

15 December 2009

### **£50 MILLION VISION TO PUT DERBY ON THE SPORTING MAP**

A multi purpose national cycling velodrome is the centrepiece of a report detailing a £50 million overhaul of Derby's leisure facilities to be presented to Council Cabinet in January 2010. It follows an independent study to assess the adequacy of Derby's existing leisure facilities and to make recommendations about their future.

A final report has been submitted to the Council which detailed that the City's current leisure amenities are outdated and are no longer capable of meeting the modern demands and expectations of Derby's 240,000 strong population. The report also details an exciting proposal to put Derby on the map as one of the most active cities in the UK.

The report by PMP/genesis consultants took into account the opportunities and impact of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the England 2018 World Cup bid. As well as the strategic priorities the Council has committed to regarding improving health, tackling health inequalities and obesity plus helping to build social cohesion within our communities.

The proposals being considered include two leisure hubs. One outdoor hub to include an impressive 250m indoor cycling velodrome with 10 to 12 court sports hall which could also be used as a 3-4,000 seat concert venue and a 2km closed outdoor road cycling circuit and new athletics track. A second, indoor hub would include a new 50 metre Pool (which divides into 2 x 25 metre pools for flexibility) to allow a wide range of uses including competitive swimming at regional level and a leisure water facility.

There are also plans for four Satellite centres to be located within in the north, south, east and west of the city and will provide both 'wet' and 'dry' (Wet means swimming pool, dry means sports halls, gym, dance studios) facilities for local people . The strategy also aims to include school sports facilities for community use.

Locations for the new services have not yet been decided and will be subject to local, public consultation, but the new provision will attract local, county and regional customers and would therefore benefit from being centrally located and close to major public transport destinations.

Approximately £40m of this cost is for the two hub facilities and £6 - £10m for the satellite facilities. There are likely to be further costs depending on the cost of land needed to accommodate some of these facilities. Most of the cost will be met from long term borrowing in addition to external funding.

Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture Services Councillor Joe Naitta said: "The proposals are very exciting and present an opportunity to put Derby 'on the sporting map'. The new development aims to provide a wide range of facilities for various sports from athletics to fitness provision through to cycling and swimming. This should create local, regional and national interest in Derby as a leisure and sporting destination. The proposed new facilities will help to develop the city's vital network of voluntary sports clubs, and encourage active people of all ages and skill levels."

Anne Rippon, Regional Strategic Lead for Sport England said: We welcome the proposals being considered by Derby City Council. This would represent a significant step change for sport and sports provision in the city, enhancing facilities for residents, sports clubs and regional and national sports organisations.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

### **Next step -**

Council Cabinet will meet in January 2010 and subject to their approval will be presented to full Council in March 2010. If approved a further detailed study will be undertaken to identify possible locations and seek the views of local people about the plans. Delivery of this hub and spoke model will clearly need to be phased over a period of time with priority be given to developing the two hub facilities.

### **Why cycling, swimming and athletics?**

These are all high profile sports that without the support of the local authority could not develop.

Cycling is a growing sport with increasing numbers of people participating, in response to the recent success of the national team at the Olympics and World Championships. Derby is a cycling demonstration town and has an existing strong commitment to cycling through Cycle Derby. There is currently no significant cycling facility in the Midlands/Central England area and such a facility in Derby would attract regional and national interest, bringing the highest level of competition to the city.

Swimming is the most popular participation sport in the country. There is a reliance almost entirely on local authority provision for public swimming, learning to swim, and facilities for all aquatic clubs to grow and develop. Over 17,000 over 60s and under 17s have signed up to the free swimming initiative at our existing swimming pools which has highlighted the need for more water space to cope with the demand.

Derby has a strong athletics club structure through Derby Athletics club and we want to work the athletics club to develop the track, the club and athletics in the city.

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