Report to Town Council November

From Jayne Kendall

Subject SLDC’s response to town council re Leisure Centre.

Below is the Director of People and Places David Sykes response to the Town Council regarding the Leisure Centre and request for responses from the council and all other organisations on the matter.

*At their September meeting, Cabinet approved a further stage of development work be undertaken, to be designed to furnish the Cabinet with the information necessary to take a decision to implement a new leisure facility on the Priory Road site.*

*As such, the next stage of work will focus on:*

*• refinement and agreement of facilities mix*

*• the design of the facility to RIBA Stage 3*

*• planning and regulatory compliance*

*• development of funding agreement with GSK (NB, we already have a written offer of funding. The agreement will address the detail of how it is drawn down into the project)*

*• funding application with Sport England*

*• revision to the existing leisure partnership contract*

*• transition arrangements for access to facilities during a construction phase*

*In order to achieve this, it is necessary to continue engagement with users, the national governing bodies and local stakeholders, such as the local NHS providers. We will wish to work with the Town Council so that the scheme has the benefit of the knowledge and advice of the Council and the local opportunities for adding value to the scheme.*

*We are in the process of developing the detailed brief for the work, which will involve consultancy for design, facilities planning, business planning and capital costings. We are being informed in this by our discussions with GSK, Sport England and some recent discussion with user groups. I expect that we will be able to settle on our brief in the next 4 weeks and commence the recruitment process.*

*We expect the work to take between 9 and 12 months, so aiming for a further report to the Cabinet in the Autumn of 2019.*

*The Council recently received representation from users of the Tennis Centre. For information I attach the written response we provided. Since then we have had further meetings, one with one of the representors and one with the LTA – (Region and County). We have also had correspondence with the Administrator of the GSK Sports and Social and the Bowling Club.*

*I hope this is helpful. It is pleasing to hear of the Town Council’s general support for the proposals. As you may be aware, Cllr Archibald attaches great importance to the support of local Councils in projects such as this. We should schedule some time to discuss how the Town Council may be engaged in the project moving forward.*

JK. Nov 19