

## **Special Overview & Scrutiny Committee 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

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Cabinet Report 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011

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Public Consultation plus responses

Press Release 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011, 2nd September 2011 and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL****CABINET**  
**18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011****Future Arrangements for the Management of Sports and Leisure Centres**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:</b>	Improving Health and Well Being
<b>CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY:</b>	Delivering Together with Less Improving Community Well Being
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor T L Onslow
<b>DIRECTOR:</b>	Director of Community and Partnership Services
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Kay Higman, Ext. 2902 Kay.higman@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<p>Appendix 1 - Ken Watkins Associates report on Community Asset Transfer</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Site Appraisals</p> <p><b>The contents of the appendices are confidential. Members should not disclose any details unless they can meet the four requirements as laid down in the Council's 'Protocol on the Disclosure of Confidential Information' (Which is contained in the Constitution) and have sought advice in advance from the Monitoring Officer.</b></p>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To enable the Cabinet to make some in principle decisions so that further work can be progressed prior to a decision on the future arrangements for the management of the sports and leisure centres at a Cabinet meeting in January 2012.
- 1.2 To provide the results of the customer consultation exercise carried out during July – September 2011 which will be used to help shape a final decision.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE** that:

- 2.1 The facility mix and associated affordable capital costs as listed in section 4.25 of this report be noted.
- 2.2 The Director of Community and Partnership Services, Director of Resources, the Director of Legal and Corporate Services and the Director of Planning and

Regulatory Services be given delegated authority to work on an affordable new build option or options in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Well being. This option/s will be reported back to Cabinet for a final decision in January 2012.

- 2.3 An extension to the management contract with DC Leisure is negotiated for a period of 2 years from April 2013 with an option to terminate at 6 months notice on either side.
- 2.4 The Director of Community and Partnership Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Well being is given delegated authority to progress a negotiated withdrawal from Bewdley Leisure Centre from April 2013 or soonest available date thereafter.
- 2.5 The ongoing discussions regarding Community Asset Transfers (CAT) for Stourport Sports Centre is concluded by January 2012 and the outcome be reported back to Cabinet.
- 2.6 The options to close (without a new build) or refurbish the sports and leisure centres is put on hold until further detailed work has been progressed on a new build facility which is affordable and will meet the needs of the District in terms of leisure centre provision (pursuant to the decision in paragraph 2.2 above).

### 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Wyre Forest District Council operates three Leisure Centres, situated in Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport. They attract over 500,000 visits per year and are managed by DC Leisure on behalf of the Council.
- 3.2 The current leisure management contract with DC Leisure ends in March 2013. The leisure centre buildings and facilities are coming to the end of their useful life and costs to the Council will increase because the facilities require investment to keep them fully operational and fit for purpose. Usage figures will start to decline further as the quality of the facilities declines.
- 3.3 In January 2011 Cabinet decided to carry out a full strategic options appraisal with the aim that future provision after March 2013 would cost the Council less than the current annual subsidy.
- 3.4 A cross Member scrutiny review panel was established in March 2011 which met to consider a number of options available to the Council including closing the centres, refurbishment or a new centre. The Review Panel findings were reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 2011. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to recommend the findings to Cabinet.
- 3.5 Officers have been investigating the potential for Stourport Sports Centre to be managed by the local community with some financial support from the Council by way of a Community Asset Transfer (CAT).
- 3.6 The Cabinet met in June 2011 to consider the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee where these were noted.

- 3.7 The Cabinet also decided to endorse the Overview and Scrutiny recommendation that a public consultation exercise be carried out between July and September 2011 and that the results be reported back to the meeting in October 2011 to enable key decisions to be made.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The following recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were noted by the Cabinet pending the results of the public consultation exercise, further investigation and financial analysis of options.
- a) No leisure provision within the District is not considered to be an option.
  - b) Refurbishment of the Glades is not considered to be an option.
  - c) A new build leisure facility within Kidderminster is the preferred option, but at this stage it is not possible to comment on a preferred site or the facilities to be provided within the Leisure Centre.
  - d) A Community Asset Transfer for the wet and dry facilities at Stourport Sports Centre should be progressed.
  - e) A Community Asset Transfer for Bewdley Leisure Centre should be progressed with any willing partners.
  - f) That extension to existing management contracts, as previously approved by Cabinet, with DC Leisure take place, if necessary whilst recommendations 1 to 5 are being progressed.
  - g) That the communications/consultation plan be endorsed.
- 4.2 There are a number of key issues and variables in the process of defining a financially viable option for the future sport and leisure centre arrangements such as potential site availability, location and land acquisition. Further detailed financial analysis dependent on the latter is required and there are a number of complex variations that need to be distilled in order that more detailed work can be undertaken.
- 4.3 In order for the work to progress a number of "in principle" decisions based on the recommendations and analysis of the consultation results are required.

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations**

- 4.4 Each of the Scrutiny recommendations is listed below with comment based on consultation feedback and other strategic information.

**No leisure centre provision within the District is not considered an option.**

- 4.5 From the consultation process the service is highly valued and the public would like to see the centres remain open until such time as another may be built.

## **Agenda Item No. 8.3**

- 4.6 Facility Planning model exercise was carried out by Sport England which revealed that sports hall provision is currently meeting demand and is of a good quality; swimming pool provision has an oversupply currently but the quality of the provision is not good.
- 4.7 If a new centre was to be built between Stourport and Kidderminster and Stourport Sports Centre remained open through a CAT, then a 6 to 8 court hall would meet demand, however, if SSC were to close then an 8 to 10 court hall would be required.
- 4.8 In swimming terms, the reduction in pool water by closing the Glades and Stourport SC but building a new facility with a pool would reduce satisfied demand but this would still be in line with the regional average. If SSC remained open with the new pool in between Kidderminster and Stourport, SSC pool would lose about 30% of its capacity. Sport England advised that ideally strategically, if SSC was to remain open, a new centre should be built in Kidderminster which would have the effect of meeting demand in pockets of deprived communities where access to a new centre between Kidderminster and Stourport would be difficult. This would also not have a negative effect on usage at Stourport Sports Centre. A 6 to 8 court sports hall would be adequate also in this scenario.
- 4.9 Sport England's preferred option would be for a CAT for SSC and a new pool and dry facility in Kidderminster. If there were to be no pool in the District Sport England would advise that this would mean supply would not meet demand for swimming 6.

