



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: Friday, 3 June 2016

:

**Committee:
Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date: Monday, 13 June 2016

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Members of Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee

Vince Hunt (Chairman)

Keith Roberts (Vice Chairman)

Dean Carroll

Ted Clarke

Nigel Hartin

Roger Hughes

Christian Lea

Pamela Moseley

Vivienne Parry

Arthur Walpole

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257713

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Election of Chairman

To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year

2 Apologies for absence and substitutions

3 Appointment of Vice Chairman

To appoint a Vice Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year

4 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

5 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2016 (Pages 1 - 4)

To consider the Minutes of the Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 14 March 2016

6 Public Question Time

To receive any public questions or petitions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. The deadline for this meeting is 5.00pm on 8 June 2016

7 Member Question Time

To receive any questions of which members of the Council have given notice. Deadline for notification for this meeting is 5.00pm on 8 June 2016

8 STAR Housing and Home Point/Open Lettings Policy

Report is to follow

9 Update on New Swimming Pool Facilities for Shrewsbury (Pages 5 - 14)

This report provides an update on work carried out on the development of future swimming provision within Shrewsbury since the report provided to Scrutiny on 30th November 2015.

10 Shropshires Public Open Space, Sport and Recreational Needs Assessment (Pages 15 - 22)

This report provides an update on work being carried out to update existing Public Open Space (POS) Sport & Recreation information which was collected in 2009 and to review future needs across the county, based on projected population growth for the period to 2036.

11 Date/Time of next meeting

The Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday 11 July at 2.00pm

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Environment and
Services Scrutiny
Committee

14 March 2016

2.00 pm

Item

5

Public

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2016
2.00 - 3.30 PM**

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward
Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Councillor Vince Hunt (Leader)
Councillors Keith Roberts (Vice Chairman), Dean Carroll, Ted Clarke, Roger Hughes,
Christian Lea, Pamela Moseley, Vivienne Parry and Arthur Walpole

52 Apologies for absence and substitutions

52.1 Apologies for absence were received from Nigel Hartin

53 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

53 There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

54 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2016

54.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2016 had been circulated.

54.2 Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

55 Public Question Time

55.1 There were no public questions

56 Member Question Time

56.1 There were no questions from Members

57 Portfolio Holder Update

57.1 The meeting received an update from the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport. He reminded Members that responsibility for highways and transport predominantly came under the Commissioning Directorate and that the portfolio covered: -

- Highways Planning, Transport & Maintenance
- Car parking
- Major projects such as LEP / SITP / Oxon Link Road
- Highways community safety projects
- Local transport plans
- Highways Development Control
- Drainage

57.2 The Portfolio Holder advised Members that the Council was a “Level 2” Highway Authority and that this grading meant that an additional £916,000 of capital funding would be received, although there would still be a reduction in overall funding due to a cut in the total DfT capital grant over the next 4 year.

57.3 The Portfolio Holder informed Members that as well as ongoing management of key contracts such as the Ringway and Kier contracts work was ongoing in preparation for the new arrangements for the Highway Maintenance Contract which was due to commence in April 2018.

57.4 In response to a query the Portfolio Holder advised that the “Level 2” was awarded through a process of self-assessment which was verified by the Councils Audit team and that the Council had achieved “Level 3” in a number of areas. He added that Officers would be sharing the good practice carried out at a national conference in Highway Management and Leadership.

57.5 A Member asked whether progress had been made with the implementation of “smart” methods of payment for car parks. The Portfolio Holder advised that further work was being carried out and that it was important that all methods of payment were available. The Chairman commented that this may be a topic for the Committee to look at further.

57.8 The Chairman thanked the Portfolio Holder for his update.

58 Permits Scheme Update

58.1 Members received the report of the Economic Growth and Permit Scheme Manager which provided an overview of the performance of the Street Works Team since the introduction of the West and Shires Permit Scheme (WASP) in April 2014.

58.2 The Permit Scheme Manager reminded Members that the Permit Scheme had been developed following a recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee in 2011. She went on to say that the Council had been asked by the Department for Transport (DfT) to develop a common scheme for rural authorities in the West Midlands to join, and that currently Cheshire East, Warwickshire and Coventry

Councils were operating the scheme, with Telford and Wrekin and Worcestershire Councils joining the scheme this year.

