

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO,
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO
AND
REGENERATION, LIVEABILITY AND
HOUSING PORTFOLIO
DECISION RECORD
11th December 2006**

Present:

Councillor Pam Hargreaves (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)
Peter Jackson (Performance Management Portfolio Holder)
The Mayor, Stuart Drummond (Regeneration, Liveability and
Housing Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Paul Briggs, Interim Assistant Director – Children's Services
Alan Kell, Children's Services Asset Manager
Albert Williams, Maintenance and Buildings Manager
Colin Bolton, Building Consultancy Manager
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

1. Rossmere Learner Pool – *(Director of Children's Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the demolition of the Rossmere Learner Pool.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holders

The report included a summary of previous reports and decisions made by the Mayor and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee in respect of the future of Rossmere Learner Pool. The report also included the risk implications, financial and asset management considerations of the options and the recommendation for the demolition of the pool.

Councillor Hargreaves asked for confirmation that the asbestos would be dealt with safely. Officers advised that an approved contractor would deal with the removal of asbestos in the appropriate manner.

The Mayor referred to his comments made to Council that he anticipated that demolition should be finalised by the end of January. He reiterated that wish. Officers advised that demolition should take a maximum of four weeks but would depend, in part, on the major utility companies carrying out relevant work. Councillor Hargreaves requested that, if there is any slippage, in term of timescale, this be documented and reported to Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

Councillor Hargreaves asked if the remaining recommendations of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee had been addressed. The Mayor advised that this issue would be reported on at Council and the outstanding recommendations would be checked out then. In relation to the Health & Safety checks, the new regime had been implemented and a recent inspection had taken place at Brinkburn. The recommendations resulting from that inspection would be implemented before Christmas.

The Mayor indicated that when Council buildings become vacant and are to be taken out of use then a system of action be implemented immediately after closure is agreed.

Decision

The Children's Services Portfolio Holder, Performance Management Portfolio Holder and the Regeneration, Liveability and Housing Portfolio Holder authorised the demolition of Rossmere Learner Pool, taking into account the health and safety issues, clearance of the site and grassing over of the area.

2. Brinkburn Swimming Pool - (Director of Children's Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek the views of the Portfolio Holders on whether to proceed with the installation of a moveable floor in Brinkburn Pool at this time and to seek authority to take action consistent with this.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holders

The report included background of the current swimming facilities available to schools within the town, the risk implications and financial considerations of the proposals put forward and a recommendation for action by officers in accordance with Portfolio Holders' instructions.

The Mayor asked for an updated cost estimate and was advised that it could be in the region of £145,000 and a specialist company had been asked to carry out an initial inspection/estimate.

The Interim Assistant Director indicated that the views of experts from the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) had been requested and, although nothing in writing had been received, they were generally not in favour of such schemes.

Discussion took place in relation to the Scrutiny decision, the Swimming Strategy which was now anticipated in the Summer of 2007 and whether the £90,000 set aside should go back into the budget for the current year. The Assistant Director suggested that, as a way forward, he would request the experts' (ASA) views in writing and report back to the Portfolio Holders.

Decision

The Portfolio Holders for Children's Services, Performance Management and Regeneration, Liveability and Housing requested that the views of the ASA be requested in writing, that consultation be undertaken with HBC swimming teachers and a further report be brought for consideration in January.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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