

COMMITTEE: LUTON CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

DATE: THURSDAY 20TH JANUARY 2005

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NEW SWIMMING POOL SITE

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEISURE, LIBRARIES AND CULTURE

CONTACT OFFICER: Dave Sutton 817 052

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL		COMMUNITY SAFETY	
EQUALITIES		ENVIRONMENT	✓
FINANCIAL	✓	CONSULTATIONS	✓
STAFFING		OTHER	✓

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. To consult with attendees at the Area Committees during January 2005 on two potential sites for the proposed new swimming pool for Luton.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **Area Committee is recommended to:** Request that the public attending this Area Committee complete and return the feed back forms in respect of the sites under consideration.

BACKGROUND

3. The Executive of Luton Borough Council has previously decided that the preferred site for a new swimming pool to replace Wardown Swimming & Leisure Centre is **Stockwood Park (October 2002)**. Subsequent to that decision, a new site has become available that the current Administration for the Council favour as the location for the new facility.

4. Consultation is now being undertaken to ascertain the opinions of residents of Luton on the relative merits of the new site as compared to Stockwood Park. One aspect of this consultation involves seeking view at the Area Committees.

REPORT

5. Two sites are now considered as viable alternatives for a new pool; Stockwood Park and the old Electrolux playing fields adjacent to Addington Road (location maps will be available at the meetings)
6. Neither of these has been subject to a formal Planning Application, although informal views have been sought and neither has a major advantage or disadvantage over the other.
7. The main advantages and disadvantages of each site are as detailed on the consultation sheet, which will be distributed at the Area Committees for opinions to be recorded.
8. Obviously, there is no method to restrict the number of consultation forms that are returned by each person, so this exercise should not be treated as a referendum.
9. Both sites will be assessed in respect of Traffic impact, Site conditions, Access (including Transport), Environmental considerations and Planning issues.
10. It is intended that a report seeking a final decision on the site will be submitted to the Executive meeting on 14th March 2005 at which the results of the consultation will be presented.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

11. To receive feedback on the relative values of the two sites within this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. It is intended that financing for the new pool is provided from the sales of the sites of the Wardown Swimming & Leisure Centre and High Town Recreation Centre, together with the savings that will accrue on the running costs by the closure of both facilities. As such, there will be no increased costs to the Council (as is required under the 'Prudential Capital Borrowing' rules).

ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

13. The respective environmental implications are contained upon the consultation forms to be distributed at the Area Committees.

CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

14. Consultation on this subject will also be undertaken through the Lutonline, Citizens Panel, the Swimming Development Committee and the Luton Borough Council website.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

15. There are the usual implications in respect of Planning matters, which will be dealt with through the normal processes.

APPENDIX

16. Consultation Forms

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

17. None