

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Thursday 17th December 2009

**Present: Councillor Swain (in the Chair)
Councillors Challinor, Essex, Gledhill, Smith and P. Steen**

**In Attendance: Mrs H Lockwood, Chief Executive
Mr S Sugarman, Director of Business
Mr M Riley, Communities Manager
Mr D McHendry, Principal Consultant, Knight Kavanagh
and Page Consultancy
Mr N Molyneux, Communications Manager
Mrs C Sharples, Interim Committee and Member Services
Manager
Gina Fletcher, Service Development Officer - Culture
Mrs J Cook, Committee Officer
Ms M Hargreaves, Committee Officer**

**Also Present: Councillors A. Barnes, Cheetham, Eaton, Evans, Haworth,
Morris Nuttall, J. Pilling, Sandiford and Stansfield.
County Councillor T. Winder**

45 members of the public 1 member of the press

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Graham.

2. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

The Leader of the Council reported that there were no urgent items of business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. LEISURE REVIEW REPORT

4.1 Presentation by KKP Consultancy

- 4.1.1 Mr David McHendry, Principal Consultant at Knight, Kavanagh and Page delivered a presentation on the Leisure Review/Options Appraisal. He informed Members of 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.

4.1.2 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. This included:

- Closing Bacup Leisure Hall unless a suitable community alternative could be found.
- Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT) 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 (CLAW).

4.1.3 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.

4.1.4 The Chair thanked Mr McHendry for giving the presentation and detailing the findings and recommendations of the report.

4.2 Report of the Communities Manager

4.2.1 Mr M Riley, Communities Manager, provided Members with a brief overview of the Committee report and appendices and provided further clarification on the three options outlined. It was noted that the consultancy report had recommended that a private investor be sought for Ski Rossendale and brief details (excluding names for data protection reasons) were given of 3 parties who had expressed an interest in the facility.

4.2.2 It was acknowledged that the current economic climate would have an impact on any decision made by Members with respect to the review of leisure facilities and it was essential that careful planning to ensure a robust business case was carried out.

4.2.3 Thanks were expressed on behalf of the Council to all who had participated in the Leisure Review to date, particularly the Pool and Backup Leisure Hall Review Groups

4.3 Verbal Report of Councillor Jason Gledhill – Portfolio Holder for Leisure

4.3.1 Councillor Gledhill thanked all the associations and individuals who had given up their time to be involved in the Leisure Review, Pool Review Panels and consultation events.

4.3.2 Councillor Gledhill briefly outlined the history and the need for a complete review of all leisure facilities across the Borough and the need to achieve a sustainable, long-term strategy that provided Rossendale residents with suitable and efficient leisure facilities.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public raised questions which are briefly summarised below. The names of the individuals are noted where given:-

No.	Issue	Answered by
1.	Mrs B Stocks – Save our Pools Group - Will both current pools continue to operate until the new pools are fully operational? - Concerns raised regarding private fitness operators and accessibility. - Reminder that the Council has pledged to increase the number of adults participating in physical activity and resident satisfaction with facilities.	Councillor Gledhill
2.	Representative from CLAW Query regarding financial investment and concerns regarding Whitworth and CLAW appearing to be excluded from capital funding.	Councillor Gledhill Mr D McHendry Councillor Swain
3.	Resident of Whitworth Query regarding the financial stability of the leisure trust and long-term loans.	Councillor Gledhill Councillor Essex Councillor Swain
4.	Mr L Entwistle Query regarding the history of the leisure review and the robustness of the business case, including opening hours of leisure facilities.	Councillor Swain
5.	Resident Query and concerns regarding timescales of any subsequent planning applications.	Councillor Swain
6.	Resident Query regarding the statistics from public consultation within the Culture Review.	Mr M Riley Councillor Swain

No.	Issue	Answered by
7.	Query regarding the priorities and timescales between Haslingden Pool and Marl Pits Pool.	Councillor Swain
8.	County Councillor Winder Query regarding valuation of the site of Haslingden Pool and future usage of the site.	Councillor Swain
9.	Councillor Eaton - Expression of thanks to the Bacup Pool Group. - Concerns regarding the future of Bacup Leisure Hall.	Mr D McHendry Councillor Swain
10.	Councillor Cheetham Query regarding the Culture report and the inclusion of sports such as cricket and golf.	Councillor Swain
11.	Councillor Sandiford Query regarding the timescale for action, once Cabinet and Council have made a decision.	Councillor Gledhill
12.	Councillor A Barnes - Welcomed proposals, however concerns raised regarding the ability of major project to go ahead, given the current financial climate and costs. - Query regarding income generation of Marl Pits Pool and means of obtaining extra investment.	Councillor Swain

The following Cabinet Members made additional comments on the report and recommendations:-

Councillor P. Steen, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services
Councillor Gledhill, Portfolio Holder for Leisure
Councillor Swain, Leader of the Council.

Decision Made:

1. That Rossendale Borough Council and Rossendale Leisure Trust continue legal and financial planning meetings in order that a final business case can be presented to Council as part of the budget setting process for 2010/2011.
2. That the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee continue to receive updates on Leisure, following Council's recommendations at its meeting on

25th February 2010. The updates will include monitoring the funding agreements and the work programmes emerging from the Council's decisions.

3. That the Pool Review Panel, Bacup Leisure Hall and the Ski Slope Review Group continue to meet to support the development of the projects and ongoing consultation.
4. That further consultation with residents be carried out prior to the Council meeting on 25th February 2010 to enable residents to feed back on the option being put forward.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure that leisure services operate cost-effectively and meet the Council's priorities for healthy and respectful communities.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Options two and three as outlined in the KKP Consultancy report.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.05pm

CHAIR