- 58.3 The Permit Scheme Manager advised that the Streetworks Team were self-funding with income coming from a number of sources. She informed Members that any surplus that was made would be reinvested according to local needs, individual schemes or to provide additional finance for large programmes of work.
- 58.4 The Permit Scheme Manager informed the meeting that following concerns raised at a previous meeting of the Committee it was recognised that there was need for a more rigorous coring programme and as a result the number of phases and cores taken had been increased and this had led to a significant improvement in the failure rate.
- 58.5 A Member asked why when a road was under a 7 day closure work was often only carried out on week days. The Permit Scheme manager commented that it was not possible to enforce working at weekends and that often the weekends were used to overcome any delays encountered.
- 58.9 The Chairman thanked the Permit Scheme Manager for her report and commented that the Scheme was a good example of a suggestion made by the Scrutiny Committee being taken forward.

58.10 RESOLVED:

- a) That the contents of the report be noted
- b) That a further update report is presented to a future meeting of the Committee
- c) That the Environment & Services Scrutiny Committee support the investment of Highway enforcement charges into the Highways and Transport infrastructure in Shropshire on a continual basis, and that the allocation of this will be agreed following consultation with the Highways, Transport and Environment Commissioning Manager and the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport.

59 Development of Sustainable Energy

- 59.1 The Committee received the report of the Senior Energy and Sustainability Officer which set out the work being carried out by the Council in the field of sustainable energy and future opportunities that may be available.
- 59.2 The Senior Energy and Sustainability Officer advised Members that there were currently 26 solar photo voltaic systems installed on council buildings which were receiving or were due to receive feed in tariff (FiT). He added that work was being done to look at the potential development of 4 solar farm sites in the county. He then outlined other work that was being done.
- 59.3 The Project Development Manager advised Members that work had been undertaken to explore opportunities to generate income through the establishment of an energy company to supply energy and to take the opportunities that wider commercial energy related activities could deliver. She informed the meeting that

an “Invitation to Partner with Shropshire Council” had been issued inviting licenced energy suppliers to submit proposals, and that following the selection process a full report would be taken to Cabinet to obtain a decision on progressing the preferred option.

59.4 A Member asked whether there were any plans to develop hydroelectric schemes. The Senior Energy and Sustainability Officer advised that there were no plans currently.

59.5 The Chairman thanked Officers for their report.

59.6 RESOLVED

a. That the contents of the report be noted

b. That a further update is brought to a future meeting of the Committee

60 Date/Time of next meeting

60.1 Members were advised that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee would be held on 13 June 2016 at 2.00pm

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



<u>Scrutiny</u>
Environment & Services Scrutiny
13 June 2016

<u>Item</u>
9
<u>Public</u>

Shrewsbury Swimming Pool - update

Responsible Officer George Candler, Director of Commissioning
e-mail: George.candler@shropshire.gov.uk Tel:(01743)255003

1. Summary

This report provides an update on work carried out on the development of future swimming provision within Shrewsbury since the report provided to Scrutiny on 30th November 2015.

A number of site options were consulted on in 2015 – refurbishment of existing Quarry Pool; renovation of existing Quarry Pool; new build on site of the existing Quarry Pool; new build at Clayton Way; new build on land at Ellesmere Road; new build on land at the Shrewsbury Sports Village; and new build on land at Shrewsbury College.

Detailed analysis of the 1,900 responses from the consultation and comments made by a number of stakeholders including Shrewsbury Town Council, the Quarry Swimming & Fitness Forum, the Shrewsbury Business Improvement District and the Shropshire Disability Network were analysed by leisure consultants, 4Gobal.

Leisure experts, Strategic Leisure Ltd., are currently carrying out detailed work in response to comments made during the consultation to help inform a recommendation to Cabinet for a preferred location and facility mix for swimming provision in Shrewsbury on the 13th July 2016, which will then be subject to further detailed investigation. In determining which option best meets the Council's vision two considerations will be paramount:

1. Which options are the most affordable and sustainable?
2. Which options best meet the Council's vision and strategy for swimming provision?

