

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

12 January 2009

**Report of the Chief Leisure Officer and the
Cabinet Members for Leisure, Youth & Arts and Finance**

Part 1- Public

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken
by the Cabinet Members)**

**1 TONBRIDGE SWIMMING POOL – PROVISION OF DISABLED CHANGING
FACILITIES**

Summary

This report brings forward detailed plans for the provision of disabled changing facilities at Tonbridge Swimming Pool and updates the Board in respect of progress.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Board will be aware that the Capital Plan contains a provision of £40,000 in the current financial year for the provision of disabled changing facilities at Tonbridge Swimming, to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. Similar facilities have already been provided at Larkfield Leisure Centre in liaison with disabled users.

1.1.2 At present, interim arrangements exist at Tonbridge Swimming Pool which provide basic facilities but do not meet the full requirement of the Disability Discrimination Act.

1.2 Design

1.2.1 A proposed design has been developed in liaison with a consultant architect and disabled users of the facility. The design is similar to the facility at Larkfield Leisure Centre and incorporates Disability Discrimination Act compliant shower, vanity and toilet facilities and an electrically controlled changing bench in a discrete room within the existing wet changing room at Tonbridge Swimming Pool.

1.2.2 A plan of the proposed facilities and their location within the wet changing room will be on display at the meeting for Members to view.

1.3 Procurement

1.3.1 Further to advertisement on the South East Centre of Excellence Business Portal and in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules quotations are, at the time of writing, being sought from the following four contractors:

- H Goodsell & Sons
- Wallis
- Provian
- JJJ Construction

1.3.2 The return date for quotations is 9 January 2009 and I hope, therefore, to update the Board verbally on the night.

1.3.3 It is anticipated that work will commence immediately after the February half term holiday and last five weeks, allowing completion prior to the Easter holiday. It is intended that the changing rooms remain in normal use for the duration of the works.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 This project assists the Council in its requirement to meet the legislative demands of the Disability Discrimination Act.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 The contract is being let in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules that require three written quotations for contracts with a value of between £15,000 and £75,000. The contract was advertised on the South East Centre of Excellence Business Portal.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 The Operational Risk Register for Indoor Leisure identifies the aim to improve access to Council services and facilities in accordance with Disability Discrimination Act requirements. It identifies legal, professional and financial risks in failing to achieve the stated aim.

1.7 Policy Considerations

1.7.1 Asset Management, Procurement, Equalities/Diversity.

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 It is **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that the proposed design for the new disabled changing area at Tonbridge Swimming Pool be approved, and progressed in accordance with the timescale outlined in the report.

The Chief Leisure Officer confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers: Accessible Changing & Shower
Facilities – Contract Documentation – November 2008
File Reference: MG/TSP Disabled Changing

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