
Audit & Governance Committee

15 February, 2010

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning & Culture)

University of York Swimming Pool

Background

1. The information contained within this paper was presented to Executive on 6 October 2009 as part of a wider report on Swimming Facilities in York. In 2006 the Council entered into a partnership with the University of York to deliver a competition standard pool together with associated sports facilities by 2011. The Council would contribute £2m in return for public access to the facility.
2. The context for this project is the Council's agreed vision for swimming facilities. To inform its strategy the Council previously carried out an analysis of supply and demand for swimming facilities using Sport England's model. This shows that we have a current demand for an additional twelve, 25m lanes of swimming space in the city. By 2015 this is likely to have increased in line with the projected population increase such that there will be demand for a further pool. When the results are broken down geographically it is clear that the demand is greatest in the South and East of the city.

The Current Strategy

3. In the light of the current swimming facilities strategy members agreed to:
 - Reconfirm the Council's commitment to delivering the required county standard pool through partnership with the University of York

Key Risks and Issues

4. The University of York's Section 106 agreement requires:
 - The construction of a competition standard swimming pool
 - Provision of indoor sports provision equivalent to 12 badminton courts and 3 tennis courts together
 - Outdoor sports facilitieswith a scheme for the provision of public access.
5. It was originally envisaged that the pool would be completed in 2011. However, alongside the first phases of developing the new campus the University has had to expand its capital programme to take on additional projects related to statutory compliance on legacy buildings. This has caused it to draw more heavily upon capital borrowing than had been expected. This has happened in the context of the economic downturn and a reduction in the grant funding available.

6. In these circumstances the University has been forced to reprioritise its capital planning. It has also had to emphasise the importance of the business case providing a break-even in order for the project to be brought forward. A completion date in 2011 is contingent upon the business plan delivering financial balance.
7. The University allocated £5m within their Capital plans to which the Council has agreed to add £2m. The Faulkner Browns study estimates base line costs at £11m. The scheme also includes sporting facilities which would deliver revenue support for the pool development. The £4m funding gap remains, however.
8. The University and the Council have commenced a review to evaluate the opportunities that may be presented by different funding arrangements for example through a joint venture company. This could prove more cost effective in terms of borrowing, particularly in the context of the University's current expansion investment at Heslington East.
9. The University is also working closely with the Council to investigate additional funding sources. (This is problematic, however, at a time when the run up to the 2012 games is dominating the priorities for sports funding). The potential to attract private sector finance is also being investigated.
10. The S106 legal agreement requires the provision of the sports facilities (including swimming pool) on the Heslington East campus, as outlined in paragraph 4. Implementation would be in accordance with an agreed programme of works. At this time there is no agreed programme relating to the implementation of these facilities. Planning permission would be required for the proposed new swimming pool.

Corporate Priorities

11. Swimming facilities are relevant to the following aims in the Council's Corporate Strategy:
 - Inspire residents and visitors to free their creative talents and make York the most active city in the country. We will achieve this by providing high quality sporting and cultural activities for all
 - We want to be a city where residents enjoy long, healthy and independent lives. For this to happen we will make sure that people are supported to make healthier lifestyle choices

Implications

12. **Financial:** See paragraphs 4 to 10.
13. **Legal:** The Council has agreed a "statement of intent" with the University of York for the development of the pool and sports facilities but has not entered into any binding legal agreement.
14. **Property:** Property implications are as contained in the report.

15. There are no **Human Resources, Crime and Disorder, or Information Technology** implications.

Recommendations

16. The committee is recommended to note this report.

Contact Details

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**Report Approved
Date**

Specialist Implications Officer(s) Not applicable

Wards Affected Not applicable

All

For further information please contact the author of the report