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To Members of the City Executive Board

05 September 2013

Dear Councillors

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD - WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2013

Appendix to minutes of 10th July – Public Questions



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**



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Questions for CEB 10th July 2013

Agenda Item 7, Youth Ambition Strategy (Cllr Clack)

1. What Key Performance Indicators do you have for evaluating Value for Money for this strategy?

This is detailed in sections 5.20, 5.21; appendix five also shows how we will look to demonstrate the value of each pound invested against specific agendas e.g. crime and anti-social behaviour and obesity.

2. How will these be measured and reported to Council and the general public?

The methodology differs for each measure. The first measure "*Numbers of young people engaged in the programme*" is demonstrated by recording attendance figures. The Council publishes the performance of key indicators.

3. Cowley is mentioned as an area where you are targeting resources; what specific actions are you taking in relation to this part of East Oxford?

This is one of the areas where we will be targeting our Youth Ambition and Youth Ambition School grants. Answer 5 c also addresses this question.

4. How will the closure of Temple Cowley Pools and Fitness Centre contribute to the success of your strategy?

By supporting the development of a new city wide pool at Blackbird Leys.

5. In relation to Appendix Two of the report, what specific actions and activities are being undertaken in the Temple Cowley area in relation to:

- a. Free swimming for U17s – how many hours a week are being offered at Temple Cowley Pools?

15hours

- b. What free lessons for non-swimmers are being offered at Temple Cowley Pools?

Children eligible to take part in free lessons do so at the pool of their choice through the Swim School programme.

- c. Leisure centre provision, particularly since the Cowley Marsh area has seen the fastest growth in population over the last ten years?

The new pool is a city wide facility and we are also investing £200,000 into leisure provision at OxfordSpiresAcademy. As a further part of the local leisure offer we are developing a fitness trail, Youth Ambition Activities, refurbishing Florence Park tennis courts and Ridgefield Road multi-use games area.

- d. Community centre provision, given that the latest plans to redevelop the Cowley community centre provide for an area that cannot viably accommodate all the activities currently being proposed for it?

There are a range of different venues in the area to accommodate diverse activities, such as the Ark-T centre, Conservative Club, social clubs and church halls. The 2008 survey, commissioned by the city, indicated a wide range of venues and activities other than the community centre being used by the local population. The new centre's arrangement will also allow for greater accessibility and flexibility for community activities.

- 6. Can you please provide the metrics supporting your claim that the free access for U19s at Blackbird Leys has been successful? If this initiative has been so successful, why are you not planning to replicate this at other leisure centres such as Temple Cowley?

The average number of participants per session is 16, with numbers now increasing to up to 24. The session in question is linked to the sports hall and park. Within the available budgets we are exploring the possibilities of expanding this initiative.

- 7. How are you co-ordinating your work in this strategy with the County Council, in particular in relation to it as the Local Education Authority (comment in Appendix 4)?

The County Council are a key partner on the Youth Partnership Board.

Agenda Item 8, Pavilions Programme – Project Approval (Cllr Lygo)

1. Para 1.4 – why is there a repairs backlog?

Similar to many local authorities across the country there has been difficulty securing investment into facilities. However this programme not only deals with backlog maintenance, but significantly improves the facilities.

2. Para 1.8 – can you please provide details of the procurement vehicle and process undertaken in appointing Mace?

Mace was appointed following a competitive tendering process using the EU Open procedure. A Bidders Day was held in May 2012 alerting over 30 companies of the project.

3. Para 1.8 – what is the value of the Mace contract?

Circa £290,000

4. Para 2.2 – who manages and operates the South East Business Portal?

The Procurement Team operates the use and access to the Portal on behalf of the Council. The Portal is managed and administered by Improvement & Efficiency South East. This is the Government approved route for advertising and inviting competition.

5. Para 2.2 – how did you establish that this procurement route offers best value for money?

The tender route taken did not preclude any potential bidder from expressing an interest and applying for the contract. In total 17 bidders submitted a tender, several of which were locally based.

