



## APPENDIX 6

## STAKEHOLDER AND USER FOCUS GROUP

## CONSULTATION ON LEISURE FACILITIES IN THE SOUTH OF THE CITY

18TH MAY 2010

Attendees:		Initials:	Background
Hamera Plume		HP	OCC Consultation Officer
Hagan Lewisman		HL	OCC Development Manager (Leisure & Parks)
Leon Popplewell		LP	Fusion Lifestyle
Carolyn Gulliver		CG	TCP Chair of user group (Swimming)
Giselle Ferguson		G	TCP User (Swimming, Gym and Classes)
Lindsay Powell		LP	COSC Head Coach
Ian Brooks		IB	COSC
Gary Giles		GG	COSC
Chris Freeman		CF	Oxfordshire Sports Partnership
Margaret Stevens		MS	School Sports Partnership
Judith Harley		JH	Old Temple Cowley Residents Association
<b>Abbreviations</b>		OCC – Oxford City Council TCP – Temple Cowley Pools BLP – Blackbird Leys Pool COSC – City of Oxford Swimming Club OSP – Oxfordshire Sports Partnership SSP – School Sports Partnership RA – Residents Association FL – Fusion Lifestyle USER – TCP User	
Item no:	Item Discussion:		Raised by
1	<b>Setting the scene</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HP confirmed that her role was impartial and was there to ensure that the process is fair, transparent and gave everyone who wanted to input into the consultation process the opportunity to do so.</li> <li>The consultation in this session would help shape the questionnaire and consultation process.</li> <li>Consultation with key stakeholders had been underway for approximately 18 months.</li> <li>The Consultation process would consist of focus groups, on-line / paper questionnaires and an open session at both TCP and BLP. This would be completed by the beginning of July to feed into</li> </ul> <b>Why are the Council looking at the future of Temple Cowley Pools and Blackbird Leys Pool?</b>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OCC highlighted that there is a very difficult economic climate at the moment, with an upcoming national emergency budget. It is important to ensure that the leisure facilities are sustainable and present good value for money.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key headlines on TCP and BLP included</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both TCP and BLP are towards the end of their operational lives and doing nothing will most likely result in closure within 3 years.</li> <li>There is a significant maintenance backlog at both TCP &amp; BLP and even with the completion of these works it would present minimal visual benefit to the customer</li> <li>There are accessibility issues</li> <li>Under usage at both sites</li> <li>The designs of both buildings although satisfactory when built, are no longer fit for purpose to match modern day needs and customer expectations.</li> <li>The facilities are expensive to run in comparison to modern day facilities.</li> <li>There is a very high carbon footprint with TCP responsible for 10% of the total Council carbon footprint.</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the options being looked at?</b> The main options that are being looked at are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-furbish TCP to an acceptable standard</li> <li>Re-build TCP on the same site</li> <li>Build a new competition standard pool adjoined to the leisure centre in Blackbird Leys.</li> <li>Close both TCP and BLP.</li> <li>The cost of doing nothing</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OCC is also currently undertaking feasibility work on the various options to further understand the cost and benefits of each option.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>What are the feelings about the options?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The general feeling within the group was that it was not an acceptable option to shut both facilities and that the Council should do something. But recognized that we need to ensure that what ever option was chosen was value for money and sustainable.</li> <li>There was a question mark on whether all TCP users would go to another facility. However, other individuals within the group suggested that they would go to another site.</li> <li>Re-building or refurbishing TCP with a lengthy closure would most likely lead to the swimming club folding as it would be unlikely to be able to train effectively or hold necessary competitions.</li> <li>Barton Pool is under used, would a new facility elsewhere be underused? – <i>OCC highlighted that facilities do much better with a good mix of facilities such as swimming pool, gym, dance studio etc, rather than stand alone facilities. A gym is being developed at Barton which is forecast to rectify the usage issue. FL have also projected that a new facility at BL would be successful.</i></li> <li>The users would be interested in a small community pool provision within the TCP area. This option would not suit the COSC, unless there was an 8 lan pool elsewhere.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>RA/USER/COSC</b></p> <p><b>COSC</b></p> <p><b>RA/OCC</b></p> <p><b>USERS/COSC</b></p>

<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Current quality of the Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consensus was that TCP was ‘worn out’ and ‘antiquated’.</li> <li>• The gym and gym equipment was very good</li> <li>• The Oxon and North Bucks County championships will not use TCP and will even use a six lane pool in Milton Keynes if necessary in preference, due to the poor state of the facility.</li> <li>• Most of the group drove to TCP and parking is a major issue</li> </ul> <p>Ratings (out of 10)                      Gym – 8/9                      Pool – 3 / 4                      Changing facilities 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was felt that the questionnaire should have a section on the quality of the current facilities and what facilities you use.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ALL USER COSC</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Options for the future</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspiration for swimming club would be a 50 metre pool and warm down pool, however there is an expectation of an 8 lane 25m pool facility with spectator seating.</li> <li>• Parking should be larger than what is currently at TCP and relative to the size of the facility.</li> <li>• A separate fun water area.</li> <li>• Links to transport plan / cycling</li> <li>• Guildford is a good example of a site</li> <li>• There should be a café, where you could hold ‘breakfast clubs etc.</li> <li>• Must be DDA compliant</li> <li>• Was there an option for building at a school in the area? – <i>OCC schools have been involved and no current plans for this.</i></li> <li>• It was important that what ever option was agreed, there was a pool and a gym as a minimum.</li> <li>• Would be useful to keep within the ring road.</li> <li>• Refurbing or rebuilding TCP would mean it is likely that the COSC would fold, with the loss of approximately 300 members.</li> <li>• Is there an option to look at free transport from TCP to a new facility at Blackbird Leys?</li> <li>• Raise funds for any option</li> </ul>	<p><b>COSC</b></p> <p><b>COSC / SSP</b></p> <p><b>COSC OSP COSC / OSP ALL ALL RA / OCC</b></p> <p><b>USER</b></p> <p><b>RA COSC</b></p> <p><b>COSC</b></p> <p><b>USER</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Other additions to questionnaire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important that high level costs are shown</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Going forward</b></p>	