Assuming a Cabinet recommendation on location and facility mix, it is proposed that a detailed feasibility assessment is carried out so that the viability of the project can be assessed. It is proposed that a Cabinet decision is then taken on whether to go ahead with the project, considering the viability in light of funding opportunities and the council's financial strategy.

2. Recommendation

Members of Environment Services Scrutiny are asked to scrutinise the work done to date and to provide additional comments that can be reflected in the Cabinet report on 13th July 2016.

REPORT

1. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- Future swimming provision continues to create huge public interest. A petition with over 3000 signatures was received by Council in April 2014. The Quarry Swimming and Fitness Centre (QSFC) was registered as an Asset of Community Value on the 19th August 2014; this creates a requirement for the Council, should it wish to sell the site, to delay the disposal for a minimum of six weeks to give the nominating organisation or other qualifying community body time to confirm whether they wish to make a bid; if during the six weeks a request to bid is made, the Council can't dispose of the asset (other than to a community interest group) until the end of a six-month period.
- A five month public consultation has been undertaken and a range of stakeholders have been involved and contributed ideas including the Quarry Swimming Pool Forum, Shrewsbury Town Council, the Shrewsbury BID and the Disability Forum. A strong preference has been made for a town centre location.
- Key stakeholders have recently indicated that, should Shropshire Council no longer wish to provide swimming at the Quarry, they would like to be given the opportunity to run the Quarry pool as a community enterprise and / or be given the opportunity to develop an outline business plan to show how the Quarry site could be run sustainably in the future.
- The choice that is made on future swimming provision will influence swimming participation across the whole community beyond the next 25 years. A range of specialist work has been completed to help inform the development of a detailed options analysis and subsequent public consultation. Further detailed work in support of a recommendation for future swimming provision in Shrewsbury is currently being undertaken.
- A detailed Equality and Social Inclusion Impact Assessment has been prepared and will continue to be kept under review alongside further detailed stakeholder engagement.
- Since work on options for future swimming provision started the pressure on the public finance has been accentuated to such a degree that all leisure provision is identified as at risk beyond April 2017. This brings the need to develop a sustainable business model that minimises the drain on the public purse into sharp focus.
- This is a significant project with the risk of potential overspend and project creep. The project is being developed by a Project Board chaired by the Director of Commissioning and including relevant internal officers and external representation from Sport England, the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) and the County Sports Partnership, Energize. Further work will be undertaken to develop and confirm a detailed funding strategy and work will only proceed beyond key milestones when a full understanding of the potential risks is made.

2. Financial implications

Shropshire Council is projected to have a funding shortfall of £77m by 2018/19, resulting in discretionary services such as leisure, libraries, museums, public open spaces and support for youth activities facing significant cutbacks or in the worst case scenario - closure.

A new pool, rather than a refurbishment of the existing pool, has the potential to make ongoing revenue savings when compared with current costs. Key elements of this include:

- Energy savings being incurred by the contractor, based on significantly less water area and a building design that meets best modern practice, helping to reduce the current Shropshire Council subsidy
- Repairs and maintenance savings reflecting a smaller, simpler and modern building that the contractor would be likely to have the responsibility to maintain
- Improved income based on the provision of a new modern fitness suite, studio availability for exercise classes etc., on-going increased uptake of Learn to Swim classes, etc., again having the impact of reducing the current Shropshire Council subsidy

Detailed specialist work is being carried out to understand:

- The potential capital costs of different locations and options for swimming provision in Shrewsbury
- Potential sources of funding in support of the construction of a new pool
- The potential revenue impact for the contractor in terms of different pool locations
- The resulting revenue implications for Shropshire Council, in terms of the current Quarry Swimming Pool subsidy and in terms of the wider implications on the cost of the Serco contract as a whole
- The “affordability” of different pool options based on the capital costs, revenue consequences and different strategies for funding building works

This work around the finances will help Shropshire Council understand the “affordability” of different pool options based on:

- Capital cost estimates and potential funding sources. The total available funding will be subtracted from the capital cost to determine the prudential borrowing requirement (i.e. the funding shortfall).
- The “Whole Project Life Cycle Costs”. Assuming a 25 year project life cycle the expected revenue savings to Shropshire Council will be deducted from the full cost of borrowing and debt repayment over the 25 year period to give an “affordability ranking”.

