
REPORT TO:	Cabinet
DATE:	2 March 2021
SERVICE AREA:	Place Shaping and Economic Growth
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Officer Strategic Property and Major Projects <i>(Jonathan Dunk)</i>
SUBJECT:	The Preferred Site for a new Leisure Facility in the East of the District
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL DISTRICT
FORWARD PLAN REF:	Key Decision No. 14CTS20

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Cabinet on the outcome of a period of Public Consultation for the preferred site for a new Leisure Facility in the East of the District.

To recommend to Cabinet the preferred site to take forward through the design and development phase for the creation of a New Leisure Facility in the East of the District.

To note that in the event this recommendation is agreed by Cabinet, design work for this site will be developed to RIBA stage 4 at which point Cabinet will receive a report detailing the costs and business case for the scheme prior to a decision whether to proceed with construction.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

That following a technical site options appraisal, reported to Cabinet in December 2020, and a period of public consultation, Cabinet approves the existing Leisure Centre site (although not necessarily the same footprint as the existing building) as the preferred location for the new facility for the East of the District.

3.0 RECOMMENDED REASON/S FOR DECISION/S

There is a need to achieve best value for the services the Council provides, to reduce net operating cost wherever possible, whilst at the same time maintaining and where possible improving service for residents.

The June 2020 Leisure Review report recognised the significant investment in the new facility for Ripon and the need to refurbish and remodel the Harrogate Hydro venue to meet current and future user expectations.

The Local Plan highlights the need for a new facility in the East of the District to meet future demand. The 2020 report recognised that the current venues in this area are 30 and 150 years old, have significant operational and unplanned maintenance issues and will not meet the current and future expectations of their users.

The location of the new facility for the East of the District needs to be confirmed in order for design development to progress.

4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTION/S CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED FOR REJECTION *(Must be used for reports to Cabinet & Cabinet Members)*

To deliver a new facility on an alternative site to the existing facility.

This is rejected; an independent site options appraisal was carried out that considered locational, physical, access, planning, and legal factors. This recommended that the existing site should be the preferred location for a new leisure facility in the East of the District.

Following a period of public consultation 81% (381) of people who responded agreed with the current Knaresborough Pool site as the location for the new leisure centre site.

5.0 THE REPORT

Following a technical site options appraisal a report was brought to Cabinet on 2 December 2020. This recommended that the preferred location for the new facility for the East of the District should be the existing Leisure Centre site (although not necessarily the same footprint as the existing building).

Cabinet also approved a Public Consultation process regarding the preferred location and asked to receive a future report recommending the preferred location taking into account the results of the consultation.

The Public consultation was undertaken from the 4th December 2020 to 18th January 2021. A summary of the full report is set out below;

- We received 471 responses, with 98% (460) stating they were residents.
- 81% (381) of people agreed with the current Knaresborough Pool site as the location for the new leisure centre site.
- When asked about other locations the top two other locations suggested were Conyngham Hall (27 free text comments) and Hay A Park (26 free text comments).

The full analysis of responses can be found in appendix 1.

6.0 REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The following were considered: Financial Implications; Legal Implications; Strategic Property/Asset Management Considerations; Risk Assessment; Equality and Diversity (the Public Sector Equality Duty and impact upon people with protected characteristics). If applicable, the outcomes of any consultations, assessments, considerations and implications considered necessary during preparation of this report are detailed below.

6.2 Finance – No comment.

Legal Comments are included within the body of the report.

An Equality Impact Assessment for the Creation of a Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) and associated venue investments to deliver improved Leisure Services has previously been completed.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Following both a technical site options appraisal, reported to Cabinet in December 2020, and a period of public consultation, the existing Leisure Centre site (although not necessarily the same footprint as the existing building) is considered the preferred location for the new facility for the East of the District.

By delivering a new facility on this site this will achieve best value for the services the Council provides, by reducing net operating costs wherever possible, whilst at the same time maintaining and where possible improving service for residents.

Background Papers –

New Knaresborough Leisure Centre Site Options, Report to Cabinet, 2 December 2020

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact Jonathan Dunk, Executive Officer Strategic Property and Major Projects, if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted by e-mail jonathan.dunk@harrogate.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Knaresborough Consultation Report
Appendix 2 – Preferred Site Plan