

AGENDA ITEM

6.1

EXECUTIVE

DATE: 26TH JANUARY 2009

SUBJECT: REFERENCE FROM EAST LUTON AREA COMMITTEE  
LUTON AQUATIC CENTRE

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE - HEAD OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY

CONTACT OFFICER: LISA JEROME 546041

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL

STAFFING

EQUALITIES

COMMUNITY SAFETY

FINANCIAL

RISKS

OTHER

CONSULTATIONS:

COUNCILLORS CONSULTED

EAST LUTON AREA COMMITTEE

STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

OTHER

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WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

LEAD EXECUTIVE MEMBER(S): SIMMONS

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RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Executive note the Area Committee's concurrence with the serious concerns expressed by residents at the meeting of the East Luton Area Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 over:
  - i. The total lack of consultation with local schools and residents on the proposal to close the swimming pool at Putteridge Recreation Centre.
  - ii. The total absence of any consultation with local residents on the access proposals for any new swimming pool at St. Thomas' Road.

iii. The fact that if a new swimming pool is built at St. Thomas' Road it will be more easily accessed by residents of Hitchin than by residents of Sundon Park, Marsh Farm, Leagrave, Limbury and many other parts of Luton.

2. With proposals now in the pipeline for large developments affecting the East of Luton including:

- i. a new public swimming pool.
- ii. a Northern by-pass.
- iii. 5,500 new homes.
- iv. possible airport expansions.
- v. the long delayed Eastern Corridor improvements.
- vi. major town centre and railway station developments leading to drastic changes to bus routes and timetables,

the Executive notes the concerns expressed by local residents about the dangerous lack of any overall, comprehensive and interlocking plan and that the officers be instructed to urgently commission a proper strategic development plan for the East of the town.

### **REPORT**

3. East Luton Area Committee at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 was presented with a report updating the Committee on the results of the Feasibility Study Report on the Luton Aquatics Centre and subsequent progress on the project.
4. The Project Manager (Swimming Pools) outlined the recommendations of the feasibility study including the preferred site for the Aquatics Centre the scope which had been developed to meet the brief and the needs of existing users and the wider community, the operator of the Centre, construction and estimate of costs.
5. The Committee was advised that to progress the project, further work was required to produce an outline business case including options appraisal which would be completed in April 2009 and outline Planning permission being sought in May 2009.
6. Both Members of the Committee and members of the public were of the view that the Aquatics Centre was an exciting project for the Town and the provision of better quality sports facilities would be an asset for Luton. However, during the debate on this matter a number of major concerns were expressed regarding the proposed new Centre:
  - the lack of consultation with the Headteacher of Putteridge School regarding the closure of the Putteridge Pool
  - traffic congestion in surrounding roads in particular St Thomas' Road which had severe traffic problems already
  - siting the Centre at the edge of Luton would not benefit all residents particularly as the public transport routes were not good

## APPENDIX A

- there were alternative viable sites in the centre of Luton which should be considered
- proposed access routes would cut across Stopsley Common
- Lack of joined up thinking. No strategic planning had been carried out which took into account various other major projects in this area including the proposed Northern By pass, the New M1 junction, lack of public transport to the area and the number of new homes scheduled to be built in the area

7. Following further debate on the matter, the East Luton Area Committee resolved to recommend to Executive :

- 1 that The Executive be advised that the Area committee shares the serious concerns expressed by residents at the meeting over:
  - i. The total lack of consultation with local schools and residents on the proposal to close the swimming pool at Putteridge Recreation Centre.
  - ii. The total absence of any consultation with local residents on the access proposals for any new swimming pool at St. Thomas' Road.
  - iii. The fact that if a new swimming pool is built at St. Thomas' Road it will be more easily accessed by residents of Hitchin than by residents of Sundon Park, Marsh Farm, Leagrave, Limbury and many other parts of Luton.
2. With proposals now in the pipeline for large developments affecting the East of Luton including:
  - i. a new public swimming pool.
  - ii. a Northern by-pass.
  - iii. 5,500 new homes.
  - iv. possible airport expansions.
  - v. the long delayed Eastern Corridor improvements.
  - vi. major town centre and railway station developments leading to drastic changes to bus routes and timetables.

The Area Committee seeks to bring to the attention of the Executive the concerns expressed by local residents about the dangerous lack of any overall, comprehensive and interlocking plan and strongly urges the Executive to urgently commission a proper strategic development plan for the East of the town.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8. There are no direct legal implications and this has been agreed with Richard Stevens on 8th January 2009.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9. The commissioning of a strategic development plan for the east of Luton would have financial implications and would require costing and the identification of resources. Agreed by the Head of Corporate Finance, 8 January 2008.

### **OPTIONS**

10. The Executive can choose to accept, note or modify the recommendations of the East Luton Area Committee.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Agenda - AC(E)/1/09 – 10  
Minute No. 5/09