

## Council – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014

### Recommendation from Cabinet 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014

#### Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm. on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Present:

Members: Councillor A Lucas (Chair)  
Councillor P Townshend (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor F Abbott  
Councillor Maton  
Councillor A Gingell  
Councillor D Kershaw  
Councillor A Khan  
Councillor R Lancaster  
Councillor E Ruane

Deputy Cabinet  
Members Councillor K Caan  
Councillor D Chater  
Councillor C Fletcher  
Councillor J McNicholas

Non-Voting  
Opposition Councillor A Andrews  
Councillor J Blundell

Members:

Other Members: Councillor Birdi  
Councillor Clifford  
Councillor Crookes  
Councillor Duggins  
Councillor Hetherington  
Councillor Noonan  
Councillor Sandy  
Councillor Thomas

Employees (by  
Directorate):

Chief Executives M Reeves (Chief Executive), J Forde

Place M Yardley (Executive Director), D Nuttall, G Simpson

People B Walsh (Executive Director)

Resources C West (Executive Director), C Forde, S Lal, J Murphy,  
M Salmon

**Public business**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**41. City Centre Sports and Public Leisure Facility Development**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, that would also be considered at the meeting of the Council on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and for which a private report detailing the confidential financial matters of the proposals was also submitted to this meeting for consideration, which sought approval for the Coventry Indoor Facilities Strategy 2014 - 2024, the development of a new City Centre destination facility, the subsequent closure of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre and for the Coventry Aquatics Strategy 2014 - 2024.

The new City Centre facility was proposed to be built on the existing Christchurch House and Spire House site, resulting in the subsequent closure of the ageing Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre in Fairfax Street. The aim of these proposals was to provide high quality, sustainable sports and leisure facilities in the City Centre and create a destination facility that would complement other developments in the south side of the City Centre, such as Friargate and the proposed City Centre South development. It was anticipated that the provision of the new facility would contribute to widening and increasing participation in sport and active recreation, thereby also contributing to health and wellbeing outcomes for local people, particularly younger people and families.

The proposals further contributed to the delivery of a more coherent, consistent and sustainable public leisure offer for the people of Coventry, including the use of an investment model that recycled existing finances into both the proposed City Centre development and any future public leisure developments. The recycled savings would be realised from the closure and withdrawal of public leisure service provision from the existing Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre.

At a Joint Meeting of Cabinet Members (Business, Enterprise and Employment) and (Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks) on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 (their minutes 3/14 and 4/14 refers) three petitions were considered relating to proposals within the draft Sports Strategy 2014-2024 linked to public sports and leisure provision, as follows:

- an e-petition regarding a campaign to keep a 50m swimming pool in Coventry (containing 3,966 signatures at 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014)
- a written petition requesting that the Council retain a 50m swimming pool in Coventry (containing 7,333 signatures at 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014)
- an e-petition regarding a campaign to help develop competitive gymnastics sports in Coventry (containing 29 signatures at 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014)

The Cabinet Members approved reviews of specific considerations, including expressed concerns regarding obesity associated with health and fitness issues, Olympic legacy and the reputation of the City, in the Sports Strategy 2014-2024 Report and in the City Centre Sports and Public Leisure Facility Development Report.

At the Cabinet meeting, the City of Coventry Swimming Club were invited to consider an asset transfer, whereby the Club would take over the running of the Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre and associated 50m pool without on-going subsidy from the Council. Cabinet requested that officers work with the Club to explore this opportunity and assist with securing any available grant funding to support this invitation.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet:**

- 1) Approves the Coventry Indoor Facilities Strategy 2014–2024.**
- 2) Recommends to the Council that it approves the addition of £36.7m, to the Capital Programme for 2014/15 onwards for the development of a City Centre destination facility on the existing Christchurch House and Spire House site.**
- 3) Approves project management and design costs of up to £1.9million, which are already funded, to be incurred for the development of a City Centre destination facility on the existing Christchurch House and Spire House site. These costs will be at risk up until January 2017 when the contracts for construction are planned to be signed.**
- 4) Approves letting a service concession, through a call for competition for the operation of public sports and leisure facilities for a period of up to 15 years.**
- 5) Delegates authority to the Executive Director, Place and the Executive Director, Resources, in consultation with Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks), to approve the detailed scope of the proposed Scheme, associated professional appointments, implementation of works relating to the new City Centre destination facility and to award a service concession.**
- 6) Approves the Coventry Aquatics Strategy 2014 – 2024.**

**Council is requested to:**

- 1) Approve the addition of £36.7m, to the Capital Programme for 2014/15 onwards for the development of a City Centre destination facility on the existing Christchurch House and Spire House site.**

(Meeting finished at 5.20 p.m.)