



**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Parks and Leisure Committee</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Minute of the Meeting on 10th January Regarding Avoniel Swimming Pool</b>
<b>Date:</b>	14th February, 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext 6314)

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	At the Committee's meeting on 10th January, a report was presented giving an overview of the work which was ongoing to address a problem with a leak at the Swimming Pool which had necessitated its closure.
1.2	During the debate on the issue, a proposal was made and seconded to the effect that the works which were required to be undertaken in respect of the pool be completed by the end of the financial year, since local representatives were getting criticism as the pool had been closed since August
1.3	The Director cautioned the Committee that the proposal would, perhaps, be unfeasible as the extent of the work and cost had yet to be determined and therefore it was unreasonable to assume in the absence of this information that required works could be completed within this timeframe. He suggested that, perhaps, it would be better if the Members were to undertake a site visit to see the problem at first hand.
1.4	The Members thought that this was a reasonable point and it was agreed that the site visit be undertaken <b>without delay</b> . It was agreed also that the Members from the Victoria and Pottinger District Electoral Areas be invited to attend. Accordingly, the site visit took place on 24 <sup>th</sup> January at 12:30 pm.
1.5	A report was subsequently presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 25th January, and it was agreed to endorse a proposal to set aside the usual requirement to invite tenders for the necessary remedial works at the Swimming Pool and to instead invite quotations for the works. This decision was taken to ensure that the works were undertaken as quickly as possible.

1.6	The decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee was ratified by the Council at its meeting on 4th February.
-----	--

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	At the Council meeting on 4th February, when the minutes of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 10th January were being discussed, Alderman Rodgers queried the accuracy of the minute in relation to the Avoniel Swimming Pool in so far as he felt that a proposal which had been properly seconded that the remedial works to the pool should be completed by the end of the financial year had been put to the meeting and agreed but that the minute did not record that fact.
2.2	As indicated above, the Committee did not agree to this course of action. The proposal was correctly made and seconded but, following information provided by the Director, the Committee agreed to instead undertake a site visit so that the extent of the problem might be seen at first hand. The proposal was not therefore put to the meeting for endorsement nor was a vote thereon taken.
2.3	It is worth explaining that during debate on a matter before a Committee any number of suggestions can be made. Some of these may get as far as being put as proposals by a Member and some may even receive a seconder. However, it must be understood that the mere making and seconding of a proposal does not mean that it has been agreed by the Committee. Agreement is only reached if the Chairman asks the Committee if it agrees with a properly seconded proposal and the Committee clearly enunciates its approval or if the matter is put to a vote and receives the approval of a majority of Members present and voting.
2.4	In the circumstances of this particular issue, it is clear that agreement on the proposal was not given by the Committee.
2.5	As it turns out, the decision to proceed without delay with remedial works to the Swimming Pool was taken by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 25th January and ratified by the Council on 4th February so there has been no delay whatsoever in commencing the process to have the remedial works undertaken.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	None.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	None.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	The Committee is requested to note the information.