advertising the potential of the hall and land across Europe.

A market stall was held on Wednesday 9th and Saturday 12th September 2009 to inform local residents about the current situation with the hall, promote the community takeover event and answer any questions. It was also an opportunity to unpick some of the findings in the Cultural Survey regarding Bacup Leisure Hall. The Communities Team spoke to 39 people on the market stall.

A main information event was held at Bacup Leisure Hall on the 15th September and took the form of a drop in session over four hours. It was well attended by voluntary organisations; residents and volunteers. The next stage would be to bring the interested parties together.

Interested organisations had to complete an Expression of Interest Form which would allow the steering group to select preferred proposals for the hall based on a set of standard evaluation criteria which were:

- Deliverability
- Timescale
- Sustainability
- Finance and funding implications on the Public Purse
- Community, Social and Economic Benefits
- Strategic relevance to the Council's priorities

The deadline for expressions of interest was 15th October 2009.

At the final meeting of the committee the Communities Manager informed that 3 expressions of interest had been received and that the Leisure Hall Review Panel had met to assess them according to the evaluation criteria outlined above. The assessment of the expressions of interest would inform the Panel's recommendations

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to Cabinet in December and it was hoped that by the end of November all parties concerned would be contacted regarding their proposals.

5.4 To oversee, monitor and respond to progress reports on the Strategic Leisure Review including options around the leisure delivery mechanism

The Communities Manager informed the Committee on the key tasks of the leisure review and the need to establish strategic priorities for leisure and culture.

The Pool Review panel had identified a preferred option for a pool adjoined to the Haslingden Lifestyle Centre which was in line with the recommendations of the Leisure White Paper. The Bacup Leisure Hall Review Panel had identified a number of options to consider including: management of the facility by Community Group; acquisition of the hall by a private leisure / entertainment provider, and the closure of the hall and use of the site for another regenerative use such as education or housing. In relation to Ski Rossendale, private sector investment opportunities were explored to establish the level of interest that might exist within the wider private sector to invest in the facility and maintain its use. Residents were also consulted on what they identified as a priority, to inform this work a Culture and Leisure questionnaire was conducted with the Citizen’s Panel and was also available to the wider public via the Council’s website. The questionnaire covered priorities for facilities, countryside recreation, the arts and participating in arts, sports and leisure in Rossendale.

Tender documentation was made available for consultants to complete an Options Appraisal for the delivery of leisure services and at the meeting on 6th August it was announced that Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) consultants had been awarded the contract for the Options Appraisal for the delivery of leisure services.

The updates from the Review Panels, results of the Culture and Leisure Survey and findings of Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) consultants are detailed in the relevant sections of this report and were considered by Committee Members when making their response to options in relation to the leisure delivery mechanism.

5.5 Leisure and Culture Review 2009 - Collaborative Research Consultation Service (CRACS)

At the meeting on 19th October 2009 Kristian Barker of the Collaborative Research Consultation Service delivered a presentation on the Leisure and Culture Review 2009. He informed members of who had taken part in the review and gave an overview of the breakdown of participant in relation to the profile of the population. He also detailed the responses on questions concerning outdoor activities, arts and culture, taking part and impact.

Members questioned how the survey was delivered and the validity of the survey.

It was confirmed that there had been enough responses for the survey to be valid and that the survey had been promoted in number of ways including by email, on the web

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site, to citizens panels, notice boards, Members Bulletin and through the various partner organisations as well as in the press. This would be just one aspect of the consultation process and consultation would be ongoing, allowing residents to feed into the Cabinet report in December 2009 and the recommendations for Full Council in February 2010.

5.6 Leisure Review - Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) Consultants

At the final meeting of the committee on 19th November 2009 David McHendry, Principal Consultant at Knight, Kavanagh and Page delivered a presentation on the Leisure Review/Options Appraisal. He informed members about the range of facilities that should be included in the Council's leisure and culture portfolio in order to make it effective and sustainable. He detailed issues such as deprivation, health, and the reach of services, and also informed members of the results of the supply and demand analysis and also the key issues facing the Council for each of the leisure facilities.

Mr McHendry outlined the details of 3 possible options for the delivery of leisure facilities and informed of the recommendations of Knight, Kavanagh and Page on the range of facilities that should be included:

- Closing Bacup Leisure Hall unless a suitable community alternative could be found.
- Rossendale Leisure Trust to surrender lease on Ski Rossendale and work with the Council to procure a new partner.
- The Council should advertise the Ski Rossendale opportunity and detail the procurement process.
- Provide a swimming pool at Haslingden Sports Centre.
- Upgrade the pool and provide income generating facilities at Marl Pits to ensure financial viability.
- Continue to facilitate swimming in Whitworth through the revenue grant to Community Leisure Association of Whitworth.

In addition to this there had been a management options appraisal and Mr McHendry detailed the assessment and proposed operational models including: the current Trust(s) arrangements in terms of their impact, effectiveness and suitability as future delivery models; the range of alternative management options available (including an assessment of the strengths, weaknesses and financial implications of each), and benchmarking of the Council's current investment in leisure.

The Knight, Kavanagh and Page Consultants report on the leisure review and options appraisal would inform the reports going to Cabinet in December 2009 and Full Council in February 2010.

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6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the committee recommends Cabinet to take the options presented by Knight, Kavanagh and Page Consultants into consideration as part of the final Leisure Report, and assess these alongside any budget implications.
2. That Rossendale Borough Council, Rossendale Leisure Trust and Community Leisure Association of Whitworth work together on a joint development plan and Service Level Agreements to achieve a shared vision of improving health and wellbeing by:
 - Increasing participation in Cultural activities including sport and leisure.
 - Providing high quality and accessible facilities.
 - Ensuring value for money from the investment made in achieving this vision.
 - That a development plan is produced in conjunction with interested parties' particularly local people.
3. That as part of the work programme, Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee continue to receive updates following Full Council's recommendations on 25th February 2010. Including:
 - Monitor any revised funding and legal agreement agreed with Rossendale Leisure Trust and CLAW.
 - Work programmes emerging from the Council decisions on 25th February 2010.
 - Monitor the Development Plan and Service Level Agreements.
 - Continue to receive reports from the Pool Review Panel and Leisure Hall Review Panel until the projects are complete.

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The Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure) Committee would like to thank the following people for their contributions to this report.

Phil Seddon, Head of Finance

Mike Riley, Communities Manager

Gina Fletcher, Service Development Officer (Culture)

Norman Hauserman, Chair, Rossendale Leisure Trust

Gary Hood, Chief Executive, Rossendale Leisure Trust

Martin Kay, Acting Chief Executive, Rossendale Leisure Trust

Mr Adrian Leather (Lancashire Sport)

Mr Ian Cameron

Pools Review Panel

Bacup Leisure Hall Review Panel

Kris Barker, Collaborative Research and Consultation Service (CRACS)

David, McHendry, Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) consultants

Members of the public who have contributed to the meetings and also participated in the Leisure and Culture Questionnaires and Surveys.

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