

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 16 February 2010

Subject: Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Brian Rolfe

Item: 6(h)

Recommending:

That the report of the Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder be noted.

Waltham Abbey Sports Centre

The Joint Use Agreement between the Council and the King Harold School came to an end on 8 January 2010. This means that the Council has no longer any management role and all responsibility for use and access now rests with the School. Agreement was reached with the School regarding the retention/removal of equipment and the handover went very smoothly. I would like to thank all the former EFDC officers who worked at the Centre, for the way they have conducted themselves over the past months, ensuring that right to the point of the Agreement ending, the Centre was open and available for public use. I am pleased to say that the officers have generally been able to find alternative employment with the Council or have received financial/training support to enable them to change career. The school are now letting the sports facilities to both previous and new users.

SLM Contract Negotiations

The Cabinet at its last meeting resolved to enter into formal negotiations with SLM around the longer term future of the contract. In addition, we considered a proposal to use capital investment at the leisure centres to be able to deliver savings in the management fee. This may also enable the Council to proceed with the new sports hall at Waltham Abbey pool without adding to CSB expenditure.

Youth Council

The Cabinet were pleased to welcome two representatives of the Youth Council at their last meeting, who updated Members on their activities since the new Youth Council was formed. The Youth Councillors drew particular attention to their Youth Conference due to be held on the 12 March 2010, where they will be debating lowering the age of voting from 18 to 16 years.

All Weather Pitch Provision

After the loss of external funding and the provision of alternative facilities in Brentwood, the Cabinet has decided to re-allocate some £500,000 of capital funding from Ongar Leisure Centre to provide a new full sized synthetic pitch in partnership with Waltham Abbey Town Council, at Town Mead Recreation Ground. This will, not only significantly increase sports participation, but also generate a revenue return to the Council.