

Subject: Leisure Development

Status: For Publication

Report to: Performance Overview and Scrutiny

Date: 22nd June 2010

Report of: Director of Customers & Communities

Portfolio

Holder: Leisure

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the committee regarding the progress of projects implemented as part of the 2009 Leisure Review including the funding agreements relating to Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT) and Community Leisure Association Whitworth (CLAW).

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:-

- Delivering quality Services to our customers
- Delivering regeneration across the Borough
- Encouraging healthy and respectful communities
- Keeping our Borough clean, green and safe
- Promoting the Borough
- Providing value for money services

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- The investment for Leisure identified in the February Full Council report was based on assumptions regarding the Council's ongoing commitment to leisure services. Changes from the assumptions outlined in that report could have an impact on the Council's overall budget.

- Failure to deliver the recommendations outlined in the 2009 Leisure Review committed to by the Council would have an impact on the reputation of the Council and our leisure partners.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 Following a thorough review of leisure provision in Rossendale in 2009, in February Council approved the delivery of a significant leisure improvement project for the Borough including the following key actions:

- Bacup Leisure Hall review panel should continue to explore options for the Bacup Leisure Hall site.
- Negotiate surrender of the lease for Ski Rossendale with Rossendale Leisure Trust and continue the procurement process to secure a new private sector partner to invest in and operate the facility.
- Continue design brief and commence procurement for new pool at Haslingden Sports Centre and development of fitness suite, five-a-side and improvements at Marl Pits.
- Closure of Haslingden Pool on completion of new pool.
- Confirm a new funding agreement with CLAW and undertake an external review in relation to Riverside Civic Hall.
- Confirm a new funding agreement with RLT.

4.2 Since 25th February the Council has identified resources for the delivery of the project and an internal delivery structure has been put in place. What follows is an overview of progress against each of the key projects identified.

4.3 Bacup Leisure Hall

Following the report to Full Council in February the Council has undertaken a review of the alternative regenerative options for the Bacup Leisure Hall building and site, due to the lack of a viable community takeover option.

4.4 An interim appraisal report was presented to the Bacup Leisure Hall Review Panel meeting on 9th March, where each option was assessed against identified criteria.

4.5 The Panel agreed to develop further the 3 options with the highest ranking. Following the meeting the community takeover bid was again revised and an alternative hybrid and community option was proposed. 5 options were therefore presented to Cabinet on 3rd June, with the recommendation to identify the preferred option.

4.6 Ski Rossendale

The project is progressing and expressions of interest from a variety of companies have been received. The Council has now formally asked these organisations to submit a detailed and costed proposal for the management and running of the facility as a going concern and they have been asked to return their submissions by the 2nd July. Organisations, shortlisted from this process will then be invited for formal interview late July.

- 4.7 Once the successful organisation has been appointed more detailed work and negotiations will then take place to ensue the successful transfer of the facility to the new operator.
- 4.8 Facilities Development Project: Haslingden Pool and Marl Pits Development
Prudential Borrowing to complete the facilities development has been secured based on the business case developed as part of the 2009 leisure review, in addition Performance Reward Grant Funding secured by the Cultural Board of the Rossendale Partnership is also now in place.
- 4.9 An invitation was issued to provide a quotation for a combined role of Project Manager and Quantity Surveyor for the facilities development. This will include the preparation of the planning application, development and evaluation of the tender specification for contractors and acting as Rossendale Borough Councils agent once works are underway.
- 4.10 The Council received a number of applications and interviews took place with shortlisted companies on 12th May 2010. The interview panel included Council Officers from Finance, Property Services and Communities and the Rossendale Leisure Trust's Acting Chief Executive. Tenders were scored on price, innovation, methodology, experience, energy efficiency and community involvement.
- 4.11 As a result of this competitive process the Council confirmed Mouchel as their partner on 20th May 2010. Mouchel are an experienced company who have successfully completed a number of projects similar to the Rossendale proposals.
- 4.12 The Pool Review Panel was initiated to contribute to the 2009 Leisure Review and the planning for a new pool in Haslingden. This group will continue to meet throughout the implementation of the facilities development and meetings have been booked for the coming year.
- 4.13 Funding and Performance Agreement: CLAW and The Riverside
Regular client meetings have been taking place between Council Officers and CLAW following the production of the Leisure Review in December. A regular programme of meetings has been booked in for the year.
- 4.14 Following a request for a grant funding uplift the Council has confirmed that CLAW will receive an additional £25,000 in 2010/11 taking their total grant allocation to £97,000.
- 4.15 The Council is working closely with CLAW to examine the potential of the Riverside to generate more income and move towards a break even position, as a minimum. The original recommendation of the Leisure Review was to pursue this with an external consultant. However, following client meetings with CLAW the initial way forward agreed has been to look in more detail at the CLAW business plan as part of a joint meeting and to carry out site visits to other facilities to research business models.

- 4.16 CLAW has provided a highlight report (appendix 1) as well as an overview of the income and customer traffic for the Leisure Centre and Riverside. (appendix 2)
- 4.17 Funding and Performance Agreement: RLT
Regular client meetings have been taking place between Council Officers and RLT following the production of the Leisure Review in September 2009. (Appendix 3 – Highlight Report from RLT)
- 4.18 RLT will have a key part to play in the successful delivery of the leisure improvements. As a result a number of performance indicators are being agreed with the Trust as part of their funding agreement.
- 4.19 Update reports are also attached from Rossendale Leisure Trust regarding finance, equalities, staff absence and customer complaints (Appendices’ 4 – 7)

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 Financial matters are noted within the report.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 No comments

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 7.1 No comments

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Significant progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the 2009 Leisure Review. Implementation of the projects identified will result in an enhanced leisure offer for the Borough.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 To note the contents of the reports and the progress made to date in implementing the recommendations of the 2010 Leisure Review.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 No additional consultation has been carried out regarding the Leisure Development Projects in the period of this report.

11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Community Impact Assessment required No

Is a Community Impact Assessment attached No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Cabinet and Council Reports December 2009, February 2010	Website
CLAW – Highlight Report	Appendix 1
CLAW – Performance Overview	Appendix 2
RLT - Highlight Report	Appendix 3
RLT – Equalities Report	Appendix 4
RLT – Sickness Absence Report	Appendix 5
RLT – Customer Complaints Report	Appendix 6
RLT – Finance Summary	Appendix 7