

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 17 February 2009

Subject: Leisure and Young People Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Heather Harding

Item: 7(i)

Recommendation

That this addendum to the report of the Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder be noted.

Leisure Centres and SLM

Waltham Abbey Sports Centre.

The Council has served notice on the Management of the Kind Harold School, Waltham Abbey. It will take effect on midnight, 13 January 2010. Staff members at WASC have been fully briefed. Officers have stressed that this does not mean the demise of the facility or the building, The school has every opportunity to manage it beyond the notice period if they so wish.

Epping Sports Centre

Sports Leisure Management (SLM) is currently contracted to manage four of the Council's sports centres/pools. At the time of letting the contract in 2006 there were doubts about the future of Epping Sports Centre and therefore the contract period with SLM was limited to January 2009 rather than the 2013 end date for Loughton and Ongar Leisure Centres and Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool.

SLM required an additional £220,000 per annum to operate the Epping Sports Centre beyond 2009. A CSB growth of this size would have placed significant pressure on future revenue budgets. Cabinet agreed therefore an arrangement with SLM whereby £80,000 of savings can be generated, and this includes the closure of the bar facility at Epping Sports Centre which will contribute £30,000 of those savings.

This has been met with a degree of upset by the Epping Squash Club who like to provide hospitality to visiting clubs. It is unusual for alcohol to be served in a sports centre environment today and it is my hope that the Club will continue at Epping without the bar facility. They can provide their own hospitality if they so wish.