

## LEISURE ISSUES AND MALTINGS ACADEMY

Agenda Item 5b

<b>Contact Details:-</b>	Allan Reid
<b>Designation:-</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Ext. No:-</b>	2002
<b>E Mail Address:-</b>	allan.reid@braintree.gov.uk

<b>Background Papers:-</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Financial Implications:-</b>	<b>No immediate implications</b>
<b>Equalities Implications:-</b>	<b>No immediate implications</b>
<b>Legal Implications:-</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Options:</b>	<b>To be assessed</b>
<b>Risks:</b>	<b>Nil at present</b>

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The establishment of the Maltings Academy and their plans to build new sporting facilities will impact upon the current leisure provision. It is proposed to work with the Academy to develop proposals/options on replacement leisure facilities.

### DECISION

That the Cabinet endorse the way forward as set out in the report.

#### 1. Background

An announcement was made in March 2008 that John Bramston School and the Rickstones School in Witham would be part of a three-way academies initiative with Greensward College in Hockley. David Triggs, representing the Academies Enterprise Trust, met with the Chief Executive in May 2008 to outline their proposals for the project, and offered the Council an opportunity to join the Academies Enterprise Trust Board, sometime in the future.

We understand that it is the intention of the Trust to build new educational facilities at both sites and demolish the existing structures. They have a time frame for completion of September 2011. Essex County Council will be undertaking the works on behalf of the Academy.

#### 2. Transfer of Land

As part of establishing the new Academy, the Council has been approached regarding the transfer of land and buildings that are part of Bramston Sports Centre and currently owned by Essex County Council. The land and buildings cover the majority of the dry side area.

There would be no cost involved in this transfer and discussions regarding the joint-use agreement are underway, based upon the principle that the changes brought about by Academy status would not financially impact upon the Council.

### **3. Sports and Leisure Facilities**

#### Witham Academies

Discussions are taking place with the new Maltings Academy and Essex County Council regarding the future provision of sports facilities.

The Academy/Essex County Council are planning to replace the sports halls by September 2011 as part of their new build programme. Negotiations are taking place on:

- (a) The transfer of part of the Bramston Sports Centre site to the Council.
- (b) A revision of the joint-use agreement until the replacement of the dry side sports halls in 2011.

The principle that has been adopted on both the issues is that the Council should not suffer any financial detriment.

The replacement of the sports halls, which we understand will be available for community use, brings into question the future of Bramston Sports Centre. The main issue is the provision of wet facilities (swimming pool). As Members will be aware, currently the Bramston Sports Centre is a significant cost, in both capital and revenue, to the Council. Therefore, any new leisure provision will require detailed planning to ensure that such provision is appropriate, affordable and accessible within the District. We have therefore extended the discussion with the Academy/Essex County Council into the wider provision of leisure facilities and the options that are available.

It is planned to bring a full report on the options available to a Cabinet meeting in the autumn, which will cover:

- (a) The provision of leisure facilities, to be provided by the Academy, available to the community.
- (b) The implications on (a) above on the current provision.
- (c) The options for leisure facilities provision.
- (d) A plan/timetable on any reprovision linked to the Academy build plan.

It is the intention to move forward on the leisure provision currently within Witham on the following basis:

- (a) That the Council accepts the freehold for the Bramston Sports Centre at a nominal price.
- (b) That the joint-use agreement is established with the Academy at no significant cost to the Council.
- (c) That discussions are held with the Academy/Essex County Council regarding the reprovision of leisure facilities on the Bramston site.
- (d) That an options paper is brought to Cabinet on the provision of leisure facilities in Witham and within the District.

