

## **Extract of the notes of the Informal Meeting of the Place and Resources Overview Committee held on 10 February 2022**

### **QE Leisure Centre Future Management**

The committee considered a report of the Service Manager for Leisure Services with regard to the future management arrangements for the QE Leisure Centre.

Councillors considered the issues arising from the report and discussion was held in the following areas:

- The aim was for the council to support the trustees of the Queen Elizabeth School to continue to run the centre and provide facilities for the community and local clubs and organisations
- The need to provide equitable support and opportunities for all leisure facilities across the Dorset Council area was highlighted
- The importance of the centre to the local area was recognised
- An overview of the work undertaken to date and committee involvement was provided
- An overview of the support to be provided by the council during a transitional period was noted – the 2-year transition period would provide the time to explore opportunities with the school
- The council would continue to support the leisure centre during this period, which would include capital works
- Decisions on how the centre would be operated were for the school to make, but the council was committed to working to support the school during the transition phase.

It was proposed by S Jespersen seconded by V Potheary

### **Recommendation to Cabinet**

1. That the Executive Director of Place is instructed to write to Queen Elizabeth School Foundation Trustees to give formal notice to withdraw from the dual use management agreement on the 31.3.24.
2. That officers continue to engage with the school during this transitional period and work with them to approach the Education and Skills Funding Agency to apply for exceptional circumstances funding in recognition of the change in contractual arrangements.
3. That officers work alongside Queen Elizabeth School in identifying ways to maximise the availability of leisure facilities for school and community use and provide advice to any displaced users who may need assistance in identifying opportunities to maintain their activity levels.
4. That a bid for one off capital funding (up to a max of £150,000) should be included in Dorset Councils 2023/24 capital budget process. If successful, this funding would be Dorset Council's contribution towards the replacement of the All-Weather Pitch.

M Roe indicated that she was not in support of the recommendation above.

The Executive Director of Place, having heard the debate, confirmed the 'minded to' recommendation to Cabinet, under delegated powers on behalf of the informal meeting of the Place and Resources Overview Committee.