### **Refurbishment of the Glades is not considered to be an option**

- 4.10 To refurbish the current facilities and continue to operate them for a further 5 years, would cost the Council £1.469m in net capital investment and an estimated £1.3m per annum in ongoing revenue costs (source: High level financial appraisal Indicative Costings – Sports and Leisure Centre Review Panel 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011). These costs are significant compared to other options and therefore refurbishment is not considered value for money. The Scrutiny Review did not recommend that the Glades be refurbished for this reason.

### **A new build Leisure facility within Kidderminster**

- 4.11 A new build was preferred by 40% of the respondents. The Scrutiny Panel recommended that Kidderminster was the preferred option based on meeting strategic leisure needs.
- 4.12 Any decision on a new build needs to take into account affordability in capital and revenue terms and site availability and location.
- 4.13 The consultation exercise results show that 63% of people want to keep the existing centres, from which we can conclude that the public highly value the provision. This high percentage of questionnaire respondents wanting to continue provision at existing facilities could reflect the importance of local provision i.e. one per town and not one centre for the District.

### **Community Asset Transfer (CAT) for Stourport and Bewdley**

- 4.14 The Scrutiny Review Panel recommended that the possibility of a CAT at both Bewdley and Stourport be progressed.

- 4.15 The consultation feedback in relation to community asset transfer was as follows:-
- 37% agreed with a Community Asset Transfer for Stourport, 33% disagreed, 30% undecided.
  - 35% agreed with a CAT for Bewdley, 25% disagreed, 40% undecided.
- 4.16 Over the last few months a number of meetings have taken place where Community Asset Transfer (CAT) has been discussed; this has been particularly the case through the Stourport Facilities Project where a sports sub group met on a number of occasions and discussed the potential for a CAT at Stourport with interested community groups and individuals. A training session was also organised through Sport England and the County Sports Partnership to increase community understanding. The Facilities Project group also commissioned a report through Ken Watkins Associates which detailed the issues surrounding the potential transfer. The report is attached as Appendix 2. In summary the finances do not appear to make it a viable proposition, although further work does need to be carried out.
- 4.17 Wyre Forest Swimming Club has an interest in a Community Asset Transfer at Stourport Sports Centre and discussions are ongoing. Some additional interest has also been forthcoming from groups which have been formally consulted such as Stourport Sports Association (Swifts FC, Stourport Cricket Club and Stourport Rugby Club) or the Rowing Club or Stourport High School. Potentially, grants would be available to community groups but the liability of the building is clearly an issue moving forward.
- 4.18 A meeting has taken place with Bewdley High School regarding a potential negotiated withdrawal from managing the community facilities and the school has shown interest in principle. There are a number of issues to resolve before agreement could be reached, many of these being financial.

#### **Contract extension for DC Leisure**

- 4.19 If the option for a new build is chosen then the recommended extension to the current management contract with DC Leisure would be 2 years from March 2013 with an option to terminate by either side at 6 months notice. This would be an extra cost to the Council (subject to formal negotiation with DC Leisure) in addition to the annual management fee for Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre and Stourport Sports Centre. DC Leisure has been approached to provide a figure for future management of Bewdley Leisure Centre if a negotiated withdrawal cannot be achieved. The Scrutiny Review Panel recommended that extensions to the current management contract take place. The consultation exercise and the recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny results support that the services should continue until any new build was open or other option complete.

#### **Further Financial Analysis and Cost Factors for a new build**

- 4.20 Maintaining the status quo is not an option as one of the overall aims of the appraisal of future arrangements for sports and leisure centres is to reduce the overall cost to the Council whilst protecting and sustaining future provision.

- 4.21 Refurbishment of all of the existing facilities at a capital cost is not a financially sustainable option. Closing one or more facilities should therefore be considered.
- 4.22 A new build option would need to take into account the overall net revenue cost to the Council being less than £857,010 per annum which is the current cost (2011/12), whilst taking into account any liabilities under Community Asset Transfer discussed above. Any liability in the form of a grant to a third party would be on a tapering basis and would be for a maximum of three years. Any projections for management fees for future operation of a new build are dependent on a number of issues including the choice of site, planning requirements and facility mix.

#### Capital borrowing and maximum amount/revenue implications

- 4.23 For the purposes of further options appraisal work, indicative prudential borrowing costs to fund capital expenditure for any of the options are assumed to be £86,700 per £m of expenditure. These costs would fall on the revenue account and, in line with the previous Cabinet decision; total costs should be less than the current management fee paid to DC Leisure. The aim of the Council is to operate any leisure facilities in the future at a reduced or zero subsidy payable to any third party provider. Alternative funding options are currently being investigated to ensure the Council secures the most cost effective financing solution. Following a full evaluation of these alternative solutions against prudential borrowing, viable funding options will be included in future reports together with more detailed costings of preferred delivery options.

#### Facility mix (financial parameters)

- 4.24 A range of facility mix options is presented below.
- 4.25 The following costings do not include site acquisition. Additional costs would be approximately £350 to £500,000 for fit out (although most contractors would agree to pay these costs as part of the tendering exercise). The costings listed below have been obtained by our leisure management partners DC Leisure and are based on a competitive square meterage rate which is currently being achieved in the market place through a competitive tendering process. These figures will be verified as part of the future financial work necessary. It is unlikely that option 6 in the table below would be management fee revenue neutral to the Council.

(Note on build costs £1670m<sup>2</sup> for 1 below, £1800m<sup>2</sup> for 2, 3 and 4 with the exception of 5 & 6 which is increased due to additional leisure water to £1900m<sup>2</sup>, all include £450k for the five aside)

	Facility Mix	Area	Investigation costs	Build Costs only	Total	Indicative prudential borrowing costs pa
1	Reception/offices/staff/café/kitchen	3,800	£200k	£6.80m	£7m	£606,900
	6 Court Sports Hall					
	90 station fitness suite/1studio					
	Dry change					
	Climbing wall					
	5 aside					

