

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

22 May 2007

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 CAPITAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Summary

This report advises Members of progress with schemes contained in the Leisure Services section of the Capital Plan.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 There are a number of Leisure schemes included in the Council's Capital Plan, and it is important that progress is kept under regular review. An update is attached at **[Annex 1]**.

1.2 Larkfield Leisure Centre (LLC)

1.2.1 Members will be aware from my report to the last meeting of the Leisure Facilities, Culture and Youth Advisory Board of the phased development works at LLC. The first phase of works related to improvements to the car park and the refurbishment of the wet change area, and has been satisfactorily completed.

1.2.2 Phases 2 and 3 of the works relate to improvements to the health and fitness area, and the lowering of the internal walkway. Works commenced on site on 16 April 2007 and the project is due to be completed on 7 December 2007. Customers at LLC are being kept regularly advised of the works, with information panels on display at the Centre and a newsletter. I will update Members verbally at the meeting on progress.

1.3 Poult Wood Golf Centre (PWGC)

1.3.1 Works to improve the practice ground facilities have now been completed with the extension of the car park, the installation of perimeter netting and the installation of a covered driving range. This partnership project with the on-site golf professional will hopefully attract new users to the Golf Centre, in an increasingly competitive market place for golf.

1.4 Disability Discrimination Act Improvement Plan

- 1.4.1 I am pleased to report that a significant level of work has been progressed including the installation of hearing loops, visible and audible alarms, contrasting step nosings and manifestation of glass panels at all the indoor leisure sites. In addition, a platform lift is now available to access the Medway Hall at the Angel Centre and evacuation chairs are situated to enable emergency evacuation. An electric changing bench has been installed at Larkfield Leisure Centre (LLC) and an order has been placed to provide hoist access to the spa baths at LLC and Tonbridge Swimming Pool (TSP).
- 1.4.2 Works in the next few months include the installation of accessible signage following a specialist audit and work to doorsets at all sites in liaison with the Tonbridge & Malling Access Group (TMAG). New automatic front doors will also be installed at TSP.
- 1.4.3 In addition to works funded from the Improvement Plan, works to improve disabled access are also being progressed within other capital developments. Most notably, the current capital works at LLC include the lowering of the internal walkway within the building and the provision of further dedicated disabled changing facilities for users of Lifestyles.
- 1.4.4 Whilst the capital project to refurbish the changing rooms at TSP is being evaluated, an interim measure to enhance disabled changing rooms will be progressed following liaison with TMAG. This will include the provision of an electric bench and improved disabled shower provision.

1.5 Legal Implications

- 1.5.1 None

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.6.1 A number of the schemes within the Capital Plan represent significant levels of investment. The Council's Financial Procedure and Contract Procedure Rules are adhered to in all cases, and projects are delivered and monitored in close liaison with the Director of Finance and the Central Services Director.

1.7 Risk Assessment

- 1.7.1 The delivery of projects within the Capital Plan is identified within relevant operational risk registers. A number of existing controls are in place to help deliver projects in accordance with the design brief, on timescale and within budget. These controls include the preparation of design briefs, use of consultant teams where applicable, compliance with Contract & Financial Procedure Rules, an officer study team approach, and regular reports to Management Team and Members.

Background papers:

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Nil

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