

**EXECUTIVE**

**DATE:** 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2005

**SUBJECT:** REFERENCE FROM SWIMMING POOL AND LEISURE FACILITIES SCRUTINY PANEL – LOCATION OF PROPOSED NEW SWIMMING POOL

**REPORT BY:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY)

**CONTACT OFFICER:** NINA BOSTON 01582 546064

**IMPLICATIONS:**

LEGAL STAFFING

EQUALITIES COMMUNITY SAFETY

FINANCIAL RISKS

OTHER

**CONSULTATIONS:**

COUNCILLORS CONSULTED SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSULTED

STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED OTHER

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**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

**LEAD EXECUTIVE MEMBER(S): COUNCILLOR Q. HUSSAIN**

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**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. Executive is recommended to:
  - (i) Expedite the removal of the ground covenant, regardless of the possibility of constructing a pool at Addington Way, if it is in the long term interests of the Council, and if there are no legal constraints which prevent this.
  - (ii) Note that it has failed to meet the expectations of those who asked for the financial and technical information, as to why Bath

**Road is not a feasible option for a new pool, to be put into the public domain.**

**REPORT**

2. At its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, the Swimming Pool and Leisure Facilities Scrutiny Panel considered a progress report from the Director of Scrutiny relating to the location of the proposed new swimming pool and resolved:

“(i) That the Panel does not consider the response of the Executive to its previous recommendations to be adequate. It is necessary to demonstrate serious intent to deliver a new swimming pool for Luton.

(ii) Considering that it is increasingly probable that Luton will have no major swimming facility at all, the Council is requested to urge the Executive to address the matter with the seriousness it deserves, and to:

(a) Accept, and act on, the urgent need to publish a realistic timing plan for definition, design and construction of the facility.

(b) State openly whether or not it has abandoned the objective of providing a 50 metre pool.

(c) Define immediately all capital assets to be sold to support the building of a new pool, and attribute a professionally assessed value to each.

(d) Identify the available revenue streams, and the consequent funding gap, and identify the proposed means of funding both construction and ongoing operation.

(e) Identify what the Council needs to rectify in its financial position so that borrowing would be allowed.

(iii) That the Executive be further recommended:

To expedite the removal of the ground covenant, regardless of the possibility of constructing a pool at Addington Way, if it is in the long term interests of the Council, and if there are no legal constraints which prevent this.

To note that it has failed to meet the expectations of those who asked for the financial and technical information, as to why Bath Road is not a feasible option for a new pool, to be put into the public domain.”

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

3. There are no legal implications to this report and this has been agreed with the relevant solicitor in Legal Services on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4. The financial implications of any swimming pool development will be substantial, and will be dependent upon the type of facility chosen, the design, the internal facilities mix, and the business plan. A detailed report on the financial implications will be produced once these issues have been resolved.

## **OPTIONS**

5. The Executive has the option of accepting or rejecting the recommendations of the Swimming Pool and Leisure Facilities Scrutiny Panel.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6. Committee Report Ref: SPSP/4/05/7.1  
Swimming Pool and Leisure Facilities Scrutiny Panel Minutes (12.04.05)