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	Facility Mix	Area	Investigation costs	Build Costs Only	Total	Indicative prudential borrowing costs
2	Reception/offices/ staff/café/kitchen	4,000	£200k	£7.65m	£7.85m	£680,600
	4 Courts Sports Hall					
	6 lane pool plus learner pool					
	Wet and Dry change					
	70 station fitness suite/studio					
	5 aside					
3	Reception/offices/ staff/café/kitchen	4,500	£200k	£8.55m	£8.75m	£758,630
	6 Courts Sports Hall					
	6 lane pool plus learner pool					
	Wet and Dry change					
	80 station fitness suite/studio					
	5 aside					
4	Reception/offices/ staff/café/kitchen	5,100	£200k	£9.63m	£9.83m	£852,260
	6 Court Sports Hall					
	6 lane pool plus learner pool plus leisure water (1 flume and small splash water area)					
	Wet and Dry change					
	90 station fitness suite/1 studio					
	Climbing wall					
	5 aside					



## Agenda Item No. 8.3

	Facility Mix	Area	Investigation costs	Build Costs Only	Total	Indicative prudential borrowing costs
5	Reception/offices/staff/café/kitchen	5,400	£200k	£10.71m	£10.91m	£945,900
	6 Courts Sports Hall					
	6 lane pool plus learner pool plus larger leisure water (2 flumes, 300sq metres larger water area including water jets, small slides etc)					
	Wet and Dry change					
	90 station fitness suite/1 studio					
	Climbing wall					
	5 aside					
6	Reception/offices/staff/café/kitchen	6,100	£200k	£12.04m	£12.24m	£1,061,210
	6 Courts Sports Hall					
	8 lane pool plus learner pool plus larger leisure water					
	Wet and Dry change					
	90 station fitness suite/1 studio					
	Climbing wall					
	5 aside					

### Site options for a new build

- 4.26 A desk top site analysis of a number of identified potential locations for a new sports and leisure centre was carried out by the Planning Policy team.
- 4.27 A total of 8 sites were assessed in terms of suitability against general criteria, which included the following considerations;
- Site Size (approx 4.5 acres to accommodate facility mix and car parking on a single site).
  - Accessibility (good access, including public transport and parking arrangements).

- Availability & Viability (ideally on public sector owned land, minimising costs).
- Planning Policy Implications (a suitable use for the location).
- Infrastructure Requirements (any major costs associated with delivery).

- 4.28 It was quickly evident that there is no 'ideal' site available that could meet all of the criteria set out above, particularly in terms of addressing size, access, ownership and infrastructure constraints.
- 4.29 A shortlist of three sites has been proposed which will require further investigation and initial discussions with landowners before a more detailed level of analysis.
- 4.30 The sites remain confidential at present due to the early stages of analysis and in order not to influence or compromise any potential discussions with land owners which could be detrimental to the position of the District Council. For Members information the shortlist of sites is set out in the exempt appendices.
- 4.31 A key factor will be availability and delivery to ensure that if a new facility option was decided upon it could be implemented as soon as possible and to maximise the regeneration opportunities that may present themselves on the Eastern Gateway.

#### **Procurement options**

- 4.32 A number of options have been looked at for the Council and it is vital that the Council obtains value for money. The most likely recommendation to fulfil this criterion available to the Council would be the Design Build Operate and Maintain option. This option involving maintenance may involve the successful contractor having full lifecycle responsibilities or this could be retained by the Council. Sandwell MBC has recently procured its leisure centre provision using this method and has agreed to share their experiences with WFDC to assist in the process. Their tendering process also asked the short listed companies to provide an alternative source of capital funding to that being accessed by the Council.

#### **Consultation results**

- 4.33 A consultation exercise was carried out throughout August, ending 11<sup>th</sup> September. 516 responses were received (11 questionnaires were received after the closing date and were therefore not analysed) and a summary of results is listed below:
- 40% of respondents are male, 60% female, 22% were under 40 and 22% over 65; responses were evenly spread across the age bands of 25 - 79.
  - In addition 277 comments were received on the questionnaire.
  - Of the 516 responses 24% were non users or who use private facilities.
  - When asked if they would like provision to continue at the same facilities 63% agreed.

## **Agenda Item No. 8.3**

- Given the prospect of a new facility, 40% were in favour, 10% undecided.
- 37% agreed with a Community Asset Transfer for Stourport, 33% disagreed, 30% undecided.
- 35% agreed with a CAT for Bewdley, 25% disagreed, 40% undecided.
- The highest percentages for new facilities requested for a new build are: 25 metre pool (85%), Sports Hall (79%), gym and fitness (77%), café (74%) and learner pool (68%). The least popular facilities requested for the new build were outdoor 5 a side pitches (40%), Squash (49%), Crèche (50%) and Leisure pool (50%).
- 33% support an increase in Council tax to fund a new build, 48% are against an increase in Council tax and 19% had no opinion.
- Out of the 277 comments received there are a number of observations and opinions. Location is a major issue if a new build was chosen; the public clearly value the facilities that are there and feel they are important; facilities need refurbishing and this must be cheaper; if a new build is selected then don't close any of the centres until this has been opened; locality of facilities really important (for Stourport particularly and also Glades). The key results were put on the Council's website at the beginning of October.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 No further detailed financial options appraisal work, in addition to that previously presented, has been completed at this stage. This will be progressed following consideration of the recommendations in this report in due course and will include verification of the new capital figures for the facility mix provided by DC Leisure in Section 4.25 and details of alternative viable funding options compared to prudential borrowing, referred in 4.23.
- 5.2 There is currently no budget allocation for any contract extension costs should this be agreed.
- 5.3 A sum of £35,000 was allocated to the Community and Partnership Services Directorate to support the options appraisal process; £26,670 of this budget remains uncommitted at this stage.

### **6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The current contract with DC Leisure allows for it to be extended.

### **7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Needs Assessment has been undertaken and the economic, social and accessibility factors have been identified and will be accounted for in terms of access to any future leisure provision.

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 Whilst it is not a statutory requirement to provide leisure centre's these facilities provide valued community assets which improve the quality of life for many residents. The ongoing appraisal project is seeking to achieve a sustainable and affordable option for the future.

**9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 This report seeks to progress work on the ongoing options appraisal work for the future arrangements for the District's Sports and Leisure Centres, taking into account the work so far on strategic leisure requirements, the results of a public consultation exercise and discussions to date on the potential for community asset transfers. Following further in depth financial analysis a range of fully costed affordable options will be the subject of a future report.

**10. CONSULTEES**

- 10.1 Corporate Management Team/Cabinet.  
10.2 Cabinet Member for Community Well Being.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 Cabinet Report 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009.  
Cabinet Report 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011.  
Cabinet Minutes 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011.  
11.2 Scrutiny Scoping Paper and Scrutiny Meeting Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011.  
11.3 Scrutiny review group information.  
11.4 Consultation results.  
11.5 Existing Contract with DC Leisure.