All of the proposed swimming options have a potential significant capital funding requirements. A number of funding opportunities are available to the Council including:

- Capital Receipts (sale of assets)
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Sport England funding
- Public Sector Grant Funding
- Private Sector Investment including
- Prudential Borrowing

Further investigation, including the possibility of additional external funding sources, will be carried out as part of the detailed feasibility work prior to being updated within a further report to Cabinet.

Within the cabinet report the different options will be analysed to reflect an assumed 25 year project life cycle. For each option a comparison will be made between the full cost of borrowing, debt repayment and interest, over a 25 year period, less the

expected operational subsidy reduction saving over the same period to provide an assessment of the “affordability of each option.

3. Background

While the existing Quarry Swimming and Fitness Centre offers a diverse range of facilities – 4 pools providing 898 sq m of water, 37 station fitness suite, health suite, café, training room, etc. - it is generally accepted that the condition of the Quarry Swimming and Fitness Centre and the user experience it offers has declined in recent years.

There are also huge on-going strains on the public purse and the running costs of the current facility will become a growing challenge.

Demand for swimming in Shrewsbury is significant with over 200,000 swims in the Quarry in 2015/16.

In developing options for future swimming provision in Shrewsbury the Council has developed a vision and this was used to support the public consultation. In summary the vision says that the Shrewsbury swimming facility should:

- increase participation in swimming and physical activity, and in so doing improve the wider health and wellbeing of the community
- provide a long-term swimming facility that's affordable to run both now and in the future
- be complementary to other leisure and recreational provision in the town

To take this vision forward, and based on a range of evidence, recommendations for the minimum facilities to be provided by a new swimming facility were developed:

- a 25m x 20m eight lane main pool, 500 sq m
- a 20m x 10m four-lane learner pool with full moveable floor, 200 sq m
- facilities to introduce people to water (to aid water confidence), 60 – 100 sq m
- fitness facilities, at least 50 stations
- spectator seating for 250 people

This would provide a total of 700 sq m of water compared with the current 898 sq m within the Quarry.

Swimming provision is well positioned to make a significant contribution to several key national and local agendas including supporting a healthy society, personalisation and helping children to reach their full potential.

The Local Sports Profile for Shropshire shows that swimming (along with the gym, cycling and athletics) is one of the most popular sport with 9.3% of adults over 16 years old participating at least once a month. It is also the sport that adults most want to do.

The Council carried out a range of work in support of the development of a number of detailed options and to inform a public consultation in 2015 including:

- A building condition survey of the existing pool
- Visits to other local authority areas who have recently built public swimming pools
- A detailed study undertaken by independent leisure specialists, Strategic Leisure, to consider the following options for swimming provision:
 - 1A. Refurbishment of existing Quarry Pool

- 1B. Renovation of existing Quarry Pool
- 2. New build on site of existing Quarry Pool
- 3A. New build at Clayton Way
- 3B. New build on land at Ellesmere Road
- 3C. New build on land at the Shrewsbury Sports Village
- 3D. New build on land at Shrewsbury College

4. Key findings from the public consultation

A four month public consultation was launched on the 28th May 2015. In response to feedback received during the consultation and the availability of 2014/15 operational revenue figures for the Quarry the consultation period was subsequently extended by a month until the 30th October.

Over 1,900 people took part in the online survey. Alongside this a range of meetings and conversations continue to take place with key groups and organisations including Shrewsbury Town Council, the Shrewsbury Business Improvement District, the Quarry Swimming & Fitness Forum and the Shropshire Disability Network.

Shrewsbury Pool Consultation Analysis

WHO WAS CONSULTED ?



