

Extract from the minutes of Cabinet – Public Session – 12th October 2009

70 GROWTH AREA FUNDING – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Cabinet was reminded that Braintree District Council with Chelmsford Borough Council are joint recipients of capital and revenue growth area funding. The Growth Area Funding Board has now ceased, and the Local Development Framework Panel are being proposed to take responsibility for growth area funding.

Councillor Harley advised that the amount of the Growth Area Fund in 2010/11 will be reduced by 43%, resulting with £640,000 being awarded. Members considered that representations should be made to the Government Minister regarding this and were advised that the Development Director had already done so.

DECISION: That it be **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:-**

That the responsibilities of the Local Development Framework Panel be extended to include growth area funding.

72 FUTURE OF BRAMSTON LEISURE CENTRE

Councillor Lady Newton, Cabinet Member for Housing & Well-Being introduced a paper concerning the development of new swimming and fitness facilities in Witham. Cabinet were reminded of reference to Bramston Pool, Witham in the finance presentation earlier in the meeting, and that the present facility had a net cost of £0.5m per annum. Councillor Lady Newton explained the three options contained in the report.

During the discussion the following issues were raised

- to fully scrutinise income numbers
- suitable timetable of facilities to maintain access to the public and allow provision to schools
- that health issues has been recognised as a major concern in Witham
- that the £1m difference in cost between Option 1 and Option 2 will be over the lifetime of the pool
- the costings of the project, and the impact of revenue has to be considered
- that Witham Town Council and all user groups are included in the consultation process
- for dance studios to be used for other classes
- the learner pool and the depth of pool to be user friendly to those persons with disabilities
- the possibility that the Learner Pool may have a movable floor
- for the gym facility to have appropriate, specialist management

It was confirmed that the scheme would not include diving provision, as significant demand had not been established and neighbouring authorities are introducing or upgrading diving provision at their pools.

The indicative Project Timetable quoted in the report was noted, and the need to timetable with the build programme of the Maltings Academy in Witham.

It was noted that the report from consultants on the project will be made available to members of Witham Local Committee.

DECISION:

(1) That Option 2 be agreed as a basis for further consultation with all stakeholders.

(2) That it be **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:-**

That based upon Option 2, the necessary capital funding provision be allocated to the capital programme.
