



MINUTES

Community Focus Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Monday, 22 April 2024
Venue:	Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Vince Settle (Chairman) Councillors Peter Anthony, Julie Brickles, Damian Buckley, Edward Collins, Martin Evans, Joanne Gardner, Gavin Harrison, Paul Hodgson, John Kirkham, Sandra Pitman, Viv Willder.
Other Councillors Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley - Leader of the Council Councillor Richard Redcliffe - Deputy Leader of the Council Councillor Jayne Nixon-Lead Member - Tourism, Leisure and Culture Councillor Peter Collins
Officers Present:	Ian Curtis, Paul Walker, Gemma Broadley, Lyndsey Lacey- Simone
Members of the Public:	1 member of the public attended the meeting.

Acting Vice -Chairman

In the absence of Councillor Frank Andrews, it was proposed and seconded that Councillor John Kirkham act as Vice- Chairman for the purposes of the meeting.

Procedural Items

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members. No interests were declared on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 18 January 2024 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 23 (c):

Councillor Joanne Gardner substituted for Councillor Gail Goodman.

Councillor Sandra Pitman substituted for Councillor Frank Andrews.

Councillor Viv Willder substituted for Councillor Michael Withers.

Scrutiny Items

4. Swimming Provision

Further to the resolution of the Committee on 18 January 2024, Paul Walker (Pools Project Manager) and Gemma Broadley (Head of Corporate Services) were invited by the Chairman to introduce the updated report.

In summary, the report provided an overview of the background to the matter and presented the agreed Disposal Plan for Kirkham Pool and the outputs of the work commissioned by Active Lancashire (April 2024) to consult with key local stakeholders and existing swimming providers. In addition, it included details on the feasibility and costs of making the existing Kirkham Pool fit for purpose/building of a new fit for purpose swimming pool on another site. It also highlighted various considerations (suggested by Active Lancashire) designed to support the Council in its own next steps.

Members were invited to consider the detail contained in the documents with a view to making any recommendations arising from the information in the report to the Executive Committee at its meeting on 25 April 2024.

The feasibility and costings referred to in the report looked at the following four design concepts to support swimming provision:

Option	Estimated cost
Option 1 – Minimum Level Proposal to re-commission existing facilities at Kirkham Pool.	£1,853,163
Option 2 – Refurbishment of existing pool hall area with a new adjoining two storey building to provide modern facilities for the pool with complimentary multifunctional spaces including gym, café and viewing gallery.	£4,450,060
Option 3 – Re-develop the Station Road site to provide a new 4 lane 25m pool with complementary modern facilities including reception area, changing village, multifunctional activity spaces, spectator areas, gymnasium, and café.	£6,627,696
Option 4 - A new 4 lane, 25m pool with multifunctional use based upon Sport England’s design guidance notes on a notional site to be determined/acquired.	£8,531,075

Members were advised that following agreement of the Disposal Plan, a dedicated webpage entitled [Swimming in Fylde](#) had been launched to provide information on the steps being taken to support the Council resolution on swimming. Additionally, and with the permission of the YMCA, it set out how a voluntary or community body can submit an expression of interest in owning and operating Kirkham Pool. It was reported that the webpage also incorporated an in-depth timeline with details of all actions taken to date and would be regularly updated to reflect progress.

The key stages/timelines over the forthcoming few months to enable voluntary and community bodies to submit an Expression of Interest/ Business Plan were detailed in the report. Mr Walker advised that if at any of the stages, there are no expressions of interest or business plans submitted then a report would be prepared to Scrutiny and the Executive Committee to report the outcome.

Councillor Jayne Nixon (Lead Member for Tourism, Leisure and Culture) was invited by the Chairman to comment on the matter. In doing so, she supported the report as presented.

Following the presentation, the Chairman invited questions from members. These related to the following areas: the schools that contributed to the consultation exercise; use of the historic building; Expressions of Interests/business plan; credibility of potential bidders; proceeds from the disposal; broad design concepts; size of the pool/competitive pools; attractive/sustainable swimming provision; anticipated running costs of Kirkham Pool and how the funding will be raised for the suggested capital works; YMCA contract/residual monies; Swimming Pool Support Fund/external funding sources; contracts matter and the use of private operators. Mr Walker and Ms Broadley addressed each point in turn as appropriate.

Following detailed consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED:

1. To note the content of the YMCA (Fylde Coast) Disposal Plan; Fylde Borough Council Swimming Pools Public and Stakeholder Consultation Report (April 2024) produced by Active Lancashire; Kirkham Baths Options Appraisal; Kirkham Baths Feasibility and Option Cost Summary together with the Mechanical & Electrical Services Condition Report and the next steps in delivering the council resolution.
2. To note the four indicative design concepts described in the report for future consideration as part of the evaluation of any Expression of Interests/business plans submitted.
3. To recommend that the Executive Committee incorporate sustainability and value for money as key elements of any future consideration of swimming provision.
4. The Executive Committee consider introducing general guidance for voluntary and community groups relating to the submission of business plans and appoint a group (made up of key lead members and officers) to oversee the process to evaluate any business plans submitted.

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