

## SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017

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WARD(S): All

### PART I FOR DECISION

#### PETITION: SALT HILL LEISURE FACILITY – TEN PIN BOWLING

##### 1 Purpose of Report

To advise the Council of a Petition that has been received under the Council's Petitions Scheme. The Petition contains 1518 names of people who live, work or study in the area and reads as follows:

##### **“Keep Absolutely Ten Pin Open**

Slough Borough Council have asked Absolutely Leisure to remove all of their equipment from Absolutely Ten Pin when the contract on the building ends in May 2017. This will deprive the community of a fantastic venue and will force Absolutely Ten Pin to relocate outside Slough. As a charity, Absolutely Leisure reinvests any profits into developing new venues for the community, improving existing facilities and discounting use of our products for schools, charities and disabled groups. Last year alone Absolutely Ten Pin gave over £25,000 worth of discounted and free use to these groups. The removal of Absolutely Ten Pin from Slough will leave these groups with no venue to go to. During October half term Absolutely Ten Pin welcomed a record breaking 6,600 bowlers, mostly families, and welcomed over 2000 children into our newly-extended soft play area. Both of these facilities will be lost if Slough Borough Council go ahead with their plans to remove Absolutely Ten Pin next year and will leave local families with nowhere to go for their entertainment.

Please sign the petition to encourage Slough Borough Council and their leader Cllr Sohail Munawar change their mind and keep Absolutely Ten Pin serving the community as it has for the past six years.”

##### 2. Recommendation

Following debate, the Council is requested to resolve what action it wishes to take with regard to the Petition.

##### 3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

##### 3a Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

All the actions within the Leisure Strategy will contribute towards achieving the overarching vision of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy and will make significant contributions specifically to the health, wellbeing and safer Slough themes.

- **Health and Wellbeing.** Cabinet in July 2014 approved a strategy for leisure, with the overarching aim to “enhance the health and wellbeing of Slough

residents by ensuring leisure activity is adopted as a habit for life for all – more people, more active, more often”. The causal link between physical activity and overall health indicators is clear, particularly for obesity and heart disease, which are high priorities for Slough.

- **Safer Slough.** The opportunity to participate in shared leisure activities makes a positive contribution to community cohesion and interaction for all members of the varied and diverse community in Slough.
- **Regeneration and environment.** Leisure facilities contribute to the quality of the environment of the town. They provide opportunities to regenerate specific sites and local communities.

#### **Cross-Cutting themes:**

Good leisure facilities can improve the image of the town, making Slough a destination for sport and physical activity for local residents who will take a pride in the promotion of their use.

The leisure strategy and improved leisure facilities contribute towards addressing key priorities as set out in the JSNA including childhood obesity, positive activities for young people and cardio vascular disease.

### 3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

- Slough will be the premier location in the south east for businesses of all sizes to locate, start, grow, and stay – good quality, accessible leisure facilities are attractive to employers to ensure a healthy workforce which is imperative for a businesses success.
- There will be more homes in the borough, with quality improving across all tenures to support our ambition for Slough – the future development of leisure facilities on chosen sites in the town will compliment planned housing developments and assist the organisational aim of maximising the value of assets.
- Slough will be one of the safest places in the Thames Valley – leisure activity can be used as a diversionary activity for young people who could be at risk of anti-social behaviour.
- More people will take responsibility and manage their own health, care and support needs – accessible leisure opportunities in the right location will enhance the health and wellbeing of all individuals living in Slough.
- Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances – improved leisure facilities will provide children and young people with wider opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity which results in greater physical and mental wellbeing. The proximity of the proposed new facilities to educational establishments will maximise use and allow the Council to realise corporate aims.
- The Council’s income and the value of its assets will be maximised through capital development and improvements to its leisure

### 4. **Other Implications**

#### (a) Financial

Cabinet have agreed to fund the proposed improvements to the Salt Hill leisure facility, which includes ten pin and soft play facilities.

(b) Risk Management

There are no reported risks associated with this report.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken in respect to the proposed development of Salt Hill leisure facility.

5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 Under the Council's published Petitions Scheme a Petition that contains 1500 signatures triggers a debate at Council.

**Debate**

- 5.2 The Petition Organiser has been invited to the meeting to speak on the Petition (up to five minutes) and the Petition will then be discussed by Members of the Council for a maximum of 15 minutes. The Mayor has discretion to extend this time taking account of the degree of public interest in the issue, the level of support given to the petition and the number of elected members wishing to express their views on the subject.
- 5.3 Following this discussion the Council will need to decide what action to take with regard to the Petition. Where the issue is one on which the Cabinet is required to make the final decision the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.
- 5.4 The Scheme indicates that the Council's response to a Petition will depend on what a petition asks for and how many people have signed it but may include one or more of the following;
- Taking the action requested in the Petition
  - considering the Petition at a Council Meeting
  - Holding an Inquiry
  - Commissioning relevant research
  - Organising a public meeting
  - Mounting a wider public consultation
  - Meeting with the Petition Organiser or representatives of signatories
  - Providing a written response outlining the Council's views on the subject
  - Referring the issue to the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee **OR**
  - Referring the issue to the relevant Committee/Cabinet
  - Consulting statutory partners and local service providers
  - Instigating discussions with the voluntary and community sectors
  - Making representations to Commercial or other Interests

## **Background**

- 5.5 On the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 Cabinet agreed to plans for the refurbishment of the leisure facility in Salt Hill Park, which includes provision for ten pin bowling and a large soft play facility, along with other activities, which contribute to tackling the inactivity and childhood obesity issues prevalent in the town.
- 5.6 On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 Absolutely Ten Pin, located in the council owned leisure facility in Salt Hill Park, will be handed back to the council as an empty shell and unable to be used immediately for leisure purposes.
- 5.7 Slough Community Leisure (SCL) have frequently asserted their right to ownership of and their intention to relocate their ten pin equipment to a new location in the event that the Council did not wish to acquire this from SCL and in response to this the Director, Community & Customer Services wrote to SCL confirming their right to the removal of their assets by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. This was also agreed in a formal agreement signed between the Council and SCL and recorded in a consent order approved by Slough County Court
- 5.7 Slough Borough Council believes that the petition in question is misleading in that it claims that the both ten pin and soft play will be permanently closed, when SCL's contract ends in May. Facilities for both the activities mentioned in the petition will be re-provided in the refurbished family activity centre.
- 5.8 Public consultation on the refurbishment proposals, held prior to the Cabinet meeting in November 2016 indicated over-whelming support for the scheme, particularly from young people and parents in the borough.
- 5.9 Comments of Other Committees

Cabinet at its meeting on 19 December 2016 considered the future use of and provision of leisure facilities at Salt Hill Park, as outlined in Paragraph 5.5 above.

## 6. **Conclusion**

Members are requested to consider what action to take with regard to the petition.

## 7. **Background Papers**

Petition