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2011**

**Future Arrangements for the Management of Sport and Leisure Centres**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:</b>	Improving Health and Well being Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People
<b>CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY:</b>	Community Well Being Delivering Together with Less
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor T L Onslow
<b>DIRECTOR:</b>	Director of Community and Partnership Services
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Kay Higman – Ext 2902 Kay.higman@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	Appendix 1 - Recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To set out the high level principles, as recommended by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at it's meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011, for future arrangements to achieve improved, affordable and sustainable leisure facilities for the District.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE** that:

- 2.1 The recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the high level principles for the future arrangements for leisure facilities in the District be noted.
- 2.2 A public consultation exercise is carried out between July and September 2011 on the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.3 A report on the feedback from the public consultation exercise and further in depth financial appraisal of future options be prepared by the Director of Community and Partnership Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Well Being, the Director of Resources, the Director of Legal and Corporate Services and the Director of Planning and Regulatory Service for consideration by Cabinet in autumn 2011.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In January 2011, the Cabinet agreed that the then Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee prepare a report based on undertaking a full strategic options appraisal for the future of sports and leisure centres.

- 3.2 Following a series of five review panel meetings, a set of broad principles for the future arrangements for sport and leisure provision in the District were presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011 and agreed for recommendation to Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011.
- 3.3 The review panel undertook the options appraisal with the aim of reducing the overall cost to the council and to achieve, as near a zero or reduced subsidy as possible payable to any third party provider whilst protecting and sustaining future provision.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Review Panel were clear that the Council must talk to the community about what they want and therefore make a recommendation for a full public consultation exercise to seek a broad range of views before a final decision is made.
- 4.2 The panel also recognised that the leisure facilities needed to be fit for the future, improved and financially viable.
- 4.3 The broad principles for a way forward, that Cabinet are invited to consider are:-
- Having no leisure provision within the District is not considered to be an option.
  - Refurbishment of the Glades is not considered to be an option.
  - A new build leisure facility within Kidderminster is the preferred option, but at this stage it is not possible to comment on preferred site or the facilities to be provided within the Leisure Centre.
  - A community asset transfer for the wet and dry facilities at Stourport Sports Centre should be progressed.
  - A community asset transfer for Bewdley Leisure Centre should be progressed with any willing partners.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 High level indicative costings were prepared as part of the review panel process and further in depth work is required in order to present fully costed and robust financial options for consideration by the Cabinet.
- 5.2 A sum of £35,000 was allocated to the Community and Partnership Services Directorate to support the options appraisal process.
- 5.3 There is currently no budget allocation for any contract extension costs should this be agreed.

**6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 All future options will be subject to EU procurement legislation.
- 6.2 There is provision within the current management agreement with DC Leisure to make a variation to the contract and extend the contract for 2 or 5 years should this be required and agreed.

## **Agenda Item No. 9.2**

- 6.3 Any future Community Asset Transfer arrangements would be subject to robust legal agreements. Current shared use agreements are in existence with the District Council and the County Council regarding the dual use of Bewdley Leisure Centre.

### **7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An equality impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the public consultation process.

### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 A series of high level risks were identified as part of the options appraisal including financial affordability, impact or loss of provision, the ability to meet future strategic leisure demand and the suitability of any future site options. These risks will be monitored and updated as further appraisal work is developed in preparation for a decision in the autumn.

### **9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 A set of high level principles for the future arrangements for sport and leisure centres in the District have been recommended for public consultation with a view to using the feedback from a consultation exercise and further in depth financial appraisal to inform a final decision for future leisure facilities in the District.

### **10. CONSULTEES**

- 10.1 Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being
- 10.2 Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (pre May 2011)
- 10.3 Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 10.4 Corporate Management Team
- 10.5 Cabinet

### **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 Cabinet Report – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011
- 11.2 Overview and Scrutiny Report – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2011**

**Recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered a report from the Cultural Services Manager which summarised the work of the review panel which was established to undertake a strategic options appraisal for the future management of sports and leisure centre provision for the District and to produce a series of affordable and sustainable recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet in June 2011.

The review panel identified the broad principles of a way forward and at their meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011 and made the following recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to recommend to Cabinet:

**Recommended to Cabinet:**

1. No leisure provision within the District is not considered to be an option.
2. Refurbishment of the Glades is not considered to be an option.
3. A new build leisure facility within Kidderminster is the preferred option, but at this stage it is not possible to comment on a preferred site or the facilities to be provided within the Leisure Centre.
4. A Community Asset Transfer for the wet and dry facilities at Stourport Sports Centre should be progressed.
5. A Community Asset Transfer for Bewdley Leisure Centre should be progressed with any willing partners.
6. That extension to existing management contracts, as previously approved by Cabinet, with DC leisure take place, if necessary whilst recommendations 1 to 5 are being progressed.
7. That the communications/consultation plan be endorsed.





## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### Briefing Paper

Report of: Kay Higman, Cultural Services Manager  
Date: Thursday, 2nd June 2011  
Open

### Recommendations of the Sports and Leisure Centres Review Panel

#### 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the work of the review panel which was established to undertake a strategic options appraisal for the future management of sports and leisure centre provision for the District and to produce a series of affordable and sustainable recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet in June 2011.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 Wyre Forest District Council owns three Leisure Centres, situated in Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport, managed by DC Leisure on behalf of the Council. They have provided high quality leisure centres to the community over many years and have been developed during that time to keep pace with changing sport and leisure requirements. The contract with DC Leisure finishes in March 2013 and therefore it is important to investigate all available options prior to contract end.
- 2.2 The Council is facing extremely challenging times and all services provided by the Council, including sports and leisure centres are undergoing review to ensure they are operated to maximum efficiency.
- 2.3 As part of the Wyre Forest Forward programme it was decided that the sport and leisure centre provision was to be reviewed to address a range of issues including:-
- The Leisure Centre buildings and the facilities within them are coming towards the end of their useful life.
  - The current leisure management contract ends in March 2013; options are being considered now, as a matter of urgency, to allow sufficient transition time to any new arrangement.
  - An extension of the existing contract will increase costs both through the management fee (one factor has been the increase in fuel prices) and also with increased maintenance costs.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6**

- The unprecedented pressure on current budgets makes such ongoing increases unaffordable to the Council. The aim of the Council would be to operate the centres at as near to a zero subsidy as possible, payable to any third party provider.
- Maximising income from the sports and leisure centres.

