

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**21 SEPTEMBER 2011****REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE****DEVELOPING THE VISION FOR LEISURE PROVISION IN MELTON BOROUGH****1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Members upon progress in assessing the methodology of developing a wider vision for the provision of leisure and related facilities in Melton Borough in the medium to longer term.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The steps taken to develop the vision for leisure provision in Melton Borough be noted.**
- 2.2 **Further work upon developing the vision to include Culture and heritage as well as sports and leisure activities be approved.**
- 2.3 **Advice be sought upon the Governance arrangements to take into account the offer of Active Melton to be a leading partner in the project at several stages.**
- 2.4 **A further report be made to this Committee at its next meeting on progress made.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 At its meeting on 22 June 2011 this Committee decided to pursue the development of a medium to longer term vision for the development of leisure facilities in Melton Borough. In order to ensure the provision of quality pool and leisure facilities during this period Members approved the Management Contract for Waterfield Leisure Pools together with making provision for its refurbishment and upgrade. A report elsewhere on this agenda advises Members of the current position with respect to finalisation of the Management Contract and the refurbishment arrangement.

Members considered that the Borough Council should take a key role in the development of the vision but not the only role, therefore following discussion at the previous Committee Officers have developed views through the Melton Community Partnership Leisure Sub Group which was already established. This would enable wider Partners in the public and other sectors to be included as appropriate in the development and future implementation of the vision and provision of further leisure facilities.

Members are aware that in order to develop such a vision and commence consideration of implementation a variety of stages exist, these include:-

- Formal scoping of the vision
- Site selection – including brief as to requirements
- Settlement of facilities to be included
- Preliminary examination of funding arrangements
- Selection of professional project team
- Design of facilities
- Planning application
- Formal settlement of funding arrangements
- Specification of build and procurement
- Management of build

- 3.2 Throughout this period and these stages there will need to be proper and adequate consultation and involvement with all relevant Clubs and Associations, Users and Non-Users, developing an unrepresented sports and activities and the community. Further consultation and involvement will be required with Partners, potential funders and local providers including those delivering facilities for the Council.

In discussions concerning scoping the vision it became apparent that partners considered there was an opportunity for the vision to be extended to include cultural and heritage proposals. This could result in a considerable extension to the original vision suggested and Members are requested to consider this as part of the scoping at this initial stage. Also, preliminary discussions have indicated a desire to look broadly in connection with the range of sports which could be offered together with considering future trends including family friendly outdoor activities. It was considered appropriate that bar, cafe and crèche facilities also be included.

The extent and scope of the vision will impact upon site selection and its brief. Once the revised scoping is completed it is suggested that preliminary site identification take place with the development of a brief so that relevant locations will meet minimum standards and be realistically considered.

The Melton Community Partnership Sub Group considered in short that the vision for the facilities should be expanded to include culture and heritage, that the facilities to be provided should be simple and accessible but with a variety of activities which were future proofed and looked to developing sports and family activities. There should be a clear relationship towards the use of open space and the outdoors as part of the facilities provided. The vision should aim high and look to attract competition sports and activities (if possible of the highest level)to the Borough, but at the heart of the vision was the desire and requirement to provide relevant developing and flexible sports, leisure, cultural and heritage activities for the people of the Borough, Local Businesses and Users.

Members of the Sub Group considered that to achieve this vision may require phasing. In particular, the breadth of the vision should not diminish the need to meet certain pressing needs. The Council in its earlier decision to refurbish the Waterfield Leisure Pools had indicated a wish to maintain quality facilities in Melton. It is known that during the last two years Melton has seen a decline in the provision of sports facilities or their easy accessibility. The Sub Group suggested that in developing the vision and identifying the site there should be a focus on ensuring that this reduction in available and accessible sports facilities was addressed at an early stage with other aspects of the vision able to be developed and implemented in a logical sequence. The Sub Group considered that to meet the needs of current sports requirements in the borough whilst also extending and considering future needs, should be the initial project of the Melton Community Partnership supported by the Borough Council and other public sector bodies and organisations working with local clubs and associations, users and the wider community.

As part of the early discussions Active Melton has advised the Council that it has reformed as a social enterprise. Active Melton has offered to lead the development of the vision and to be the key player in its implementation and eventual management. Active Melton have accepted that the Council will need to examine this offer. It will need to consider the Governance arrangements and the role of Active Melton in the various stages as set out in paragraph 3.1 above, both as a partner, and/or provider/deliverer of management and services. Members will recognise that this concept is in line with current national government thinking however, for such a large project both Active Melton, the Council, its other partners and the Melton Community Partnership need to consider the mechanisms and formalities needed to achieve any ultimate goal in terms of a social enterprise leading, providing and/or managing some or all of these facilities.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report sets out the steps required to be taken to move forward with the vision as identified by Members at the previous Committee. It advises that the Sub Group looking at the vision felt an opportunity should be taken to examine broadening the vision to include cultural and heritage possibilities. It suggests that prior to identifying a firmer route to progress the matter the broader vision is explored and that preliminary advice on governance is sought with respect to the offer by Active Melton as a social enterprise to work as lead on the project.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In its decision to refurbish Waterfield Leisure Pools the Council has made adequate and proper funding arrangements to achieve this outcome. The development of the vision of itself requires no financial input from the Council however the recent offer by Active Melton to lead and develop the proposals does require governance consideration. External advice may be sought and at this stage this will be accommodated from within existing budgets.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

- 6.1 As Members are aware the provision of leisure, sports, cultural and heritage facilities are discretionary functions. This means that the Council has the power to provide the facilities however it must be satisfied as to its method of provision and funding. In developing this proposal the offer from Active Melton requires careful consideration. Governance arrangements need to be put in place through the Melton Community Partnership and the key Partners involved in the development of the vision and its later implementation to ensure the Council follows proper legal procedures and requirements. External advice on this suggestion from Active Melton and how the Council can take further this broader requirement is necessary.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 7.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

- 8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment will be necessary following the development of the vision and its implementation as Policy.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 Please see below

Probability
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Very High A				
High B			4	
Significant C				
Low D			3	
Very Low E			1, 2	
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic

Impact
→

Risk No.	Description
1	Proper consideration of the Active Melton proposal
2	Adequate involvement and consultation with the Community
3	Difficulties with site selection
4	Adequate funding for proposals

9.2 Certain of the risks can be dealt with at the time and as the programme progresses, for instance ensuring adequate and proper legal advice on governance is obtained together with consulting and involving the Community. Other risks including site selection and funding are longer term and will require treatment and mitigation at appropriate stages.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 Modern facilities

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Give any consultation process and outcomes that have informed the report including wards consulted

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 Give the wards affected by the report

- Contact Officer ?Name of Report Writer
- Date: ?
- Appendices : ?
- Background Papers: ?
- Reference : X : Committees?