

**7 September 2010**

**LEISURE CENTRES AND LIBRARIES WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Ward(s)**                      All

**Portfolio:**      Councillor Z. Ali – Communities and Partnerships

**Report:**

At its meeting on 8 June 2010 the Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel appointed a working group to consider making recommendations on a new leisure centre strategy for the borough. The remit of this working group was later extended to include libraries following the Panels meeting on 13 July 2010.

Since then the working group has held two meetings and one site visit, firstly to draft its terms of reference (attached) and then to consider background information on leisure centres. This was supplemented by site visits to a range of local leisure centres and libraries.

Further meetings are currently being arranged with a range of local, regional and national organisations. The working group is still on schedule to present its final report and recommendations to the next meeting of the Panel on 14 October 2010.

The terms of reference for the working group are attached at Appendix 1 to this report. The Panel are asked to review the document and approve the document subject to any comments or amendments Members may wish to make.

During the course of the investigation Councillor Doreen Shires has unfortunately had to withdraw from the working group. Due to previously expressing an interest in joining the working group Councillor K. Sears has replaced her following an invitation from the Chair of the Panel. Members are asked to confirm the change in the working group's membership.


**Recommendations:**

**That:**

- 1. subject to any comments Members may wish to make the terms of reference for the Leisure Centres and Libraries Working Group be approved;**
- 2. Councillor K. Sears replaced Councillor D. Shires on the working group;**  
  
**and;**
- 3. Councillor Louise Harrison be appointed Lead Member of the working group.**

**Contact Officer:**

Craig Goodall – Scrutiny Officer

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<b>Work Group Name:</b>	Leisure and Libraries Working Group
<b>Panel:</b>	Community Services
<b>Municipal Year:</b>	2010/11
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Harrison
<b>Lead Officers:</b>	Chris Holliday and Sue Grainger
<b>Scrutiny Officer:</b>	Craig Goodall
<b>Membership:</b>	Councillor P Bott Councillor S Coughlan Councillor C Creaney Councillor L Harrison Councillor K Sears

<b>1.</b>	<b>Context</b>
	<p>A number of issues have highlighted the need to review leisure facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The general deterioration of our existing Leisure Centres.</li> <li>• Financial constraints question the sustainability of current levels of provision.</li> <li>• Research questions the need for the current level of provision (swimming pool modelling indicates provision is double need).</li> <li>• The need for high quality sport &amp; leisure provision to improve health &amp; physical activity, raise aspirations and help address obesity &amp; anti-social behaviour.</li> <li>• BSF specifically identified an over-provision of school pools (22) that needed addressing – a cessation of BSF doesn't lessen this problem.</li> </ul> <p>A number of issues have highlighted the need to review library facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationally, libraries are recognised as having a crucial role in supporting adult learning and in delivering national targets for digital inclusion</li> <li>• At a local level, libraries play a key role in delivering many of Walsall Council's stated priorities. Local access is crucial in reaching local residents and their families</li> <li>• The library service has already closed some libraries and significantly reduced opening hours in recent years</li> <li>• New financial constraints question the sustainability of even current levels of provision</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
	<p>1. Plan across the entire "public" estate – including Council leisure centres, school / HE &amp; FE and community facilities.</p>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Achieve optimum value for money to secure &amp; enhance the future provision of libraries, sport &amp; leisure facilities.</li> <li>3. Investigate ways of reducing the costs of delivering the library service while maintaining as much of the service as possible</li> <li>4. Identify opportunities to share resources.</li> <li>5. Consideration of having fewer better quality facilities (focusing limited resources on fewer sites) to deliver a net gain in provision.</li> <li>6. Identify good practice examples from other authorities.</li> <li>7. Consider future operating models, including Community Involvement Company and a Trust.</li> <li>8. Develop recommendations for a report to Cabinet on the future provision of Libraries, Sport &amp; Leisure facilities.</li> </ol>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Scope</b>
	<p>Walsall Central Library, 15 branch libraries and mobile library  Walsall Adult and Community College  Walsall Council First Stop Express  Walsall Council Leisure Centres  Walsall school sports facilities  Community Association facilities  Walsall College  Wolverhampton University  Resource Centres  Community Associations</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Equalities Implications</b>
	<p>Careful consideration will be given to ensure that the working groups report and recommendations does not unfairly disadvantage any resident under the six strands of equality.</p> <p>In addition to this the working group will consider deprivation levels in the borough.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Who else will you want to take part?</b>
	<p>Schools (primary and secondary)  Visit to Walsall Council facilities  Walsall College  Wolverhampton University  Community Associations  Property Services (AM2010)  National Governing Bodies of Sport  Sport England  Strategic Leisure  Swiss Cottage  Wolverhampton Council  Rotherham Council  Bolton Council</p>

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	<p>Community Associations</p> <p>Other Leisure Operators (Community Involvement Companies/Trusts)</p> <p>MLA (Museums Libraries and Archives Council)</p> <p>Society of Chief Librarians</p> <p>National Literacy Trust</p> <p>Other Library authorities</p>											
<b>5.</b>	<b>Timescales &amp; Reporting Schedule</b>											
	Report to Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel on 14 October 2010.											
<b>6.</b>	<b>Risk factors</b>											
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 35%;">Risk</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Likelihood</th> <th style="width: 35%;">Measure to resolve</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Engaging a wide range of stakeholders and delivering report and recommendations in time for 2011/12 budget setting.</td> <td>Medium-Low.</td> <td>Programme a schedule of meetings to assist in planning and completing the review.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aspiration to plan across the whole "public" estate means planning for some facilities over which Walsall Council has no direct control / limited means of influence.</td> <td>Medium</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Risk	Likelihood	Measure to resolve	Engaging a wide range of stakeholders and delivering report and recommendations in time for 2011/12 budget setting.	Medium-Low.	Programme a schedule of meetings to assist in planning and completing the review.	Aspiration to plan across the whole "public" estate means planning for some facilities over which Walsall Council has no direct control / limited means of influence.	Medium	
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Date Agreed:		Date Updated:	
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**Timetable**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
12 July 2010	<b>Set Terms of Reference</b>
11 August 2010	<b>Overview of Leisure Centres Property Overview</b>
17 August 2010	<b>Overview of Libraries</b>
20 August 2010	<b>Visit to Wythenshawe Forum</b>
21 August 2010	<b>Visit to local libraries and leisure centres</b>
8 September 2010	
15 September 2010	
21 September 2010	
29 September 2010	
5 October 2010	<b>Community Services SPP report deadline</b>
14 October 2010	<b>Community Services SPP Meeting</b>