1924 Survey respondents
From 12 postcodes



14.3% of respondents are members of a swimming club
57% of respondents swim regularly

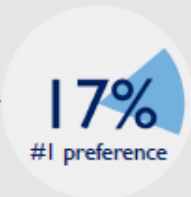
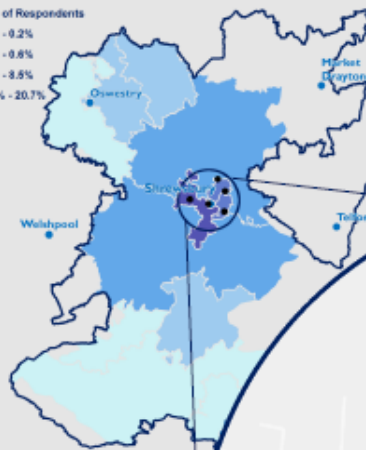
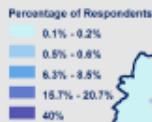


55% Female and 42% Male respondents
3% either preferred not to say or were transgender

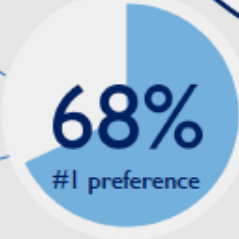


Consultations were also undertaken with key stakeholders and groups

WHAT DID THEY SAY ?



✓ Learn to swim facilities and ✓ A varied swimming timetable were identified as the most important factors for facility mix within the leisure centre



Independent detailed analysis of the consultation was carried out by industry experts, 4global and this is summarised above and reported in full at:
http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/media1/2501/shrewsbury-swimming-pool-consultation-analysis-full-report_13-04-16.pdf

4global concluded that the consultation process fulfilled research standards sufficiently to support robust findings. First preferences were:

Option	% of most preferred
Refurbishment of the Quarry	23.50%
New build on the Quarry site	22.89%
Upgrade of the Quarry	21.67%
New build on Shrewsbury Sports Village	16.54%
New build on Shrewsbury College London Road	13.17%
New build on Clayton Way	1.42%
New build on land at Ellesmere Road	0.81%

Combined, the Quarry options represent 68.06% of the most preferred responses with respondents' citing central location, accessibility, economic impact on the town centre and convenience as the main reasons for the Quarry preference

Learn to swim provision is the most important element of a swimming facility with proximity to public transport links and a timetable that caters for all also seen as important.

5.0 Further work in support of the development of a preferred approach to future swimming provision within Shrewsbury

It is possible to identify a number of key areas raised during the public consultation and these fall into the following broad areas:

- a. Proposed facilities mix - the capacity of the proposed two pools and whether this will meet future increases in demand, as well as the impact of moving swimming provision to an out of town location and how many people will go there and use the facilities on offer.
- b. Detailed revenue modelling - further work on the detailed financial modelling including the refurbishment and renovation options
- c. Town centre versus an edge of town facility - consideration of the economic, social and community impact of different locations.
- d. Accessibility, parking, transport and environmental impact - the impact of the location on accessibility and CO2 admissions and detailed consideration of parking availability and pricing in the different locations.
- e. What will happen to the Quarry Pool site if it is vacated - comments were raised about possible alternative uses for the site.
- f. Alternative town centre sites and delivery models - comments were raised about the availability of other site options and consideration of alternative financing options.

These are currently the subject of further detailed work being carried out by independent leisure consultants, Strategic Leisure Ltd, and will be reported to Cabinet alongside considerations on affordability

Strategic Leisure are also refreshing the Indoor Facility Strategy for Shropshire, which will provide further context for future support on public swimming provision in Shrewsbury within the wider context of Shropshire.

6.0 “Alternative” approaches to swimming provision

In recent weeks the Council has received independent requests from the Shrewsbury BID and the QSFF to be given time to develop management and business options that would allow on-going swimming provision from the existing Quarry site. Subject to the recommendations made to Cabinet on the 13th July the Council is proposing to allow time, to no later than the end of September 2016, for alternative approaches to be developed before confirming a final approach. All alternative options will be subject to the same evaluation.

7.0 Confirmation of preferred location and facility mix for future swimming provision within Shrewsbury

In determining which option, including any independently developed approaches, best meets the Council's vision it is proposed that a detailed evaluation is carried out based on all the available information and in particular on the basis of three questions:

1. Which options are deliverable and are the most affordable and sustainable?
2. Which options best meet the Council's vision and strategy for swimming provision?
3. What are the social, environmental and economic impact and implications of the different options?

Each option will also be considered on the basis of its achievability with respect to for example land purchase, planning permission, etc.

