

AGENDA ITEM NO 7

TITLE: East Cambridgeshire District Leisure Centre Facility Mix

Committee: Commercial Services Committee

Date: 25th November 2015

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[Q119]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To receive feedback on the East Cambridgeshire District Leisure Centre facility mix.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Members confirm the facility mix for the East Cambridgeshire District Leisure Centre, as previously agreed in the RIBA Stage C report (ref Commercial Services Committee 18th June 2015, agenda item 6).

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 During completion of the RIBA Stage C work, two areas were identified as potential optional additions to the facility mix of the new leisure centre. These were a confidence water area (approximately 75m² linked to the learner pool) and stand alone seating for 100 persons. It was agreed that the inclusion of these areas may be considered at the next stage of development. At the meeting of this Committee held on 18th June 2015, Members instructed Officers to have further dialogue with National Governing Bodies and sports clubs on these key areas of feedback.

3.2 In July 2015 Mace was commissioned to undertake a cost critique of the Leisure Centre project to provide an independent, professional view as to potential costs. Inclusion of both of these features was considered as part of this process.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Mace have confirmed that both Sport England and the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA), the English national governing body for swimming, diving, water polo, open water and synchronised swimming, have been consulted regularly throughout development of the Leisure Centre project. Both organisations support the level of spectator seating included in the RIBA Stage C Report (40 seats).

- 4.2 Ely Swimming Club has indicated that it expects the pool to meet the Sport England standard for spectator seating required for an 8-lane competition pool, which is 250 seats.
- 4.3 However, the pool is not intended to serve as a competition pool, but as a community facility. The principle users of the pool will be the general public for health and fitness activity.
- 4.4 The ASA has indicated that the focus of competition swimming in the area is at other locations, most notably Cambridge and that Ely does not require large scale seating to accommodate competitions. Ely is regarded as a venue for a good quality training pool to support community and club activity.
- 4.5 Mace believe that the concept design includes sufficient space pool side for temporary seating to be provided for spectators, should any swimming club galas/competitions be held at the Leisure Centre.
- 4.6 With regard to the confidence water area with beach, as this is considered an enhancement, rather than a requirement, its exclusion from the facility mix is supported by both Sport England and the ASA.
- 4.7 The learner pool will be constructed with a moveable floor which can move from 0mm to 1500mm in depth to provide for a variety of uses.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 Mace estimates that to increase the seating levels to 100-150 would cost approximately £240,000, with a further £160,000 required to increase the seating levels to 250 seats. To include a confidence water area with beach would cost approximately £180,000.
- 5.3 The above figures are exclusive of design fees, inflation and respective increases to the project contingency. Should both options be explored, the total increase in construction cost is approximately £580,000 and a further £100,000 (17%) should be added to include for the above costs.
- 5.4 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

None

Background Documents

Minutes of the Commercial Services Committee meeting held on 18th June 2015.

RIBA Stage C Report – Architectural Report.

Location

Room 12
The Grange,
Ely

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