

COUNCIL 9th February 2022

Cabinet 17th January 2022

89 HALIFAX NEW LEISURE CENTRE: PROJECT DELIVERY

Councillor Scullion, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Strategy presented a written report of the Directors, Regeneration and Strategy and Public Services which providing an update on the progress of the Halifax Leisure Centre project, covering design development and operations management planning phases. The report covered background on decisions made to date and provided options for further delivery of construction elements of the scheme. The report explained how the new Halifax Leisure Centre was compatible with the Council's overall vision and strategies for economic development, the visitor economy and health and wellbeing. Members were asked to consider the advancement of the project to construction phase and allocate required capital funding in line with consultant capital estimates included in the most recent cost plan.

Construction of the proposed Halifax leisure facility was a key decision and the proposed recommendation required Cabinet and Council approval, as there was a requirement to release capital monies to fund the new facility. Cabinet and Council approval was required to release further funding via Prudential Code Borrowing, for the delivery of the Halifax Leisure Centre project to construction phase, based on the RIBA Stage 4 (Technical) design and associated cost plan summarised in the report. A decision was needed now due to the challenging, volatile and inflationary construction market and to ensure leisure facilities are available within Halifax Town Centre.

The report outlined background information, options considered, consultation, financial, legal, human resources and organisational development, environmental, health and economic implications.

During discussions Members and Elected Members commented on the benefits and disadvantages to each option provided within the report, taking into consideration the turbulent economic environment in relation to costs associated the building and maintenance with large developments.

***RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council:**

(a) that the vision to provide modern combined leisure and sport facilities at the existing North Bridge Leisure Centre site continues to be supported and option 1 set out part (e) to “deliver the New Halifax Leisure Centre in line with the November 2021 cost plan and associated operations management plan” be approved;

(b) that the capital sum detailed in the report be incorporated into the Council's Capital Programme and funded by prudential borrowing up to the maximum figure detailed in the report, to allow for lower than expected levels of grant funding from the Sport England Strategic Facilities Fund;

- (a) that the additional sum of revenue funding detailed in the report, required to service the net borrowing (after taking into account additional income) and provide for the contingency detailed in the report, be incorporated into the Council's revenue budget from 2023/24 onwards (£100k in 2022/23);**
- (b) That required construction works be procured through the UK Leisure Framework described in section 4 of this report.**
- (c) Subject to approval of option 1, that Council agrees to progress plans for demolition and disposal of the existing Halifax Swimming Pool site.