8.0 Next steps

It is proposed to make a recommendation to Cabinet on the 13th July 2016 for a preferred location and facility mix for future swimming provision in Shrewsbury.

If Cabinet confirms a recommendation and before finally determining a decision to go ahead with the project, it is proposed that a further report is taken to Cabinet with:

- A detailed feasibility assessment of the preferred approach
- A review of the investment options and revenue implications for Shropshire Council, and the viability of the project in the context of the council's financial strategy
- The detailed procurement approach

During the detailed design stage that would follow any final decision to go ahead with the project, there would be opportunities for further consultation with stakeholders on detailed aspects of building design.

Construction would take a minimum of 18 months and the opening of any new facility would be unlikely before mid-2019.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy 2009 - 2019 and Playing Pitch Strategy 2010 – 2020, Cabinet, 29 June 2011

New pool for Shrewsbury, Cabinet, 30 July 2014

Shrewsbury Swimming and Fitness Options Report, Strategic Leisure, June 2015

Shrewsbury Swimming Pool update, Environment & Services Scrutiny, 22 June 2015

Shrewsbury Swimming Pool Consultation Analysis, 4global, March 2016

Shrewsbury Swimming Pool update, Environment & Services Scrutiny, 30 November 2015

ESIA, April 2016

Cabinet Member:

Cllr Stuart West, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Libraries and Culture

Local Members:

Cllr Andrew Bannerman, Cllr Peter Adams, Cllr Vernon Bushell, Cllr Ted Clarke, Cllr Anne Chebsey, Cllr Hannah Fraser, Cllr Miles Kenny, Cllr Jane Mackenzie, Cllr Peter Nutting, Cllr Alan Mosley, Cllr Pam Moseley, Cllr Mike Owen, Cllr Kevin Pardy, Cllr Mal Price, Cllr Keith Roberts, Cllr John Tandy, Cllr Dean Carroll & Cllr Amy Leibich

Appendices:

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Committee and Date

Environment and Services
Scrutiny Committee

13th June 2016

Item

10

Public

SHROPSHIRE'S PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Responsible Officer Deb Hughes, Outdoor Partnerships Manager
e-mail: Deb.Hughes@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 255057 Fax

1. Summary

Shropshire Council has a significant role to play, as a key policy maker with regulatory/statutory frameworks, such as Planning, to create the right environment to promote opportunities for play and recreation. This requires a robust and up-to-date assessment of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities to inform the need to make new provision through new development, via on site design and developer contributions.

Planning Policy and Outdoor Partnerships have appointed a consultant to update existing Public Open Space (POS) Sport & Recreation information which was collected in 2009 and to review future needs across the county, based on projected population growth for the period to 2036. The result of the survey, through a short term contract, to be completed by September 2016, will provide an up to date evaluation of the adequacy of the supply of particular POS types, now and in the future.

The up-to-date needs assessment will inform the proposed review of the Local Development Plan. It will enable Shropshire Council and local communities to identify and prioritise POS needs, alongside informing the most appropriate delivery mechanism, whether through on site design, s106 planning obligations, CIL or other monies. It will thereby support investment in new and existing POS, sport & recreational facilities, as part of the 18 area Place Plans.

2. Recommendations

- i. That Councillors comment on the progress made to date with work to review and update evidence which will inform the current and future provision of POS within Shropshire's 18 Market Towns.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

The inclusion of public open space is critical to the continuing health and wellbeing of the local residents. Public open space meets all the requirements of Public Health to provide space and facilities for adults and children to be both active physically and mentally and to enable residents to meet as part of the community.

The risk of not undertaking a POS, sport & recreational needs assessment, is that communities, through increased development, may well have a deficit of open space for play, sport & recreation to support the local population's health and wellbeing. Delivering this short term contract will therefore update local communities POS & recreational needs.

4. Financial Implications

£10K has been allocated from Outdoor Partnership budgets to fund the POS & Recreational Needs Assessment. A brief has been developed (appendix 1) for a short term contract to be undertaken by a consultancy, Red Kite Ltd, based in Coalport, who have just been awarded the contract. Red Kite has experience in undertaking similar POS and recreational strategy/needs assessments for authorities within the West Midlands.

5. Background

The National Planning Policy Framework states that 'access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities'. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.

