

**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Joint Cabinet Members (Business, Enterprise and Employment) and (Culture, Leisure, Sports, and Parks) held at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 23rd July, 2014**

Present:

Cabinet Members: Councillor Maton (Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment)) (Chair)  
Councillor A Khan (Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks))

Shadow Cabinet Member: Councillor Skinner (Shadow Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks))  
Councillor Birdi (Shadow Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment))

Apologies: Councillor Blundell  
Councillor Lepoidevin  
Councillor Mrs Lucas (Leader) (Apologies tendered as requested)  
Councillor McNicholas (Shadow Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment))

Petition Organisers: Mrs J McLeavy (item 3)  
Mr Anderson (item 4)

Petition Sponsor: Councillor Andrews (item 3)

Other Members Present: Employees (by Directorate):

People: D Nuttall  
S Wiles

Resources: J Murphy  
G Paddan  
J Sprayson

## **Public Business**

### **1. Appointment of Chair for the Meeting**

**RESOLVED that Councillor Maton be appointed as Chair of the Joint Meeting.**

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Members noted that Councillor Skinner has a family member who has a connection with a member of the Swimming Club, with regard to Minute 3

below, headed “Retention of a 50 metre Swimming Pool in Coventry”. As this was not deemed to be a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Interest, he remained in the meeting for the consideration of this matter.

### **3. Petition – Retention of a 50 metre Swimming Pool in Coventry**

The Cabinet Members considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, which provided a response to two petitions requesting that action be taken by the City Council to retain a 50 metre swimming pool in Coventry.

The petitions contained a total of 11,299 signatures (7,333 paper signatures and 3,966 e-signatures on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014) from representatives from City of Coventry Swimming Club (COCSC), associated Parent Focus Group and residents. The e-petition and the written petitions were read out together with the petition regarding a campaign to help develop competitive gymnastics sports in Coventry at this point in the meeting.

Councillor Andrews, an Earlsdon Ward Councillor, who attended the meeting along with the petition organiser Mrs Joe McLeavy and they spoke on behalf of the petitioners. The petitioners were requesting the retention of a 50 metre swimming pool in Coventry. They expressed concerns regarding obesity associated with health and fitness issues. Consideration was given to Olympic legacy and the reputation of the City if such sporting facilities were not made available. The report referred to the draft Coventry Sport Strategy, the options that had been considered and recommendations proposed. Reference was made the public consultations undertaken and the issues presented by the proposed loss of the 50m pool were highlighted in detail in the appendix attached to the report. The following points were deliberated:

- Retaining the existing facility and modernising it to meet new standards.
- The cost implications of modernising the existing facility and providing a new leisure centre on a new City Centre site.
- Health benefits of a modern 50m swimming pool.
- Reduced pool capacity for club training and the displacement of public pool users.
- Promoting Coventry as a visitor destination and centre for nation events.
- A City Centre leisure provision would broaden and widen sport participation especially amongst children and families who may not normally participate.
- Proposal for the Club to take over the running of the 50m pool facility in Fairfax Street.
- Possibility of visiting a modern 50m pool.

The Chair provided opportunity for the petitioners present to come forward with any additional concerns so that these could be incorporated into the review being undertaken on Sports and Leisure facilities in the City.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet Members (Business, Enterprise and Employment) and (Culture, Leisure, Sports, and Parks):**

- 1. Considered the two petitions, the submission from the City of Coventry Swimming Club (COCSC) and the matters raised by the petitioners.**
- 2. Instructed the Executive Director, Place on key considerations including concerns regarding obesity associated with health and fitness issues, Olympic legacy and the reputation of the City to be reviewed and considered in the Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024 and the City Centre Sports and Public Leisure Facility Development reports being considered by Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014.**

**4. Petition – Gymnastics Campaign for the Children of Coventry**

The Cabinet Members considered a report of the Executive Director of Place which provided a response to a petition regarding a campaign to help develop competitive gymnastics sports in Coventry. The petition was submitted to the Council on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014 and contained 29 signatures.

The petition organiser, Mr Anderson spoke on behalf of the petitioners and expressed concern in respect of the absence of purpose built gymnastics facilities in the City. Consideration was given to the benefits of such facilities within the City for future generations. The report referred to the options considered and it was noted that a gymnastics facility was available at Woodlands School. As part of the Coventry Sports Strategy development, officers from the City Council and Sport England had written to over ten National Governing Bodies (NGBs), to invite them to discuss a City wide plan to develop their sport, British Gymnastics was one of the NGBs that has been approached by the City Council and the authority anticipates a meeting to take place with officers to highlight British Gymnastics as either a priority or development sport for Coventry.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet Members (Business, Enterprise and Employment) and (Culture, Leisure, Sports, and Parks):**

- 1. Acknowledged the petition and ensure officers consider gymnastics development as part of the wider Coventry Sports Strategy and the associated Indoor Facilities Strategy.**
- 2. Reviewed the information contained within the Indoor Facilities Assessment report regarding gymnastics provision and review provisions within the Indoor Facilities Strategy to ensure the future facility needs for gymnastics in the City are adequately and appropriately addressed based on proven demand.**

- 3. Requested the Executive Director, Place to approach British Gymnastics the National Governing Body (NGB) with a view to developing a City wide implementation plan for the sport across the City in partnership with the gymnastics clubs and other stakeholders.**
- 4. Agreed that where facility programming impacts on gymnastic club facility usage, the Executive Director, Place works with the gymnastics club(s) to secure alternative sports hall provision.**

**5. Any Other Items of Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at: 3.35pm)