
EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF CABINET

MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2007

Chairman: * Councillor Chris Mote

Councillors: * David Ashton * Janet Mote
* Marilyn Ashton * Paul Osborn
* Mrs Camilla Bath * Mrs Anjana Patel
* Miss Christine Bednell * Eric Silver
* Susan Hall

* Denotes Member present

[Note: Councillors Tony Ferrari, B E Gate, Jerry Miles and Paul Scott also attended this meeting to speak on the item indicated at Minute 311 below].

313. Development of Leisure and Cultural Services Facilities:

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services introduced the report, which set out the proposed strategy for achieving an extensive development of Harrow's Leisure and Cultural Services whilst realising a significant and positive revenue budget impact. The Portfolio Holder stated that the proposals represented an opportunity to develop twenty-first century community facilities for Harrow which would contribute to the Borough's overarching culture strategy.

A presentation by the scheme's architect outlined the main features of the illustrative masterplan including improvements to local infrastructure, new housing, improved safety due to increased surveillance and usage, and the fronting of facilities onto the park to create a focus for the local community. Further consultation would be undertaken to engage stakeholders and identify which facilities should be included in the scheme, and regular updates on proposals would be brought to Cabinet for feedback.

RESOLVED: To (1) agree that the development of 'Byron Leisure Park' should be based on Option 4 (Section 2.5.1) of the officer report, ie. to provide a new principal leisure centre; the development of a new 'Byron Hall' facility, at another location, in partnership and subsequent to a commercial review; a new skateboard park; the relocation of 'The Bridge' within the Byron site; associated Public Realm improvements; together with the disposal of land for residential development. The new leisure centre to open by 1 February 2010;

(2) approve the relocation of Gayton Library to Garden House

(3) give approval for a procurement exercise to be conducted to enter into a long-term strategic partnership for the provision of sports, leisure and related services, eg. at Byron Park, Hatch End and potential other locations in the Borough;

(4) approve the start of feasibility studies and consultation work for the development of the Hatch End site, together with other community, leisure and cultural services in the area, as referenced in the report;

(5) note that, in any time lag, which will be kept to a minimum, between the closure of the existing facility and the development of a replacement 'Byron Hall', the Council will identify and facilitate access to interim alternative venues for community use and ensure information about such facilities is widely disseminated;

(6) note that there will be extensive consultation with stakeholders, regarding the development of the detail of the proposals put forward in this report;

(7) approve release of land for disposal at Gayton Road and Byron Park (land as identified on red line plans shown at appendices 2 and 3 to the officer report);

(8) approve disposal of land at Gayton Road and Byron Park at best consideration for the Council (land as identified on red line plans at appendices 2 and 3 to the officer report);

(9) delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Community and Environment), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for External Affairs and Property, to make minor amendments to the red line plans;

(10) delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Community and Environment), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for External Affairs and Property, to dispose of land as agreed by Cabinet at best consideration, to deal with any representations in relation to obtaining necessary consents and to agree the terms of any leases;

(11) agree the sale of land to Fairview Homes Ltd., as previously agreed by Cabinet on 14 December 2006;

(12) approve the Council entering into a lease of Garden House for the accommodation of the Gayton Library;

(13) agree not to proceed with the Cabinet decision to develop a combined library/arts centre at Gayton Road taken on 14 December 2006, minuted as item 152;

(14) approve the use of the Kier Partnership for the development of Council facilities on the Byron Park site.

Reason for Decision: To enable the Council to improve its leisure and cultural facilities by maximising Council property assets.