



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE LEADER

TOPIC – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BAR END FORUM

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Antonia Perkins, 01962 848 314, aperkins@winchester.gov.uk

Democratic Services Officer: Nancy Graham, 01962 848 235, ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

In order to support the development of the formal business case to provide a new leisure centre for Winchester at Bar End, the Leader proposed a Bar End Forum be established. The Forum will be a consultative body with a focus on keeping an overview of masterplanning activity in the Bar End area and public engagement in the project and provide an opportunity for the public discussion of issues affecting residents local to the proposed leisure centre site

DECISION

That the establishment of a Bar End Forum, linked to the Replacement Leisure Centre Project be approved, and the terms of reference and attendance set out at Appendix 1 to the Decision Notice be approved.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The Forum will provide a formalised route for continuing engagement with representatives of residents in Highcliffe/Bar End and represents ongoing commitment to working with interest groups in the neighbouring area to address local issues of concern.

Consultation on the development of a replacement leisure centre will continue to be held with all interested parties; however, the Forum will provide an opportunity for issues specific to the location of the leisure centre to be raised and explored on an ongoing basis.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Officer time will be required to prepare papers for the Forum and to attend to provide advice for its members and respond to any queries arising at these meetings. As the Forum will be held in public and fully minuted, resources from the Democratic Services Team will be required to support meetings. It is anticipated that these commitments can be met by using existing officer and other resources.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

The creation of the Bar End Forum was announced at Cabinet and Council in July, and will formalise ongoing meetings that officers have held with representatives of residents groups at the latter's request.

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

Representations were made by a number of Members about widening the membership of the Bar End Forum to include bodies such as:

- local churches,
- local basics banks,
- the primary school
- Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight
- Winchester Sport and Leisure Trust
- Pinder Trust
- University of Winchester

It was considered that the focus of this Forum's membership should be on the residents who live in the area, however it will be a public meeting and other bodies will be welcomed to attend and speak at the invitation of the Chair. Partners in the project including the University of Winchester and Hampshire County Council will

attend the Forum alongside City Council officers to update the Forum on progress with the project and to answer questions.

The terms of reference have also been altered to remove the reference to a facility 'to the east of Bar End'.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

N/A

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

N/A

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 02.09.16

Councillor Stephen Godfrey – Leader

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 - Bar End Forum Terms of Reference

Bar End Forum

Terms of Reference

The City Council River Park Leisure Centre is now more than 40 years old and its ability to meet the needs of a growing population in Winchester is limited. The City Council has looked at various options for replacing or refurbishing it and has decided that its preferred way forward is to build a new facility ~~to the east of the Bar End Stadium~~ in partnership with the University of Winchester, Hampshire County Council and others.

The Bar End Forum will provide a platform for engagement between Ward Members, local groups, representatives of local residents associations and other stakeholders. It will provide an opportunity to discuss issues of interest and concern to members of the forum in relation to the impact of the proposed development as they arise and to provide an effective advisory role prior to decisions being made. These would include:

- The use and allocation of public land in and around Bar End, including the old depot site, King George V Sports Field, the Garrison Ground, the sports stadium and the public land around Chilcomb Lane
- The design, layout and siting of buildings and other facilities
- Transport, parking and access issues particularly as they affect local residents
- The operational relationship between users of the site
- The impact of proposals for Bar End on existing residents and community activities
- How long term benefits for local residents can be achieved

The Forum may express views on matters which it considers important or on which it is consulted for consideration by decision makers. Minutes of all meetings are to be made and reviewed by Cabinet, so that recommendations can be responded to promptly.

The Forum may comment on matters which will inform a planning application but is not an alternative to any part of the planning process and to avoid confusion the Forum will not meet once a planning application has been submitted and until it is determined.

Membership

The Bar End Forum shall consist of the following standing members:

- St Michael's Ward City Councillors (Cllr Guy Ashton to chair)
- Eastgate Division County Councillor
- Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing
- Chair of Winchester Town Forum or appointee
- A representative from the Highcliffe Community Forum for Action who shall be resident in the ward

- A representative from the St Giles Hill Residents Association who shall be resident in the ward
- A representatives from the Highcliffe Allotments Association who shall be resident in the ward

All representatives are expected to seek to reach conclusions by general consensus. Where the Forum requires a formal vote to be taken, this shall be on a show of hands by those present from the membership as set out above.

Public Participation Procedure

General

1. There will be a period of 10 minutes maximum at the beginning of each Forum meeting when the Chairman will invite the public to raise any general matters of interest and/or matters relating to the work of the Forum. Detailed matters related to agenda items will not be accepted at this point, as there will be an opportunity for these comments to be heard later in the meeting. As is the usual practice for general public participation, however, officers and Members may not be able to immediately respond at the meeting to points raised by the public where these relate to non-agenda items.

Consideration of Individual Agenda Items

2. After an officer has introduced an agenda item, the Chairman will invite public participation on matters relating to that agenda item. At this point, a period of up to ten minutes (subject to extension at the Chairman's discretion) will be allowed for public comments. During this period, members of the public, including local interest groups, will be able to object, support or ask questions directly relating to the agenda item and contents of the officer report.

3. An individual speaker will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per agenda item. Where a number of members of the public wish to speak, they will be encouraged to agree the allocation of the maximum ten minute period for public participation. The Democratic Services Officer will assist in this process before the start of the meeting. The Chairman will retain a general discretion to manage the public speaking process, and may limit individual speakers to less than three minutes, or take other steps necessary in order to maximise public participation in an appropriate way. The extension of the total 10 minutes limit allowed for the public to discuss an agenda item will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

4. There will be no further opportunity for the public to comment on an agenda item once the period of public participation has ended, even if the prescribed period has not

been reached. The subsequent discussion, consideration and decision on the matter will then passed to Forum Members.

5. Members and Officers will not provide an immediate response to public comments raised from the floor. All comments and queries will be noted and the Chairman will invite Officers and/or Members to respond to specific points during the round table debate and discussion amongst Forum members that follows.

6. Members of the public should wherever possible contact the Democratic Services Officer before the start of the meeting (preferably by telephone or email prior to the day of the meeting), so that as many people who wish to speak can be accommodated during the public participation sessions.

Forum Debate and Vote

7. The Chairman will subsequently invite questions and open the discussion and debate to all Members of the Forum and will invite officers and/or Members to respond to any public comments raised from the floor. Where appropriate, a vote will be taken to reach a formal recommendation on the agenda item.