

AUDIT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 16 March 2016 (6:15 pm – 8:41 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor Holes (Chair); Councillors Atkinson, Bain, Roling, Tennent, Thomas (from 6.32pm) and Van Niekerk

Also in attendance: Councillors Airey, A Broadhurst, Craig, Grajewski, Olson, Scott, Sollitt, Winstanley and Kyrle

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Smith

RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation on this occasion.

2. FLEMING PARK LEISURE CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director that outlined the progress made for the redevelopment of Fleming Park Leisure Centre. The report requested that Cabinet, on the rise of Audit and Resources Committee, approve the award of the construction contract for the new Fleming Park Leisure Centre to Interserve Construction, and approve a construction budget as well as a budget for other project costs.

The report also requested that Cabinet approve the extension to the centre operating contract for Places for People Leisure. The current contract was due to end in 2020, however, in order to be able to construct and operate the new centre effectively and at best value to the Council it was proposed to extend the contract to twenty years from the opening of the new centre (an extension of seventeen and a half years).

The report set out how the proposed new centre met the Council's objectives and how value for money had been achieved for the Council and residents. It outlined how a commercial approach had been taken to the design of the new centre, to maximise revenue generation and minimise costs, in order that new income generated would pay for the costs of the centre. The building of a new state of the art leisure centre at Fleming Park would therefore be at no revenue cost to the Council.

The Chair introduced Clifford Kinch, Regional Construction Manager for Interserve, Richard Millard, Director Places for People Leisure, Adam Spall, Architect AHR, and Michael Moss, Quantity Surveyor Gardiner and

Theobald. They each gave a presentation on the project highlighting their own particular area of expertise.

Members thanked everyone involved for all the hard work that had gone into creating and developing an amazing project. A number of concerns were raised by Members which were then reassuringly answered by the relevant officer or consultant. The concerns included risks to the Council; car parking pressures; escalation of the costs; New Homes Bonus; Council borrowing; length of design life; maintenance; and contingencies.

RESOLVED -

That the Audit and Resources Committee (a) notes the content of the report; (b) continues to monitor the progress of this project at key stages of its development; and (c) requests that should any evidence of potential new risk arise, that it be brought to the immediate attention of this Committee.

(NOTE: (a) one member of the public spoke raising a number of concerns including the control of capped fees; litter from tobacco paraphernalia; toilet design; rainwater harvesting; solar panels; increase in build costs; neutral cost to tax-payer; design spec control; pool indemnity; wet and dry changing areas; health food café; and fizzy drink vending machines, (b) Councillors Olson and Grajewski expressed concerns that although the development looked spectacular could the Council borrow £22.4M on top of its current borrowing; should it take on additional debt; the risks; the lack of indoor tennis facilities; demolition; and contingencies.)

3. EXEMPT BUSINESS

RESOLVED -

(1) That, in pursuance of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act; and

(2) That, in pursuance of the public interest test, the public interest in disclosing the information contained in the following item of business was outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

4. APPENDIX 2 AND 3 TO FLEMING PARK LEISURE CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT

Consideration was given to the content of Appendices 2 and 3 to the report.

RESOLVED -

That the content in Appendices 2 and 3 be noted.

(NOTE: Councillor Grajewski spoke on this item.)