

MAYOR AND CABINET		
Report Title	Matter referred by the Healthier Communities Select Committee – Provision of Hydrotherapy facilities in Lewisham	
Key Decision	No	Item No. 15
Ward	All	
Contributors	Healthier Communities Select Committee	
Class	Open	Date: April 18 2007

1 Summary

This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee on their review of Equalities Impact Assessments of the Sundermead and Wavelengths Leisure Centres, which led to the Select Committee raising concerns regarding the provision of hydrotherapy facilities for Lewisham residents.

2 Purpose of the Report

To inform the Mayor of the views and comments of the Healthier Communities Select Committee from their consideration of the Equalities Impact Assessments of the Sundermead and Wavelengths Leisure Centres, which led to the Select Committee raising concerns regarding the provision of hydrotherapy facilities for Lewisham residents.

3 Recommendations

The Mayor is recommended to:

- (i) note the views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee as set out in section 4 as below
- (ii) agree that the Executive Directors for Community Services and Children and Young People be asked to advise accordingly in relation to responding to the issues as indicated below.

4. Healthier Communities Select Committee Views

- 4.1 The Healthier Communities Select Committee wish to recommend that:

- i. The Mayor acknowledges and responds to the select committee's concern regarding lack of hydrotherapy facilities in Lewisham and that some individuals and local community groups consider the temperature of swimming pools in the borough to be a barrier to participation.
- ii. The Mayor be asked to explore opportunities for hydrotherapy provision in Lewisham, in particular to extending the opening times of the hydro-pool at Watergate School to be accessible to the public outside of term-time to increase hydro-pool facilities available locally to Lewisham residents.

Scope of the Select Committee considerations

- 4.2 At the Healthier Communities Select Committee meeting on 8 June 2006 the select committee set out their work programme for the year ahead which included consideration of the Equalities Impact Assessments of Sundermead and Wavelengths, as well as regular updates on future plans for University Hospital Lewisham. The Committee agreed to review and comment on issues concerning the EIA of Sundermead and Wavelengths at its meeting on 3 October.
- 4.3 In addition, it had been brought to the attention of the Select Committee that the future of the hydro-pool at University Hospital Lewisham is uncertain. Lewisham Hospital Trust is considering proposals to sell off land north of the hospital site, which would include the physiotherapy block and hydro-pool, in order to help to achieve financial balance and following the move to the new Riverside Building.
- 4.4 The Select Committee decided to refer the matter of the provision of hydrotherapy pools in Lewisham to the Mayor and Cabinet following concerns expressed by residents and local care groups regarding the lack of provision of hydrotherapy facilities locally and that groups, such as the Lewisham Churches Carers, were travelling to Etham Baths and previously to Peckham Pulse to access hydrotherapy facilities.
- 4.5 The Select Committee were informed that an agreement was made with Watergate School in Bellingham that allowed members of the Campaign for Independent Living (CILL) access to the school's Hydro-pool. The sessions are structured around non-school use time and only in term time.

5. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report, however subsequent financial implications arising from the recommendations of the

select committee will be reported in the response of the relevant Executive Director(s) to Mayor and Cabinet.

6. Legal Implications

The Constitution provides for the Select Committees to report to the Mayor and Cabinet and for the Executive to consider the report within one month of receiving it.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Eleanor Rees, Policy and Research Officer, extension 49534 or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business and Committee, extension 49327.