- 2.4 It was agreed at Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011, that a full strategic options appraisal for the future management of sports and leisure centres be prepared by the Director of Community and Partnership Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Partnership Services, Director of Resources, Director of Legal and Corporate Services and Director of Planning and Regulatory Services and reports be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to Cabinet in Summer 2011. A Members review panel was established with the first meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011; this group has made recommendations to this Scrutiny meeting and are detailed below.
- 2.5 A sum of £35,000 was allocated from General Reserves to the Community and Partnerships budget to carry out any associated work with carrying out the options appraisals.
- 2.6 The options put forward through Cabinet were as follows:-
1. Status Quo, keep all 3 leisure centres, there would be increased management contract costs and necessary refurbishment costs to improve usage and would require an additional budget to be identified.
  2.
    - a) Transfer some or all of the leisure centres to community groups or similar organisations. If appropriate organisations could not be identified, potentially close any of the centres and source private provision to provide the service (should the latter be considered it should be noted that private provision does not cater for children and young people or ensure access for deprived communities or provide health and well-being programmes and sports development)
    - b) If unable to transfer 1 or more of the leisure centres, consider closure on an individual basis.
  3. Invest in a new leisure centre utilising the proceeds of sale of assets and prudential borrowing (minimum time scale from identification of site to opening of centre is 3 years.)
- 2.7 Sports and Leisure Centre review panel meetings:-  
There have been five panel meetings, plus the visit to Elmbridge on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

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2.8 The meetings have covered the following issues:

- 16<sup>th</sup> March – background, scope of review
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March – status quo and refurbishment, Stourport Forward Facility project, Community Asset transfer (CAT), potential closure of facilities. Invitees were Liz Sheerin from Stourport Forward Facility project group and Peter Barnett from Wyre Forest Swimming Club.
- 13<sup>th</sup> April – new build option (potential sites, facilities, capital costs and procurement) financial analysis and report. Tracey Southall and David Tirebuck were invitees.
- 27<sup>th</sup> April – Facility Planning model strategic analysis, financial review, review of scope of group, communications plan. Invitee was Ian Silvera from Sport England
- 9<sup>th</sup> May – visit to Elmbridge, Xcel leisure centre to view facilities.
- 17<sup>th</sup> May – presentation of photos and information from visit to Elmbridge, review options and formulate recommendations.

2.9 In addition to the meetings outlined above, the members of the review panel have received the following information:-

- Customer comments and complaints from the sites
- Demographic information for the District
- Sport England Toolkit for Community Asset Transfer
- Paper from Wyre Forest Swimming Club
- Copy of lease for Stourport Sports Association
- Information regarding site programming from Wolverhampton and Cardiff leisure facilities
- Summary of discussions from Stourport Facilities Group Leisure sub group
- Summary of Facility Planning Model Analysis from Sport England
- Financial analysis and costings including:-
- Capital investment and management fee options

## **Agenda Item No. 6**

- Legal guidance on contract termination/extension and redundancy
- Procurement advice on options for procuring new facilities
- Site clearance/management costs/sales receipts
- New site indicative size and cost
- Repair and maintenance options reviewed with DC Leisure
- Staff profile at Glades and Stourport

### **3. Key Issues**

3.1 The key issues for the review group have centred on:

- Affordability
- Strategic leisure need
- Community Asset Transfer (CAT)
- Consultation plan

### **4. Options**

#### **Recommendations from Review Panel**

4.1 The review panel identified the broad principles of a way forward and at the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May made the following recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to recommend to Cabinet:

- 1) No leisure provision within the District is not considered to be an option.
- 2) Refurbishment of the Glades is not considered to be an option.
- 3) A new build leisure facility within Kidderminster is the preferred option, but at this stage it is not possible to comment on a preferred site or the facilities to be provided within the Leisure Centre.
- 4) A Community Asset Transfer for the wet and dry facilities at Stourport Sports Centre should be progressed.
- 5) A Community Asset Transfer for Bewdley Leisure Centre should be progressed with any willing partners.

## **Agenda Item No. 6**

- 6) That extension to existing management contracts, as previously approved by Cabinet, with DC leisure take place, if necessary whilst recommendations 1 to 5 are being progressed.
- 7) That the communications/consultation plan be endorsed.
- 4.2 The review panel concluded that the options for consultation by the public should all relate to a new build option for the District and a number of options need to be further investigated.
- 4.3 All of the new build options include for a six court sports hall, fitness and studios, 25 m 6 lane pool, leisure water, teaching pool, café, 5-a-side synthetic pitches to achieve as near as possible a zero subsidy, apart from one of the options which is for a dryside facility only and to build a pool if finance becomes available.
- 4.4 All of the new build options would meet the Council's economic objective to free up Bromsgrove Street for future development of the Eastern Gateway.
- 4.5 Sport and leisure impact – with the exception of the dryside only option all of the new build options would best meet the strategic sport and leisure needs of the district.
- 1a) If Stourport Sports Centre (SSC) successful Community Asset Transfer (CAT), new build in Kidderminster, with contract extension at Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre (WFGLC) until new build.
- b) If close both (and no CAT) new build between Kidderminster and Stourport, with contract extension at both centres until new build.
- c) If CAT at SSC successful, new build in Kidderminster, close WFGLC at March 2013 or earlier (if no CAT at SSC revert to 1b or 1e).
- d) As c) above but dry side facility only, no pool with the desire to build a pool at a later date, if funding becomes available.
- e) If close both and no CAT, new build in between Kidderminster and Stourport, extend contract for SSC and shut Glades.
- 4.6 Given the further work required and detailed financial analysis and site options appraisal, it is recommended that full Council consider the final Cabinet recommendations in the autumn.
- 5. Consultation**
- 5.1 A communication/consultation plan was tabled and approved at the review panel meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April. The plan stresses the importance of seeking views from residents and key stakeholders whilst keeping

## **Agenda Item No. 6**

employees and members informed about future leisure options. This plan takes account of up to 3 options to be agreed at June Cabinet going out to the public to ascertain their views before a final decision by Cabinet. The communication plan is attached at Appendix 2. Further work on developing the options for this public consultation exercise is required, subject to progressing work on financial affordability and site options.