6. Para 2.2 – how many suppliers with the appropriate skills/experience for this type of work are registered on the portal, and why would you want to exclude all the other suppliers not registered but who would have similar skills?

The Council has set a clear policy in that all procurements over £5,000 must be advertised via the Portal. With other Local Authorities also taking a similar approach there has been a growth in the number of suppliers registered with the South East Business Portal which is administered by Improvement & Efficiency

South East (IESE). Currently the number of suppliers registered is 41,618; of this 19,619 are registered against the following categories: Building Construction Materials & Services and/or Works (Construction, Repair & Maintenance) which have been used in the tender process for the appointment of the lead contractor for the works element. The Procurement Team would have monitored suppliers who had expressed an interest and alerted others that had not shown any interest as to the opportunity.

7. Para 2.2 – what is the likely value of the work being let through this procurement route?

For the appointment of the Project Management & Design Team the value is £288.5k. The overall budget for the project is between £2.45m and £3m. As per our response to question nine some of the works may be undertaken by the Council's in-house provider.

8. Assuming it is above the OJEU procurement threshold, why would you not want to carry out a fully open procurement?

An Open EU tender process was used for the appointment of Mace and also for the construction element.

9. Para 2.3 – how are you going to evaluate whether the Willmott-Dixon quote offers value for money?

Willmott Dixon was awarded a contract for the construction of the Competition Pool following a rigorous evaluation process in accordance with published evaluation methodology and internal governance arrangements. Having concluded the evaluation process, the Willmott Dixon tender was considered to be the most economically advantageous tender. Contract management arrangements will ensure that the contract continues to represent value for money.

10. Para 2.5 – if these works are not carried out in-house, what procurement route will you take?

Where appropriate, certain works may be undertaken by the Council's in-house provider, Direct Services. For other works it would be the responsibility of the lead contractor to commission once appointed.

11. Para 4 – what will be the capital carbon emissions for this project, analysed by pavilion i.e. the carbon emissions generated during the building work? How and where will these emissions be reported?

We will be monitoring operational carbon rather than specifically monitoring the capital carbon emissions. Additional to this the Considerate Constructors Scheme has a 'protecting the environment' part within its code of practice, which would be important for successful contractors to have in place.

12. Para 5 – which sports are specifically targeted by this programme, and how will the programme assist uptake in each sport by the categories of people identified here (disabled, children, young people, women, girls)?

The main sports that are being targeted include football, rugby, tennis, athletics and cricket. As mentioned within paragraph 5.2, as the programme progresses the sports development team will work with relevant clubs to understand their current situation and also to work with them to ensure that they have a development plan going forward. The development plan will take account of target groups. The improvements to the pavilions will better enable those target groups to use the facilities.

13. If the facilities are not maintained, the capital investment bring proposed will not deliver full value for money. What will the maintenance costs be of each pavilion over the respective anticipated lifetimes? What is the current maintenance spend on pavilions, and how will you ensure that the required additional maintenance spend is achieved given the cut in government grant currently being projected?

We agree that it is extremely important that the improved facilities are maintained going forward and have planned a maintenance budget based on the general formula of Sport England's 25 year cost model. This equates to an annual percentage figure of the estimated total project cost. The sinking fund (major replacement and refurbishment) is 0.3% (2 changing room facility) or 0.5% (4 changing rooms). In addition to this there is also the day to day maintenance budget of 0.6% (2 changing rooms) or 0.8% (4 changing rooms). In total this equates to approximately £53,000 per annum and this is built into budgets.

14. Para 7 – which pavilions will need Planning permission? Have you engaged with local residents in each area to find out if they have any objections to the proposed work, in order to address any issues and avoid unnecessary effort and cost?

Designs have only been produced at this stage of the programme for the phase one projects. However, we will look to continue to work with stakeholders and residents in line with the programme as it evolves.