

<b>CHECKLIST BOX – for draft report only</b>		
Date and time report submitted:		
Appendices How Many?	Yes/No	Date
Exempt What paragraph ?	Yes/No	Date
Referred to Finance Comments received Comments incorporated Report agreed	Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No	Date
Referred to Legal Comments received Comments incorporated Report agreed	Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No	Date
Referred to ICT Comments received Comments incorporated Report agreed	Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No	Date
Consulted Cabinet Member/Chairman of Committee	Yes/No/N/A	If N/A then why not
Are there any background papers	Yes/No	
Has an Equalities Impact Assessment been carried out?	Yes/No/N/A	If N/A then why not
Have any Health & Safety or Environmental Protection Act issues or Sustainability Implications been addressed?	Yes/No/N/A	If N/A then why not

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Indoor Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Cllr Graham Harris Community, Health and Housing Portfolio Holder
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Martin Holt 01494 732055, <a href="mailto:mholt@chiltern.gov.uk">mholt@chiltern.gov.uk</a>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Martin Holt 01494 732055, <a href="mailto:mholt@chiltern.gov.uk">mholt@chiltern.gov.uk</a>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	All

## 1. Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the Chiltern District Council Leisure Needs Assessment and consider the implications for the future delivery of leisure facilities in the District

## RECOMMENDATION

That Members adopt the Indoor Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy for the delivery of the future leisure facility needs within the District and consider the role the Council should undertake in respect of the delivery of leisure.

That Members agree to undertake a feasibility study and public consultation as to the options to replace the Chiltern Pools.

## **2. Executive Summary**

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

The Chiltern Indoor Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy has identified opportunities to work with community and sporting organisations to improve the infrastructure to enable active community participation.

Through the delivery of the joint Business Plan and its work with the Joint Strategic Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board, the Council aims to increase physical activity and active participation in Buckinghamshire, enabling healthier lives and reducing conditions such as diabetes and obesity amongst younger and older persons. At the same time the Council aims to improve community cohesion and reduce social isolation. The delivery of the Council's leisure function addresses all these areas.

The replacement of the Chiltern Pools with a purpose built leisure facility that meets the needs of the community would enable greater opportunities for participation and could reduce the longer term costs of leisure provision.

The members working group supported the development of a feasibility study in to the opportunities to develop a replacement centre for Chiltern Pools and to undertake a community wide survey as to the preferred options for leisure in the district. MT has since agreed to progress with the development of the feasibility study and consultation as part of the next stage of the options appraisal agreed by Cabinet 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014 in reviewing the opportunities to replace the Chiltern Pools with a high quality affordable centre.

### **4. Content of Report**

The Structural, Mechanical and Electrical survey of the Chiltern Pools Leisure Centre identified that the building was in need of significant inward investment. Major structural repairs are required to the building and facilities if it is to be the subject of a further 10 – 15 year operational life.

At the meeting dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, Cabinet decided to maintain the Chiltern Pools to achieve an operational life until 2020 and agreed to enable an operational life of the Chesham and Chalfont Leisure Centres until 2030.

It was further agreed that the Council would undertake a sports and leisure needs assessment that considered both sports facility and wider leisure needs of the district post 2020

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) was appointed to undertake both the Indoor Sports and Leisure Facilities assessment and develop the Indoor Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy to identify the future leisure needs of the District until 2045

The findings of the survey and the draft Indoor Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy have been presented to the Leisure Needs Members Working Group on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Whilst the survey identified the opportunities for commercial leisure opportunities within the district, informed by the deferred Amersham Development Planning Document and research by KKP, a further study as to the Commercial, Retail and Leisure Needs of the District is being undertaken as part of the Local Plan. It is recognised that this study will also identify opportunities for leisure within the district. This in turn will inform options for the Chiltern Pools site in the longer term.

Following receipt of the evidenced base Facilities Strategy the Leisure Needs Member Working group recommended to Cabinet to adopt the Indoor Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy and consider how the Strategy may be implemented in the District. The recommendations in the strategy are detailed below together with the officer update in italics.