### **6. Related Decisions**

6.1 None.

### **7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies**

7.1 Financial Strategy 2011-14

7.2 Cultural Strategy

### **8. Implications**

8.1 A financial appraisal of the options identified within Section 4.2 has been undertaken and High level indicative costings are shown in Appendix 1. These costings will continue to be developed and refined as this work progresses and more information becomes available.

### **9. Equality Impact Needs Assessment**

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out prior to the Cabinet meeting.

### **10. Wards affected**

10.1 All wards.

### **11. Appendices**

11.1 Appendix 1 – High Level Financial Appraisal – Indicative costings

11.2 Appendix 2 – Consultation/Communication Plan

### **12. Background Papers**

Cabinet Report – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011

#### **Officer Contact Details:**

Name: Kay Higman

Title: Cultural Services Manager

Contact Number: 01562 732902

**Proposed communications and consultation plan for Sports and Leisure Centres Options**

- Develop maximum of 3 options for public consultation at final Review Panel meeting, to go to Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet (June)
- Options then to be consulted upon, approximately one month/6 week period:
  1. On line voting
  2. Editorials in Shuttle
  3. Radio coverage
  4. At sports and leisure centres forms to enable public to give opinion
  5. Hubs, forms available
  6. Newsletters, eg Housing Co, WFDC July Wyred In
  7. User groups, letters or focus groups
  8. Communication with DC Leisure staff
- Back to Cabinet for final decision in Sept and Council in October 2011

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**  
**25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011**

**Future Arrangements for Management of Sports and Leisure Centres**

Open	
<b>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:</b>	A Better Quality of Life
<b>CORPORATE PLAN AIM:</b>	A Well Run and Responsive Council
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor T L Onslow
<b>DIRECTOR:</b>	Director of Community & Partnership Services
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Kay Higman – Ext. 2902 Kay.higman@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	None

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the issues to be considered as part of an options appraisal for the future management of the sports and leisure centre provision in the District.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE that:

- 2.1 A full strategic options appraisal for the future management of sports and leisure centres be prepared by the Director of Community and Partnership Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community & Partnership Services, Director of Resources, Director of Legal and Corporate Services and Director of Planning & Regulatory Services and a report be presented to Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee prior to consideration by Cabinet in early summer 2011.
- 2.2 A sum of up to £35,000 be allocated from General Reserves to carry out site appraisals in order for option 3 (in 4.2.1 below) to be fully costed as part of the full strategic review.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Wyre Forest District Council owns three Leisure Centres, situated in Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport managed by DC Leisure on behalf of the Council. They have provided high quality leisure centres to the community over many years and have been developed during that time to keep pace with changing sport and leisure requirements.
- 3.2 The Cabinet received a report on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009 which detailed the partnership arrangements with DC Leisure and asked for permission to enter into negotiations



regarding a possible extension to the current contract which expires in March 2013. Following Cabinet's approval of this approach, negotiations with DC Leisure have progressed.

- 3.3 Following the Comprehensive Spending Review 2010 and the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement, the Council is facing extremely challenging times and all services provided by the Council including sports and leisure centres are undergoing review to ensure they are operated to maximum efficiency.
- 3.4 As part of the Wyre Forest Forward programme the sport and leisure centre provision will be reviewed to address a range of issues including:-
- The Leisure Centre buildings and the facilities within them are potentially coming towards the end of their useful life.
  - The current leisure management contract ends in March 2013; options are being considered now, as a matter of urgency, to allow sufficient transition time to any new arrangement.
  - An extension of the existing contract will increase costs both through the management fee (one factor has been the increase in fuel prices) and also with increased maintenance costs.
  - The unprecedented pressure on current budgets makes such ongoing increases unaffordable to the Council. The aim of the Council would be to operate the centres at a reduced or zero subsidy payable to any third party provider.
  - Maximising income from the sports and leisure centres.
- 3.5 This report examines the current situation, and outlines a range of possible options.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES**

##### **4.1 Key Issues and Options**

4.1.1 **Current situation and costs:** based on 2010/11 revised budget. The total cost of the service is £891,460 (excluding depreciation) including the subsidy payable to DC Leisure of £663,820.

##### **4.1.2 Bewdley Leisure Centre (BLC):**

- Dual use site, school priority in day time Monday to Friday, community use evenings, weekends and school holidays
- Sports hall and sports pitches available
- Partnership with DC Leisure to manage until March 2013
- 2010/11 cost: **£45,390 (excluding depreciation)**

##### **4.1.3 Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre (WFGLC):**

- Sports hall (8 badminton courts) (built in 1992)
- Leisure pool (1986)
- Indoor play zone
- Bar, catering
- Health and fitness facilities
- Squash courts
- Studio
- Partnership with DC Leisure to manage until March 2013
- 2010/11 cost: **£577,210 (excluding depreciation)**

**4.1.4 Stourport Sports Centre (SSC):**

- Traditional indoor swimming pool (1974) and balcony
- Sports hall (6 badminton courts) (1987)
- Fitness facilities
- Sun bed room
- Small studio
- Partnership with DC Leisure to manage until March 2013
- 2010/11 cost: **£268,860 (excluding depreciation)**

**4.1.5 Future management fee costs**

The current contract for the operation of the Leisure Centres comes to an end in March 2013. DC Leisure, who manages the Sports and Leisure Centres through a partnership agreement on behalf of the Council, has provided outline costs for any possible extension to the current contract.

4.1.6 There would be additional costs per year for the management fee to DC Leisure for any extension and these figures will form part of the options appraisal. Beyond March 2013 there will also be additional maintenance costs which are not currently budgeted for due to the ageing nature of the facilities and these costs will be further identified as part of the options appraisal process.

**4.2 Broad range of options:**

4.2.1 The options available to the Council are broadly as follows, all options, will have due regard to relevant EU Procurement Regulations:

1. Status Quo, maintain the current three leisure centres, there would be increased management contract costs and necessary refurbishment costs to improve usage and would require an additional budget to be identified.
2. Transfer some or all of the leisure centres to community groups or similar organisations. If appropriate organisations could not be identified, potentially close any of the centres and source private provision to provide the service (should the latter be considered it should be noted that private provision does not cater for children and young people or ensure access for deprived communities or provide health and well being programmes and sports development). If unable to transfer 1 or more of the leisure centres, consider closure on an individual basis.
3. Invest in a new leisure centre utilising the proceeds of sale of assets and prudential borrowing (minimum time scale from identification of site to opening of centre is 3 years).

