

**THE SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP:  
AQUATIC CENTRE**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010 AT 9.45AM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Rutstein (Chair), Councillors: J. Davies, Burnett, Malik and Neale.

**LBC SUPPORT OFFICERS / ADVISORS**

Bert Siong	Scrutiny Officer
Huw Jenkins	Project Manager - Swimming Pools
Eunice Emuophe	Democratic Services Officer

**ACTION**

**32. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (REF: 3)**

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendments:

**Minute No: 28 – Last Paragraph**

Insert “(Private)” after “Part2”

**Minute No: 29**

**Answer to question 2**

Insert the following as paragraph 3 “**John Maple also stated that there was no proposal or intention to open up the path to vehicle traffic from Bradgers Hill Road to St. Thomas’s Road**”.

**Answer to question 10**

Delete the word “**at**” and insert “**and**” The paragraph should read “**The Drill Hall and** Wardown were expected to be sold as part of the capital funding from this project. What would happen with the expected income?”

**Answer to question 11**

For clarity the paragraph should now read as follows: “**Yes. When schools were not using their facilities, it was intended that they would be opened to the public for most of the day. However, the possibility of use would depend on the nature of public demand. Each school would provide a range of facilities but there could be some slight changes in**

terms of availability.”

### **33. CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE (REF: 5)**

The Chair advised that this was the final meeting of the Group and that the process had been very constructive. He hoped that the final report and the Group’s recommendation to the Executive would yield a very positive result.

The Chair commended the efforts of all the officers, witnesses and members of the public who attended the meetings and made vital contributions to the evidence gathering process. He stated that individual efforts had made it possible for the Group to work well as a team.

### **34. Final written report and recommendations (All)**

The Chair advised that all Members had worked very hard to ensure that the 5 elements, which made up the 5 chapters of the report were finalised in time for the final meeting of AC T&F Group.

He further advised that the Scrutiny Officer had drafted the first half of the Executive Summary, which would set the scene as an introductory paragraph of the final report.

Regarding editing the final report, it was suggested that in order to ensure maximum number of contribution that the final report be edited during the meeting.

**The following were suggested changes agreed by the Group.**

#### **Chapter 1 - Introductory Paragraph**

It was suggested that the introductory paragraph should include a couple of paragraphs on mythology to ensure good understanding of the evidence gathering process.

#### **Chapter 2 – What facilities are being provided?**

- The current facilities table and the proposed facilities table should be on one table on the first page.
- Consider using table with lines format.

## **Chapter 3 – How do we get there?**

The Chair informed the Group that he had made some amendments and extracted some information not relevant to this section of the report. He suggested this information was more appropriate for the section on conclusions and recommendations.

The Group agreed the following;

- The Chapter 3 heading required rephrasing and rewording. i.e. address the issue of the impact on access and travel to the Centre?
- Paragraph 3.1 – how do we get there, required rewording, i.e. how will users get there?
- Paragraph 3.2.1 – change “The Director of the cemetery” to Superintendent/Registrar of The Vale..
- “The project team should keep .....”) This sentence should be moved to the conclusions section.

### **Paragraph 3.2.2 – Wider Traffic Issues**

The Group agreed that this paragraph section should be reworded to reflect the evidence that was used.

Also with reference to Arriva bus times to Stopsley, the Scrutiny Officer should include the 20 minutes interval/frequency as explained by the Arriva Depot Manager.

### **Paragraph 3.2.3 – Parking**

The Group agreed that the Scrutiny Officer should build on the second half of the paragraph and also refer to it further on the conclusion.

## **Chapter 5 – What are the benefits?**

The Group agreed the following:

- Heading – Required rewording, i.e, what was the aim of the project, and would local priorities be met?
- Check that abbreviations were correct and written in full for better understanding.
- That conclusions and recommendations in this section be moved.

## **Chapter 6 – Who have we asked about it?**

The Group agreed the following:

Delete paragraph on “**A note of caution**”.

## **Chapter 7 - Conclusions**

Discussions took place regarding the loss of certain facilities and reduction in some facilities.

The Group agreed the following:

- Paragraph 3 - delete the word “substantial”. Also the sentence about 6 badminton hall should be reworded to 6 sports halls, which equated to 26 badminton courts.
- Include benefits to schools
- 7.2 – check and confirm 75/74% for accuracy
- 7.3 – further changes recommended in the light of new evidence at this meeting
- 7.4 – heading to be reworded i.e, project aims and priorities
- 7.5 – The section on Disabilities and Access should be tackled by the PCT. Also any issues on disabilities and access could be moved to section on targets to reflect LAA targets.

With regards to issues of disability and access to the facilities at the proposed LAC, the Chair advised that there was a need for strong emphasis on expectation and benefits to the local community in the final report.

## **Chapter 8 – Recommendations to the Executive**

The Chair advised that there was a need to ensure a comprehensive conclusion that was based on evidence.

## **Acknowledgement**

The Group agreed the following:

- Acknowledge witness and their contributions and everyone who contributed to the evidence gathering process
- Include sources of evidence and information received
- Acknowledge public attendance and contributions etc.

## Regarding a new name for the Centre

The Group agreed the following:

- Possibility of a new logo and sponsorship toward endorsing a new name for the Centre
- Need for a press release when the report of the executive had been made public

The Group also further agreed the following:

- The final Report would go to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010
- Then to the Executive on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2010
- Report would be written in two parts, Part 1 & 2
- Part 2 of the report would be in Private

## 35. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (REF: 7)

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting as it was likely that if members of the public were present during the item of business to be considered, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information falling within the paragraphs (3) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

## 36. Chapter 4 – How much will it cost?

Discussions took place regarding financial issues relating to the Aquatic Centre.

The following were discussed and agreed by the Group;

- Amend the following paragraph beginning with “The current facilities that it will replace will not close until it is open and fully operational” **(include “in May 2012” after the word operational)**
- Appropriate wording and rephrasing of paragraphs 1 and 2
- There would be a confidential/private section of the report to cover financial details that were commercially sensitive

It was suggested that for the purposes of clarity, the Scrutiny

Officer, Councilor Burnett and Huw Jenkins were to meet at 2.00 pm at the conclusion of the T&F Group meeting.

This meeting would ensure the following:

- Identify financial information, which would be included in the final report.
- Ensure that the financial information, which would remain in public domain and private, were accurate, coherent and based on evidence.

### **Where would the money come from**

The Group agreed clarity was required on the following:

- Clarify the dividends from the Airport and change the word dividends to “Income”.
- Clarify capital income and capital interest of the project
- Take out “prudential”

### **How much will it cost to run it?**

Discussions took place regarding the cost of the project and services that would be provided by Active Luton.

The Chair stated that Huw’s explanation had given a different dimension to the report. It was agreed that Huw be requested to draft his explanation for the purpose of clarity for the **facilities management section of the final report.**

The Group agreed the following changes and suggestions;

- Paragraph 1 – Correct
- Paragraph 2 – It was agreed that Huw Jenkins would look at the assumptions used on targets and expand on this paragraph
- Paragraph 3 – Take out
- Paragraph 4 – Required rewording.

### **Financial Risks**

The Group agreed the following:

- Paragraphs - 1, 2, and 3 be moved to conclusions section of the report
- Paragraph - 4 be deleted, as it was not for consideration.

### **Opportunities**

The Group agreed the following:

- Paragraph 1 – required rewording
- Paragraph 2 – be deleted.

**The Chair thanked all Members and Officers and members of the public for their efforts and contributions.**

**MEETING ENDED AT 12.15 P.M.**