

# ***Report to the Council***

**Subject: Leisure and Young People Portfolio**

**Date: 28 October 2008**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor Heather Harding**

**Item: 8(i)**

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## **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder be noted.**

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## **Ongar Leisure Centre – Proposed Development of Playing Fields**

The Cabinet has now agreed to pursue actively the development of the Playing Fields at Ongar Leisure Centre, to enable the provision of a range of facilities that will benefit the local residents and the district.

Officers are now authorised to bid formally for the external funding available in the form of £727,000 from the Football Foundation and £200,000 from Essex Football Association, to contribute towards the overall costs; and the Cabinet has agreed an additional Capital Provision of £507,000 from the Council's Capital Programme for the balance of the works.

The facility will provide opportunities for a good cross section of sports for both junior and adults. West Essex PCT is keen to support the development and delivery of a wide range of new health and physical activity initiatives on the site.

The proposed development will include a third generation artificial pitch and changing facilities and will see regular social inclusion football and multi sports sessions being delivered by Tottenham Hotspur Foundation. Further consultation will be undertaken with Ongar Youth Club and local young people to ensure use of the facilities is maximised.

SLM Ltd has expressed an interest in adding the new facility to their existing contract for Ongar Leisure Centre. The Council's Sport Development Team will have guaranteed elements of use, for the provision of social inclusion programmes and targeted work with the residents of Shelley, Ongar and the surrounding villages.

## **North Weald Airfield – Fire Cover**

In the case of an emergency North Weald Airfield is currently served by Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Harlow Fire Station as well as the retained crews at the Epping and Ongar Fire Stations.

The airfield must comply with the minimum standard for a unlicensed airfield in accordance with the guidance contained within CAP 428 as set out by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The Council as owner of the airfield must be responsible and fully briefed on the law relating to health and safety at work. The Cabinet has decided therefore to seek

DDF funding in 2009/10 to appoint an aviation consultant to provide the Council with a full risk assessment of all airfield activities and to advise on the appropriate level of fire and rescue services.

Cabinet has also decided to procure a replacement fire and rescue vehicle at a cost of £10,000 and to arrange training for all of the appropriate staff to deal with an emergency.

### **The Jack Petchey Achievement Awards – Thursday 2 October 2008**

I was delighted to be involved in such a wonderful event that truly celebrates the achievements of young people in this district. Events such as this provide a real opportunity to highlight the positive contribution being made by young people in schools, youth groups and communities across the area. This event also celebrates the adult leaders, teachers, staff and volunteers who work so hard to ensure our young people are continually nurtured and encouraged.

### **Epping Forest Youth Council**

The Youth Council have been focusing their attention on the planning of the Big Youth Debate event, which is taking place on 19 November at Woolston Manor Golf Club. Over 200 local young people are expected to attend this event, which will be hosted by David Monk from BBC Radio Essex.

Youth Councillors have been completing the analysis of their consultation exercise which was undertaken in the summer term by around 900 young people, and looking at issues surrounding: activities for young people, crime and safety, transportation and the environment. The findings from this will feed into the Big Youth Debate event.

Last month Youth Council members received training in report writing from Senior Democratic Services Officer, Simon Hill, which was well received by participants.

Youth Councillors from Chigwell, Buckhurst Hill and Waltham Abbey have recently been invited and attended local community meetings in Chigwell, Buckhurst Hill and Waltham Abbey. They are also to soon be consulted on the new Ongar Sports Centre site and the format of The Forester, as part of a wider consultation process run by our Public Relations team.

The Officers directly involved with the Youth Council, Nick Robinson, Gill Wallis and Simon Hill are now starting to look at the election process for next year, which will begin in June 2009.