4.2.2 These options will be investigated by the Director of Community and Partnership Services and will be reported back through the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

**4.3 Choice of site for new build option:**

4.3.1 DC Leisure has conducted an initial assessment of some possible sites. Some detailed work now needs to be undertaken in order to provide costings and practicalities regarding option 3. The expertise for carrying out this work cannot be provided in house and therefore a sum of £35,000 would need to be allocated to the

Community and Partnerships budget for this purpose. DC Leisure has advised that, in order to work towards a nil subsidy, the inclusion of small sided football is essential.

- 4.3.2 From the wider planning and regeneration point of view, a number of other possibilities may become apparent e.g. Green Street and KTC 3, and would need to be explored further if the footprint of the site permitted the new facility to be accommodated.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The full options appraisal will involve detailed financial analysis of the options available to the Council. The aim will be to reduce the overall cost to the Council and to achieve a reduced or zero revenue subsidy payable to any third party provider as possible whilst protecting and sustaining future provision.
- 5.2 The costs of prudential borrowing under option 3 (or potentially under the other options for refurbishment) are a key factor in the options appraisal. However, Option 3 is predicated on the assumption that the total cost of any new provision would be significantly less than the current service.
- 5.3 A sum of up to £35,000 for site appraisal work can be funded from General Reserves.

**6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There is an existing shared use agreement between the District Council and County Council regarding the dual use site at Bewdley that needs to be considered as part of the options appraisal.
- 6.2 Whilst it is not mandatory to provide leisure centres, these facilities provide a valued community asset which improves quality of life, health and well being and makes a major contribution to meeting the needs of the District's more deprived communities.
- 6.3 EU Procurement legislation will be considered for all options.

**7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Needs Assessment will be undertaken as part of the options appraisal to ensure that factors such as economic and social factors do not become barriers to those residents wishing to access sport and leisure provision in the District.

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 There is currently no funding allocated to take account of the interim payments to DC Leisure for contract extensions.
- 8.2 If the 2 centres at Stourport and the Glades were not operational at their current locations, this would have potentially a financial impact on car parking at these 2 sites. This could be minimised in Stourport if the one hour free parking is adopted in out of town car parks.

**9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The options need to be carefully considered and further developed, including site investigations and full financial options appraisal, which will be completed by June 2011.

**10. CONSULTEES**

- 10.1 Corporate Management Team.  
10.2 Councillor T L Onslow, Cabinet Member for Community & Partnership Services.  
10.3 Councillor J Campion, Leader of the Council.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 Report to Cabinet 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009.



## Consultation on the future of the Council's Sports and Leisure Centres in Wyre Forest

Wyre Forest District Council would like all residents to help decide on the future of your leisure centres in the district.

We have been reviewing the services we provide. This is because the centres are ageing and are becoming beyond their useful life and will get more expensive each year to manage and maintain. At the same time the Council has severe budget pressures and we would like to save money wherever we can.

The review looked at all the options available for the Council including closing the centres, new build and refurbishing what we have.

We are committed to providing leisure centre facilities as they have major benefits to the health and well-being of people who live in the District. Now we must find a way forward which meets the need to save money but also offers fair and relevant access to a broad range of sports and activities to residents of all ages and abilities.

As a result of the review, it is being recommended that:

1. We close Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre.
2. We build one new leisure centre for the district.
3. We transfer the management of Stourport Sports Centre and Bewdley Leisure Centre to the local community or other organisations where possible.

We would like to hear your views on the proposals, whether you use the leisure centres or not. It is important to get opinions from every perspective as the results will be used to help the Council make a final decision in the autumn.

You can fill in the attached questionnaire or complete it online at [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk) Please return it by 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

### Some facts and figures –

The Council currently owns 3 leisure centres in Kidderminster (Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre), Stourport (Stourport Sports Centre) and Bewdley (Bewdley Leisure Centre) attracting over 500,000 visits per year.

We spend £1.2 million per year on leisure centres; this is equivalent to £15.69 per year on an average Council tax band D.

If we carry on with the current leisure centres, costs will increase. This is because the facilities will require investment to keep them fully operational and fit for purpose. If it is decided to build a new leisure centre the Council would aim for this to cost less than the current subsidy.

We are investigating the potential for Stourport Sports Centre to be managed by the local community with some financial support from the Council. This would be a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). Costs for this are still being explored.

We are also exploring a community asset transfer for Bewdley Leisure Centre. As the centre is a dual use site and therefore also used by Bewdley High School and is subject to different legal and financial agreements.

## Help shape the future

**Q1 Which leisure centre/s do you currently use? Please tick all relevant boxes**

- ☐ Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre
- ☐ Stourport Sports Centre
- ☐ Bewdley Leisure Centre
- ☐ Private/Commercial Gym
- ☐ Don't use a leisure centre

**Q2 Should the Council continue leisure centre provision at the existing facilities (alternative is a new centre)?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**Q3 What is your opinion on the proposal to build one new leisure centre to serve the District?**

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

**Q4 What is your opinion on the proposal to transfer the management of Stourport Sports Centre to the local community?**

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

**Q5 What is your opinion on the proposal to transfer the management of Bewdley Leisure Centre to the local community?**

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

**Q6** If the Council were to build a new leisure centre, what facilities would you like to see in it? Please tick as many boxes as you like.

- ☐ 25 metre traditional swimming pool
- ☐ Learner pool
- ☐ Sports hall
- ☐ Climbing wall
- ☐ Outdoor 5 a side pitches
- ☐ Leisure Pool (this is similar to the type of pool at the Glades)
- ☐ Gym and fitness
- ☐ Squash courts
- ☐ Café
- ☐ Creche
- ☐ Other – please state \_\_\_\_\_

**Q7** How often would you use the following facilities?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Every few months	Yearly	Never
25 metre traditional swimming pool						
Learner pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climbing wall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor 5 a side pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure Pool (this is similar to the type of pool at the Glades)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gym and fitness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Squash Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Café	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creche	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q8** At present, we are looking at how we can invest in new facilities without increasing expenditure. However, if it were necessary to fund a leisure centre by increasing council tax, would you support this?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neither support or oppose
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose

### About you

**Q9** Please tick

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

**Q10 Please tick your age range.**

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 – 24
- ☐ 25-39
- ☐ 40 – 54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-79
- ☐ 80+

**Q11 What is your postcode ?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q12 Any further comments?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART AND GIVING US YOUR VIEWS**

**PLEASE RETURN TO  
Sports and Leisure Centre Questionnaire  
Wyre Forest District Council  
FREEPOST MID 23694  
Green Street  
Kidderminster  
Worcestershire  
DY10 1BR**

**The results of this consultation will be made available on the Council's website  
[www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk) at the end of September 2011.**





## Consultation on the future of the Council's Sports and Leisure Centre's in Wyre Forest July – September 2011

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill in the consultation on the future of the District's Sports and Leisure Centres and for the detailed and useful comments received.

