

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 28 July 2009

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Brian Rolfe

Item: 11

1. CAPITAL SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE – PROVISION OF SPORTS HALL AT WALTHAM ABBEY SWIMMING POOL

Recommending:

That a supplementary capital estimate in the sum of £41,000 be approved to enable the proposal to build a Sports Hall at Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool to be progressed to the pre-planning stage.

1. Following our decision to withdraw from the Joint Use Agreement between the Council and the King Harold School in respect of the management of the Waltham Abbey Sports Centre, the Leisure Task and Finish Scrutiny Panel was charged with considering the feasibility of constructing a replacement sports hall as part of the existing leisure complex at the Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool.
2. After considering a feasibility study, the Task and Finish Panel recommended that the proposal should be pursued. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee accepted the Panel's recommendation at its meeting on 2 June 2009 and referred the matter to us.
3. The Joint Use Agreement with the governing body of the King Harold School ceases in January 2010. Although the cessation of the Joint Use Agreement does not preclude the school governing body from enabling continued community use of the Sports Centre, there has to date been no indication by the governing body of its future intentions. Accordingly, there can be no certainty that community use will be possible after January 2010.
4. Waltham Abbey had been identified as having one of the worse health outcomes of any area within the district and a new facility such as proposed could greatly benefit the fitness of, and the longer term health outcomes of, the local community.
5. At this stage we are of the view the proposal should be progressed to the pre-planning application stage at an estimated cost of £41,000 and we are seeking a supplementary capital estimate for this purpose.
6. We are proposing that negotiations be commenced with the Council's Leisure Service providers, Sports Leisure Management Limited in respect of:
 - (a) Sports Leisure Management Limited being the delivery agents for the proposed new sports hall at Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool; and
 - (b) the taking up of the optional three year contract extension period from January 2013.

7. Irrespective of the outcome of the negotiations, it is our intention that the project will only be progressed if the use of capital resources and additional management fees has no subsequent adverse impact upon the continuing services budget (i.e. are costs neutral).
8. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.