Shropshire Council's SAMDev Plan Policy MD2 requires all development to provide adequate open space, set at a minimum standard of 30sqm per person (equivalent to 3ha per 1,000 population). For residential developments, the number of future occupiers will be based on a standard of one person per bedroom. For developments of 20 dwellings and more, the open space needs to comprise a functional area for play and recreation. This is intended to deliver a single recreational area, rather than a number of small pockets spread throughout the development site, in order to improve the overall quality and usability of the provision.

Although the requirement to provide open space within developments has been provided for within the above policy, what has not been required or monitored, particularly within smaller development of between 15-30 houses, is how these open spaces are being used, i.e. as per the POS typologies set out below. The usage of the open space infrastructure, such as play equipment, is to be determined by local communities and Shropshire Council through the allocation of CIL funding.

- local parks
- amenity open space
- provision for children
- provision for young people
- natural and semi natural open space

- allotments

As reported to Scrutiny on 30th March 2015, a comprehensive local assessment of all types of open space provision was undertaken by consultants PMP (2009) who brought together a series of surveys which were completed between 2005 and 2008, on behalf of Shropshire Council and its predecessor authorities. The assessment provided a robust evidence base for determining local needs and has informed the development of current local plan policies. However, the above assessment is nearly 10 years old and there is now a need to update it to inform the planning and delivery of future requirements.

Planning Policy and Outdoor Partnerships have recently appointed a consultant to survey existing provision, including POS which has been provided by development since the last survey in 2009 and to identify future needs, based on projected population growth. The result of the survey, through a short term contract, will provide an up to date evaluation of the under or over supply of particular POS types, now and in the future.

Shropshire Council will use the revised data to update the Place Plans, which are central to the delivery of sustainable places, providing place based infrastructure and investment plans. They assist Shropshire Council and local communities in making informed decisions on infrastructure priorities and recommended delivery mechanisms, including the allocation of CIL revenue. Town and Parish Councils will have the opportunity, through the results from the survey, to review and assess what their own community POS requirements are, for example Church Stretton Town Council has recently appointed Shropshire Playing Fields Association, to undertake an in-depth review to provide an Assessment of Need and Opportunities for Open Spaces, Sport, Play and Recreation Facilities within Church Stretton.

The experience of the work undertaken by Shropshire Playing Fields Association is helping with the POS & Recreational Needs Assessment contract, as they are part of a small steering group.

6. Conclusions

There is still a need for further investment and development of existing POS, sport and recreational requirements. With no specific revenue budget likely to be available in the future, communities and local members will need robust evidence to prioritise local needs and support future investment decisions. The survey will provide an up-to-date POS needs assessment that will enable communities to look in more detail at their POS opportunities and to use some of the Neighbourhood CIL money towards play improvements and may well be able match this with small community grants.

The survey data will also update the Place Plans, which are central to the delivery of sustainable places, providing place based infrastructure and investment plans.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL'S PLAY AREA PROVISION REPORT 30th March 2015

Cabinet Member's (Portfolio Holder)

Stuart West - Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture

Malcom Price - Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing, Regulatory Services and Environment

Local Member

All

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Shropshire Public Open Space and Recreational Needs Assessment Brief

Shropshire Public Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment & Investment Plan

Consultancy Brief

1.0 Context

Shropshire is a large, predominantly rural county situated in the northwest corner of the West Midlands region. The population of approx. 300,000 people are spread over a large geographic area. There are 18 market towns, with only four having a population of over 10,000 people. Shrewsbury is the county town and is designated as a regional Growth Point for further development. Shrewsbury is home to around a quarter of the population of Shropshire and is a key employment, shopping and cultural centre. The southern and western parts of the county are generally more remote and have a particularly sparse population.

Shropshire Council's Core Strategy Development Plan and further Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan, Adopted 17th December 2015, sets out the physical and infrastructure development that will take place across the county over the next 20 years. The SAMDev Plan is supported by 18 Place Plans which set out and prioritise the infrastructure and investment needs of Shropshire's market towns, key centres, Community Hubs and Clusters, and villages in the 'countryside'. In this way they are central to the delivery of sustainable places, informing the settlement strategies defined in the SAMDev.