The results will be used to help the Council to make a final decision in due course.

The Council's Cabinet will be reviewing the results of the consultation together with the work to date on all of the options at a meeting in October 2011. The Cabinet will decide the next stages of the review at this meeting. Updated information will be available on the Council's website: [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

### Summary of Responses

#### 516 respondents

76 % are existing users of Wyre Forest Glades, Stourport Sports Centre, Bewdley Leisure Centre (or a combination)

11% Private Gym users

13% Non users

60% Female

40% Male

Ages 25 - 39

22%

Ages 40 - 54

26%

Ages 55 – 64

22%

Ages 65 – 79

22%

	Agree	Disagree	Undecided
Should the Council continue leisure centre provision at the existing facilities?	63% (yes)	37% (no)	

Proposal to build one new leisure centre to serve the District	40%	50%	10%
Stourport Community Asset Transfer	37%	33%	30%
Bewdley Community Asset Transfer	35%	25%	40%
Support a Council tax increase to fund a new leisure centre	33%	48%	19%

### Facilities and Usage

Facilities people would like to see in a new leisure centre and how much use they would make of them.

Most Popular	Facility	% Respondents	% Respondents would use weekly	% Respondents would never use
	25m pool	85%	40%	24%
	Sports hall	79%	17%	43%
	Gym / Fitness	77%	27%	37%
	Cafe	74%	28%	31%
	Learner Pool	68%	12%	73%
	Leisure Pool	50%	5%	44%
	Crèche	50%	6%	85%
	Squash Courts	49%	7%	74%
	Climbing Wall	42%	6%	72%
Least Popular	Outdoor five a side	40%	6%	80%

**Post Codes** DY10, DY11, DY12, DY13, and DY14

## **News Release from Wyre Forest District Council**

For immediate release 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011

006/OCT/CAPS

### **Sports and Leisure Centres Review - Consultation Results**

Wyre Forest District Council has today released the results of the public consultation regarding the future of the sports and leisure centres in the district.

516 responses were received, 60% female and 40% male. 24% of respondents were non-users or those who used private facilities. The consultation process has demonstrated that the public value the facilities that they have and feel they are important to their quality of life.

63% of respondents wanted to keep the current provision. 33% of people supported an increase in Council tax to fund a new build, with 47% against and 10% had no real opinion. The most popular new facilities requested were 25 metre pool, sports hall, gym and fitness, café and learner pool.

A report on the future of the sports and leisure centres will be presented at Wyre Forest District Council's Cabinet Meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, where some "in principle" decisions will be made and further work will be undertaken before a final decision in January 2012. The consultation results will be valuable in informing the decision making process.

Councillor Tracey Onslow, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being said, "I would like to thank those people who completed the questionnaires and provided valuable information to shape the way forward for the Council's sports and leisure centres. It is clear that the public value the provision and it is seen to be an important part of many people's lives".

Full details of the results can be viewed on the Council's website  
[www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

ENDS

Notes to editor: The meeting will take place at 6pm at Duke House, Clensmore Street, Kidderminster.

**-ENDS-**

For more media information, please contact:

Jane Doyle or Suzanne Johnston-Hubbold, Wyre Forest District Council,

Telephone 01562 732982 or email [media.office@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:media.office@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

## **News Release from Wyre Forest District Council**

For immediate release 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

003/SEP/CAPS

### **Council's Sports and Leisure Centres Consultation Deadline**

There are just a few more days left for residents to give their views on the future of leisure centres in the district.

Wyre Forest District Council is conducting an online questionnaire to find out what residents and user groups think about the options being recommended. The consultation ends on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

The survey includes questions about all the options. These are to build one new leisure centre for the district, to close Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre and to transfer the management of Stourport Sports Centre and Bewdley Leisure Centre to the local community or other organisations. The recommendations have come about as a result of a review of the current services on offer.

Councillor Tracey Onslow, Wyre Forest District Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Well-being said,

"We are really pleased with the response so far but we want to highlight the end of the consultation. This is in the hope of making sure that everyone who wants to give their view knows that they've only got until Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September to do it. The survey isn't just for people who use the Leisure Centres, we would like to hear views from all perspectives. The results of the survey will be used to help the Council make a final decision in the autumn."

Residents can fill in a questionnaire online at [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk) or pick one up from the Leisure Centres, Worcestershire Hub or district libraries.

**-ENDS-**

For more media information, please contact:

Jane Doyle or Suzanne Johnston-Hubbold, Wyre Forest District Council,

Telephone 01562 732982 or email [media.office@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:media.office@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

## **News Release from Wyre Forest District Council**

For immediate release 25 July 2011

009JULCAPS

### **Views sought on the future of Council's Sports and Leisure Centres**

Residents are being asked for their views on the future of leisure centres in the district.

Wyre Forest District Council is conducting an online questionnaire to find out what residents and user groups think about the options being recommended. The options are to close Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre, to build one new leisure centre for the district and to transfer the management of Stourport Sports Centre and Bewdley Leisure Centre to the local community or other organisations. The recommendations have come about as a result of a review of the current services on offer.

Councillor Tracey Onslow, Wyre Forest District Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community-wellbeing said,

"We had to undertake a review of the services because the existing management contract is coming up for renewal. In addition, our leisure centres are ageing and coming to the end of their useful life, which is resulting in them getting more expensive to maintain each year. At the same time, as everyone is aware, the Council has severe budget pressures and needs to save money wherever it can. So, now we must find a way forward which meets the need to make savings but also offers fair and relevant access to a broad range of sports and activities for residents of all ages and abilities."

She added,

"We feel it's important to get views from all perspectives and would like to hear from people whether they use the leisure centres or not. The results of the survey will be used to help the Council make a final decision in the autumn."

Residents can fill in a questionnaire online at [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk) or pick one up from the Leisure Centres, Worcestershire Hub or district libraries. The deadline for responses is 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

**-ENDS-**

For more media information, please contact:

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