- 1) To maintain and where possible enhance the Chesham and Chalfont Leisure Centres. *These centres are maintained through the current Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) Repair and Renewal programme and the GLL Reinvestment of Contract Surpluses. In addition the Council has accessed external funding from Sport England and utilised the Councils Leisure Capital programme to maintain the facilities. During 2015/16 GLL invested £250k in Chesham and are considering additional investment proposals (circa £250k) to improve the Chalfont Leisure Centre. As part of any future contract negotiations the Council would seek to ensure a capital maintenance plan was appropriately budgeted for.*
- 2) Subject to a feasibility study to replace the Chiltern Pools with a strategic leisure centre incorporating, swimming, fitness suite, climbing wall, and multipurpose space, which could incorporate a theatre/cinema and meeting rooms. *This report seeks to initiate the first stages in development the feasibility study in to the options available.*
- 3) Assist in enabling school based sports hall accommodation for community use where appropriate. *Currently several halls are used by clubs in non-schools times, others are not open to the community. Officers could enable greater community use as opposed to club use of such sports halls and will work with schools to assist application to external funds for the development of community based facilities.*
- 4) Work with local clubs and NGB's to support improved access to indoor training facilities which could be delivered within sports halls as appropriate. *The opportunity would be for the Council to work with partners to increase the provision of indoor training within current facilities or consider the opportunity for additional community based facilities to be developed.*

With the Chiltern Pools leisure centre coming to the end of its operational life consideration should be given to how such a facility is re-provided and should the Council continue to be involved in any future operation of such a facility.

## 5. Options for future provision

1. That the Council continues to take a strategic approach to the delivery of leisure by working with community organisations to increase participation in the District. And continues to contract out the operation of its Leisure Centres to a provider who would be responsible for the management and maintenance of the centres. This approach has since 2005 enabled increased user visits by 450,000/annum whilst reducing Council's expenditure to £0.19/visit from a cost of £0.39/visit.

As evidenced in a range of local district authorities such as Rugby, a new strategic leisure facility would create the environment required to attract a significant increase in participation by attracting new users and has enabled an income stream to the Council.

2. Alternatively the Council could determine not to remain involved in the provision of leisure at the end of the contract with GLL in 2020, leaving provision to the community and private business. There would be an interest in commercial operators delivering high quality and budget leisure activities in the District. Organisations have approached the Council to identify opportunities for private leisure facilities to be established. With little or no involvement from the Council community groups and clubs would deliver community wide activities at a similar level of participation as current and no step increase in participation would occur.

There is a significant risk that commercial operators would deliver only facilities that created a high profit and operations such as a swimming may be unaffordable or unavailable to sections of the community.

The Council would equally have to consider its options in relation to the operation of the at Chesham and Chalfont Leisure centres. It is unlikely that these centres would be operated by a leisure provider without a significant subsidy from the Council which may be higher than the current £100k management fee.

3. The Council continues to operate the three leisure centres through a leisure provider subsidising the delivery through a management fee. Long term forecasts estimate the costs of continuing to deliver the three centres in accordance with the current contract requirements may increase the level of annual subsidy by additional £223k in 2023 rising to close to £500k by 2026.

The Leisure Needs Member Working group considered that the provision of leisure facilities owned by the Council would enable opportunities to influence the leisure offer in the district enabling access for all.

The Leisure Needs Member Working also concluded to recommend that a feasibility study be undertaken in to the options for a replacement of the Chiltern Pools.

The feasibility study would consider the;

- Possible facilities to be provided in replacing the Chiltern Pools
- The possible locations within Amersham for a replacement of the Chiltern Pools
- Potential funding models to develop and operate the new facility

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- A communication and consultation plan for the feasibility study
- Opportunities to work with stakeholders to deliver improvements to the existing Council owned leisure facilities
- Opportunities to work with stakeholders to incorporate other community facilities within any replacement facility for the Chiltern Pools.

**6. Consultation**

*Not Applicable at this stage*

**7. Corporate Implications**

*3.1 Financial – Cabinet agreed to expenditure of £50k to undertake a leisure needs assessment and to consult with stakeholders on the leisure options for the district. The initial survey was delivered within budget and £30k is available to undertake the feasibility study and wider consultation on the leisure options*

*3.2 Legal – the Council has a duty to consider the health and wellbeing of its community, enabling leisure opportunities to support a healthier and active community would assist the Council in supporting this objective.*

*3.3 Enabling the delivery of fit for purpose leisure facilities would support the councils objectives to reduce crime and disorder, address carbon management in relation to the use of fossil fuels used in the operation of the leisure centres, strengthen partnership working with Public Health, CCG, community groups and sports clubs and improve opportunities for greater community cohesion.*

**8. Links to Council Policy Objectives**

- Delivering cost- effective, customer- focused services
- Working towards safe and healthier local communities
- Striving to conserve the environment and promote sustainability

**9. Next Step**

Following Member approval officers will undertake the feasibility study and consultation in to the options for the replacement of the Chiltern pools.

<b>Background Papers:</b>	Appendix 1 Chiltern Indoor Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy  The Chiltern Indoor Sports and Built Facilities Assessment Report which is available in the Members Room.  <a href="#">Buckinghamshire Physical Activity Strategy</a>
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