

## **ANGEL LEISURE CENTRE – REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

### **Item OS 25/45 referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 11 September 2025**

Members were advised that good progress had been made with the Angel Leisure Centre replacement project as part of the RIBA Stage 2.

The public engagement exercise had commenced and would run until 24 September 2025. Currently, over 1,000 responses had been received and reflected a strong public interest in the project. Members queried how many of these responses were outside of Tonbridge and it was indicated that this information could be collated once the consultation had finished. It was also suggested that the consultation could be promoted wider throughout the Borough via Larkfield Leisure Centre, other suitable locations and parish/town councils.

The selection of the main contractor was progressing alongside RIBA Stage 2 and Officers and the Cabinet Members for Infrastructure and Tonbridge Regeneration; and Finance, Waste and Technical Services would be involved in the procurement process.

Particular reference was made to the importance of meeting deadlines due to anticipated local government reorganisation and potential future borrowing controls. The potential for a new unitary authority to deprioritise local leisure facilities was identified as a risk by Members and it was reiterated that the project timeline was designed to address these risks and that timely decision-making was critical.

Whilst the final design was currently being developed it was expected to include a larger gym, group exercise studios, dedicated spin studio, soft play and café, multiple use community facilities and a sports hall, together with changing rooms and flexible multi-purpose rooms.

Members highlighted the need for the new centre to serve both leisure and broader community purposes and referred to feedback from the Tonbridge Civic Society and past uses of the centre. The Committee was assured that the proposed facility mix included three community rooms, flexible spaces and that community use was a key consideration in the design.

On the grounds that Members wished to discuss commercially sensitive financial information, the Chair proposed, Cllr Tanner seconded and the Committee

**RESOLVED:** That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the consideration of this matter to avoid the disclosure of exempt information.

(The recommendations arising from this discussion are set out in OS 25/51)