

Extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 29 July 2004

563. **Key Decision - Proposal for an Indoor Tennis Centre:**

The Executive Director (Urban Living) introduced his report and stated that the Council's response to progress to Stage 2 of the project was due the following day. He explained the funding arrangements of this proposal and drew Members' attention to the financial observations set out in his report and the officer view that the projections were extremely pessimistic and represented the worse case scenario.

He added that the proposed Indoor Tennis Centre would "replace" the outdoor swimming pool and provide a much needed additional leisure facility and set he out the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) commitment to the project. In response to questions from Members, the Executive Director (Urban Living) mentioned that the proposal, subject to various approvals, would be built on the existing car park site at Harrow Leisure Centre.

The Portfolio Holder for Education and Lifelong Learning commended the proposal and urged Cabinet not to miss out on this great opportunity, much of which was being funded by the LTA.

Members of the Conservative Group reserved their judgement on the proposal which they felt might have serious cost implications, and requested additional information before giving their full support to the proposal. They also expressed concern at the loss of parking at the Leisure Centre.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development, Housing and Best Value called for a Masterplan for land in the vicinity of the Leisure Centre including the former Driving School site, adjacent parkland, which appeared to have been abandoned, and the former outdoor swimming pool site. He was of the view that the proposals for an Indoor Tennis Centre would help regenerate Wealdstone and requested that the report be submitted to the Wealdstone Regeneration Advisory Panel for comment.

The Leader of the Conservative Group supported the suggestion for a Masterplan and agreed to look into this with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development, Housing and Best Value.

In conclusion, the Executive Director (Urban Living) clarified that the report to the September meeting of Cabinet would include a Project Plan and a timetable for the Stage 2 process. He added that it would also address the concerns raised by Members with regard to the financing of this project.

RESOLVED: (1) That the offer of grant and loan funding from the Lawn Tennis Association be accepted and that progress to Stage 2 be commenced to enable the project to be developed for final approval by the Council and the LTA;

(2) that the Executive Director (Urban Living) produce a detailed project plan and timetable to develop a fully detailed and costed scheme in partnership with the LTA for consideration at the next meeting of Cabinet.

Reason for Decision: To progress the implementation of this regional facility within the Borough.