The 18 Place Plans are intended to be 'live' documents, reviewed and updated annually in partnership with local infrastructure and service providers and the local community. An up to date Public Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment and Investment Plan is required to inform this process for 2016/17 and beyond, and to provide an evidence base to inform Shropshire's Local Plan review process. In particular, it will identify current deficiencies in provision, inform a review of the current policy based design standards for site based provision of Public Open Space and support additional investment through the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other funding.

The Shropshire Public Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment and Investment Plan will also reference Shropshire's Playing Pitch Strategy and Investment Plan which is currently being updated, so that the overall sport and recreation provision is identified and prioritised within Shropshire.

2.0 Purpose

Shropshire Council wishes to appoint an experienced consultant to produce a Public Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment and Investment Plan.

This will identify current provision / standards and any future shortfall in light of projected population growth. The Investment Plan will establish an up to date evidence base for targeted investment which will assist Shropshire Council and the relevant Town Councils to identify and target potential opportunities for investment in enhanced and new provision as part of the relevant Place Plan.

The Public Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment and Investment Plan should use the previous PPG17 data for Shropshire, produced by PMP in 2009, as a baseline for developing the current Public Open Space and Recreation provision and the future requirements based on increased settlement populations identified within the SAMDev Plan.

3.0 Project Scope

- i. To review and update as required the PMP 2009 Open Space and Recreation typology standards for consistency with current national policy requirements and established good practice to ensure sufficient public accessibility to open space and recreation provision in Shrewsbury, the Market Towns & Rural Areas. Identify ways in which the Public Open Space and Recreation Investment Plan links into Public Health England's Every Body Active Every day framework for physical activity, and supports NICE guidance of physical activity and the environment; promoting active play and sport for children and young people in family, pre-school, school and community settings.
- ii. To carry out extensive site visits to test the existing data from the 2009 PMP study and new monitoring data (supplied by Shropshire Council) to generate an accurate evidence base of current provision and to establish whether this data is an accurate reflection of what is actually 'on the ground'.
- iii. To assess any changes in population data against the typologies and standards above and to identify future shortfalls.
- iv. To identify and prioritise Open Space and Recreation improvements and investment requirements within Shrewsbury, the Market Towns & Rural Areas as a contribution to updating the relevant Place Plans, identifying any potential new funding opportunities to support and match any CIL funding allocation. (Indicative levels of investment required to both improve provision and new facilities where there is evidenced of need).

4.0 Timing

It is anticipated that the study must be completed by the end of August 2016, although the consultant will need to identify emerging priorities before this deadline.

5.0 Meeting the requirements of the Specification

The brief requires that existing data from the 2009 PMP study and new monitoring data on Open Space and Recreation is proofed against what is actually 'on the ground'. This will require considerable time to be invested, and to reduce costs, the Council is proposing to provide contact details for a student placement who will be expected to work with the appointed consultant to deliver this element of the commission at a significantly reduced cost.

Tenderers will be required to set out their approach to the work including:

- Their understanding of the brief and the key issues that will be addressed.
- How the task will be approached including the proposed methodology and work programme.
- Indicative milestones / timescales for completion of the study.
- The number of day's work they anticipate each stage of the study will take, including the number of hours' time input assumed for each member of the proposed project team and a breakdown of any associated costs.
- Details of the relevant experience for each project team member and examples of comparable work undertaken.
- The payment arrangements required to be met in order for the report to be delivered on time and within budget.

Any potential conflicts of interests must be declared.

6.0 Project Management

The consultant will receive support to deliver the contract from Shropshire Council's Planning Policy, Outdoor Partnerships, Leisure Services and Energize STW.

The consultant will be required to project manage the commission on a day to day basis including co-ordinating the input of the student placement and relevant stakeholders as follows:

1. Shropshire Council Departments
 - Strategic Planning
 - Outdoor Recreation
 - Estates
 - Commissioning and Community Enablement
 - Public Health
2. Town and Parish Councils
3. Shropshire Playing Field Association
4. Energize STW

5. Other local Open Space & Recreation providers as agreed at inception meet

The consultant will be required to prepare relevant proposals and to present these to the Shropshire Council for consideration before submitting final report.