

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

14 January 2008

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]**. Members will note that a significant number of schemes are now completed, and external funding has been secured for a number of projects.

1.2 Larkfield Leisure Centre (LLC) – Health & Fitness Improvements/Lowering of Internal Walkway

1.2.1 I am pleased to report that the phased development works at LLC have been completed, with the new internal walkway now in public use.

1.2.2 The phased works, the majority of which have been funded from developer contributions, have been well received by customers, and a formal public opening will take place on Saturday, 26 January 2008 to mark the completion. All Members of the Board are welcome to attend and join the Mayor on this occasion.

1.2.3 Whilst customers have been very pleased with the works, a number of comments have been received on the poor quality of the showers in the ladies and men's dry side changing areas. These areas look very tired compared to the upgraded changing areas in the health and fitness area, and stand out against the rest of the changing room areas. Taking this into account, and with the approval of Management Team, the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth and Arts and the Group Leaders, it has been agreed to invest a further £15,000 in the upgrade of the showers. This additional funding has been reflected in the revised capital plan reported to Finance and Property Advisory Board on 2 January 2008.

1.3 Tonbridge Cemetery Memorial Safety

- 1.3.1 I am pleased to report that the memorial safety inspections at Tonbridge Cemetery have now been completed, a programme of repairs to failed memorials is currently underway and is due to be completed in early 2008. Consultation is now being undertaken with the respective churches in Tonbridge to progress memorial inspections at the Closed Churchyards at St Stephens and St Peter and St Paul's. Following receipt of a Faculty from the Diocese at Rochester it is anticipated that these inspections will commence in February/March 2008, with repairs undertaken thereafter.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 None.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 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.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 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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