



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: 8

DATE OF MEETING: 10TH JUNE 2010

REPORT AUTHOR: BERT SIONG, OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COORDINATOR

SUBJECT: FINAL REPORT OF THE AQUATIC CENTRE SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

PURPOSE:

1. To present the final report and recommendations of the Aquatic Centre Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

2. The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to approve the Aquatic Centre Scrutiny Task and Finish Final report at Annex A and consider and agree the recommendations below, for submission to the Executive. The recommendation at paragraph 7. is to both the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Board; the recommendation at paragraph 11. is to both the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Board and the recommendation at paragraph 16. is to the Overview and Scrutiny Board only.

The recommendations:

3. To make up for some of the reduction in facilities, that school sports facilities provided by the Building Schools for the Future programme are made available for wider community use out of school hours, during school holidays and at other times when schools are not actually using them.
4. That the multi-function room at the new Centre is provided with full bar facilities.
5. That appropriate action is taken by the Council to address congestion on Stockingstone Road, ahead of the opening of the Aquatic Centre, which is likely to exacerbate the situation, given that the town-wide survey indicates that 81% of those who expect to make use of the Centre, would travel by car.
6. That the Leisure Trust develop and adopt a comprehensive Event Management Strategy for the Aquatic Centre, to ensure large special events at the Centre are planned and managed robustly to avoid clashes with other special events at the Vale Cemetery and Crematorium, and minimise any adverse impact on local residents by inconsiderate parking.

7. That the measures to cut costs to keep the Aquatic Centre project within budget, are reviewed by Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Finance Review Group on a regular basis through the course of the project, in terms of the impact on the facilities, accessibility and revenue costs of the Centre.
8. That the Leisure Trust implement robust actions to stop and reverse the drop out rate of people using current facilities, to keep user numbers up now, who would then be likely to transfer to the Aquatic Centre.
9. That an Economic Impact Assessment is carried out relating to the potential economic benefits for Luton, of planned major regional events at the Aquatic Centre.
10. That the Aquatic Centre project team ensure the running costs of the new facility will not exceed the combined running costs of the Wardown pool, Regional Sports Centre and Putteridge pool.
11. That plans and objectives include clear and transparent measures of success by which the performance of the Aquatic Centre could be judged, preferably by means of a formal post-project evaluation carried out by or on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.
12. That promotion of the new Aquatic Centre is as high profiled as possible so as to raise Luton people's satisfaction with sports and leisure facilities in Luton and increase usage levels.
13. That a survey, similar to the Sport England Active People survey is carried out in due course following the opening of the Aquatic Centre, to determine what effect the new facility is having on participation and satisfaction levels.
14. That the final business case for the Aquatic Centre address the issue of sustainability – in particular, whether the project fully meets the Council's commitment to the Nottingham Declaration on climate change.
15. That a full Equalities Impact Assessment is produced as part of the final business case, with confirmation that the Council's duties across all strands of equality are being met.
16. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board ensure it is equipped to carry out effective performance measurement relating to the success or otherwise of the Aquatic Centre, in contributing to the achievement of relevant Luton's priorities and objectives.
17. That the relationship between the Council and NHS Luton is exploited fully to ensure that the appropriate incentives are provided to encourage much greater participation, by adults and the young, both through schools and with their families.

REPORT:

18. The final report of the Aquatic Centre Scrutiny Task and Finish Group is attached at Annex A.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

19. There are no legal implications within this report. This was agreed with Mary Cormack in Legal Services on 1st June 2010.