

Subject: Leisure Development

Status: For Publication

Report to:
Performance, Overview and Scrutiny

Date: 7th February 2011

Report of: Director of Customers and 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 2010 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, the February Council approved the delivery of a significant leisure improvement project for the Borough including the following key actions:

- Negotiate surrender of the lease for Ski Rossendale with Rossendale Leisure Trust and continue to explore a viable option for the site.
- Continue with the procurement for a 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 continue to work on the findings of external review of the Riverside Civic Hall.
- Confirm a new funding agreement with Rossendale Leisure Trust.

The following points provide an overview of progress against each of the leisure development key projects.

Ski Rossendale

- 4.2 The KKP report outlined the transfer of Ski Rossendale as intrinsic to the delivery of the Leisure Review. The KKP report preferred operational model was to find a commercial partner to invest in and manage Ski Rossendale and assumed that there would be a neutral cost to the Council from 1st April 2011.
- 4.3 As reported at the last O&S meeting the Council and Leisure Trust received six expressions of interest through Ojeu, two of which later submitted a formal contract proposal to tender for the transfer of the facility. Both of these bidders were interviewed in July 2010 with regretfully neither offering a suitable and sustainable solution.
- 4.4 At a special Cabinet meeting on 26th January 2011 Cabinet members will discuss the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the need to find £3million of savings over the next four years. Attached at appendix 1 is a copy of the Ski Rossendale report presented to Cabinet.
- 4.5 At the time of issuing this report the outcome of the Cabinet meeting on 26th January 2010 was unknown therefore an update will be tabled at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 7th February 2011.

Facilities Development: Haslingden Pool and Marl Pits Development

- 4.6 Haslingden and Marl Pitts received outline planning approval at the Development Control Committee on 13th December 2010. A number of key points have been captured that need consideration as the project moves forward into the reserved matters application:
- Car Parking to be further aligned with LCC requirements
 - Traffic calming to be considered at Marl Pits,
 - External lighting proposals to be reviewed especially at Marl Pits to avoid a tunnel effect along road,
 - Consultation with user groups to be maintained
 - Rights of way through both sites to be considered during construction and following completion
 - Removal of trees to be minimised with replacement / relocation to be considered
 - Requirements of the East Lancashire User Network to be considered
 - Drainage design of the car park at Marl Pits to be considered carefully in line with existing conditions
 - Specified opening hours at Haslingden to be reviewed and amended for reserved matters if required.
- 4.7 These points were provided as items for discussion and consideration, they were not provided as a list of instructions to be included in the design. The project team have captured these items for consideration and will be reflected in the final design.
- 4.8 As reported at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting in November 2010, Mouchel, Rossendale Leisure Trust and Rossendale Borough Council's project team commenced the procurement process to find a preferred contractor.
- 4.9 The emerging contractor was Kier Northern, a regional construction arm of international construction and support services firm, Kier Group. Kier's bid provided the best value option and has previously worked on many highly acclaimed projects throughout the world including the nearby Heywood Sports Village.
- 4.10 Kier has also agreed to support a wide range of community engagement work, to place business with local firms where possible and to put something back into the local community. This includes visits to local schools, provide job and training opportunities, encourage involvement from college students and will support local charities and good causes.
- 4.11 Supporting Kier as part of the design team is architects KKA who will formalise the internal and external design before being submitted to Development Control Committee for full planning approval on 11th April 2011.
- 4.12 The design Manager from Kier and the Architect from KKA met with the Pool Working Group on 14th December 2010 to discuss internal layout of both sites. All sides particularly members of the working group found the meeting very

constructive. Kier and KKA are considering the recommendations of the group and they plan to meet again with revised plans on 22nd February 2011.

- 4.13 A combined 'Open Evening' aimed at local suppliers and interested parties was arranged for 1st February 2011 at Haslingden Sports Centre between 17:30 – 20:30 to consult on the project. Again this event will have taken place prior to the Overview and Scrutiny meeting so an update will be tabled on 7th February.
- 4.14 The project team including representatives from across Council departments, senior staff at Rossendale Leisure Trust, Mouchel's and now including Kier will continue to meet on a regular basis to refine plans for both new facilities. Updates will be provided via a number of mediums including Overview and Scrutiny.

Funding and Performance agreement: CLAW and the Riverside

- 4.15 Globe Consultants have finished their report which considered and tested a range of options from 'do nothing' to 'disposal'.
- 4.16 All options assume that existing promotional material is revised in line with the preferred option.
- 4.17 Globe concluded that the optimum option would be to focus on their existing core business, particularly wedding packages, whilst reducing overheads where possible to maximise profit.
- 4.18 If the disposal option was discarded the second option would be a 'Contract Growth Model' which assumes that CLAW continues to manage the Riverside as a social enterprise with a focus on optimising the usage of the facility.
- 4.19 The CLAW Board has been considering the findings of the Globe report and has supplied an initial response within their highlight report at appendix 2.

Funding and Performance agreement: Rossendale Leisure Trust

- 4.20 Performance Indicators for Rossendale Leisure Trust are attached at appendix 3 along with the financial report at appendix 4.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 Financial matters are noted in the report and accompanying appendices.
- 5.2 The Council has committed £5.6m of resources to new leisure facilities. £4.6m of these resources includes a loan which was underpinned by a business case and a set of assumptions agreed by the Council and the Leisure Trust in 2009/10.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

6.1 No additional comments to add.

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

7.1 No HR implications.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 There has been progress against each of the key actions identified as a result of the leisure review.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 For the committee to note the work carried out so far in relation to the leisure projects.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 As included within the body of the 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
Ski Rossendale report to Cabinet 26 th January 2011	<i>Appendix 1</i>
CLAW highlight report	<i>Appendix 2</i>
Performance report – RLT	<i>Appendix 3</i>
Financial report – RLT	<i>Appendix 4</i>