LEISURE CENTRE TASK GROUP – 4TH JULY 2013

A meeting of the Leisure Centre Task Group will be held at 5.30pm on Thursday 4th July in Committee Room 1 at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Councillor I Mistry
Chairman

AGENDA

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Minutes
   To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2013.

2. Apologies
   To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest
   To receive declarations of:
   (a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors;
   (b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors; and
   (c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Note: Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their non-pecuniary interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.
5. Report on delay to the programme.
7. Transitional arrangements.
8. Opening date and official opening.
9. Operator presentation – to receive a presentation from Glen Staite-Loveridge, General Manager, Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Centre.
10. Next steps.

**PART 2 – EXEMPT INFORMATION**

There is no business involving exempt information.

*Note: A briefing paper for the meeting is attached.*

*Any additional papers for this meeting can be accessed via the website.*

**Membership of the Task Group:**

Councillors Mistry (Chairman), Mrs Bragg, Dodd, Mrs Parker, Roberts and Roodhouse.

*If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Claire Waleczek, Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer (Team Leader) (01788 533524 or e-mail claire.waleczek@rugby.gov.uk). Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.*

*If you wish to attend the meeting and have any special requirements for access please contact the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer named above.*
1. Introduction

At the last meeting of the task group on 7 March it was agreed that the group would hold two further meetings following the site visit which took place on 25 March. The task group’s remit is to oversee the project through to the end of the construction of the new leisure centre.

This paper presents an update from the Sport and Recreation Manager on the current position regarding the development of The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Centre and sets out the items for the meeting.

2. Construction update

Despite exceptionally inclement weather throughout the contract period, Shepherd Construction Ltd (SCL) have endeavoured to maintain progress and are currently committed to the Phase 1 completion date of 9th August 2013. Extensive fitting-out works are now taking place with pool tiling, locker installation, false ceilings and general building services now well advanced. The recent improvement in weather patterns is adding to the ability to progress the works more quickly. SCL are extending their working hours by weekend working.

Demolition of the old Ken Marriott Leisure Centre (KMLC) is now well underway and will continue on into Phase 2 of the project. Detailed discussion has taken place between the contractors and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to establish acceptable working practices during the demolition period.

The final phase of the new leisure centre construction will be the commissioning of the building services for the project. Detailed programmes are in place and commitments have been obtained from all participating contractors in relation to this process.

3. Opening Date

Shepherds Construction is on target to hand over the building to GLL on August 9th. External works will proceed into the second phase of the project and completion is anticipated late October 2013. At this stage the building will be ‘sparkle’ clean and
fitted out. GLL will then mobilise their staff, install their IT equipment and implement their processes and procedures. It is anticipated that there will be a soft opening during the week beginning the 26th August when invited organisations and existing gym members will be asked to test the facilities. The centre will open to the public on Saturday 31st August. A press release on the opening date was released on June 24th and a copy is attached at appendix 1.

4. Transitional arrangements from GLL

From April 1st GLL has operated from two temporary sites. They have had a lease of a shop in the Clock Towers from which to give out information and sell gym memberships. GLL has also rented rooms at Thornfield Indoor Bowls Club from where they have operated a temporary gym on two lanes of the rink. This has proved very popular and has enabled high membership retention. Fitness classes have been held on the athletics track and at the Benn Hall. Information has been made available on the Rugby page of the GLL website and on the RBC website. We are very pleased that we have been able to operate the athletics track as usual and with extra staff available this year it has been maintained to an extremely high standard.

5. Presentation by Glen Staite-Loveridge, General Manager

Glen was previously the centre manager at KMLC. He along with 44 other staff transferred under TUPE to GLL in April. Glen and his staff have received extensive training from GLL in readiness to operate the new centre. Glen will report to the task group on the mobilisation plan and he will also update the group on how the centre will operate to include staffing, programming, and membership options.

6. Budget

Christine Fraser will update the group on the present financial position.

7. Next steps

A final meeting for the task group has been scheduled for 26 September 2013. This will provide an opportunity for the group to review the project and any issues arising following the public opening on 31 August.

Officers will arrange a further site visit for members of the task group and Cabinet during the week beginning 26 August before the centre opens to the public.
New leisure centre opening date announced

Published Monday 24th June 2013

Rugby’s new state of the art leisure centre is just weeks away from completion.

The new centre, which boasts two swimming pools and a 100-station gym is due to open at the end of August after it has been fitted out. A new access route to the main entrance will also be in use when the centre opens its doors to the public on 31 August.

The opening date is a few weeks later than originally anticipated due to the extreme cold weather between Christmas and Easter, which delayed work to the pools. However, seven-day working and additional construction staff are continuing to make every effort to finish the building and earth moving works ready for the people of Rugby to enjoy some of the best leisure facilities in the region. The construction programme remains on budget.

Charitable social enterprise GLL, who will operate the site under the brand "Better", are continuing to provide gym facilities at Thornfield Indoor Bowls Club and are already signing up members for the new centre.

Cllr Heather Timms, Rugby Borough Council portfolio holder for culture, said: "While we are disappointed that the new leisure centre will open slightly later than planned, I know that the facilities will be worth the wait. We are now very close to opening day, and with the Ken Marriot Leisure Centre now coming down it is now possible to see how The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre fits on the site, and just how smart it looks.

"We will soon have one of the most modern and best equipped centres for disability sport in the region, in a flexible space that will suit the needs of Rugbeians for a generation."

John Amatt, Regional Head of Operations at GLL, said: "The local community have been fantastically supportive to date and our staff have been working really hard to provide a good service at the temporary gym at Thornfield. We can't wait to get the keys to the new centre and know that we'll soon be working in leisure centre that will be a real asset to the town."

More information about the leisure centre will be available at www.rugby.gov.uk/newleisurecentre.