

**To: The Deputy Leader and Members of the Community and Environment Board**

**(Councillors Bell, Fowler, Hobley, Jarvis, Jenns, Melia, H Phillips, O Phillips, Ririe, Singh, Smith, S Watson, Whapples and A Wright)**

**For the information of all Members of the Council**

For general enquiries please contact Democratic Services on 01827 719226 or via e-mail

[democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk).

For enquiries about specific reports please contact the officer named in the reports.

The agenda and reports are available in large print and electronic accessible formats if requested.

## **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD AGENDA**

**29 SEPTEMBER 2025**

The Community and Environment Board will meet in The Chamber, The Council House, South Street, Atherstone on Monday 29 September 2025 at 6:30pm.

The day after the meeting a recording will be available to be viewed on the Council's YouTube channel at [NorthWarks - YouTube](#).

### **AGENDA**

- 1 Evacuation Procedure.**
- 2 Apologies for Absence / Members away on official Council business.**
- 3 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests.**

#### 4 **Public Participation**

Up to twenty minutes will be set aside for members of the public to put questions to elected Members.

Members of the public wishing to address the Board must register their intention to do so by 9:30am two working days prior to the meeting. Participants are restricted to five minutes each.

If you wish to put a question to the meeting, please register by email to [democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk) or telephone 01827 719226 / 01827 719237 / 01827 719221.

Once registered to speak, the person asking the question has the option to either:

- a) attend the meeting in person at the Council Chamber.
- b) attend remotely via Teams; or
- c) request that the Chair reads out their written question.

The Council Chamber has level access via a lift to assist those with limited mobility who attend in person however, it may be more convenient to attend remotely.

If attending remotely an invitation will be sent to join the Teams video conferencing for this meeting. Those registered to speak should dial the telephone number and ID number (provided on their invitation) when joining the meeting to ask their question. However, whilst waiting they will be able to hear what is being said at the meeting.

#### 5 **Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 20 August 2025** – copies herewith, to be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **PUBLIC BUSINESS (WHITE PAPERS)**

#### 6 **Pool Profiles in the new Atherstone Leisure Centre** - Report of the Interim Corporate Director – Streetscape

In November 2024, Members instructed officers to proceed with the design, planning and procurement of a new leisure facility at Atherstone, to replace the existing facility and the Memorial Hall.

At the C&E Board meeting of the 20 August 2025, Members confirmed the RIBA stage 2 (Concept Design) for the replacement leisure centre. However, at that meeting, Members asked officers to provide further options regarding the depth of the main and learner pools and the inclusion of a splash pad.

This report provides the further information and options requested by the C&E Board for consideration by Members.

The Contact Officer for this report is Mike Dix (719314).

**7 Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**To consider, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, whether it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.**

**8 Exempt Extract of the minutes of the Community and Environment Board held on 20 August 2025 – copy herewith to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

STEVE MAXEY  
Chief Executive

**NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD**

**20 August 2025**

Present: Councillor Bell in the Chair.

Councillors Davey, Fowler, Hobley, Jackson, Jenns, H Phillips, Ridley, Smith, Singh, S Watson, Whapples and A Wright.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jarvis (Substitute Councillor Davey) Melia (Substitute Councillor Ridley) Ririe (Substitute Councillor Jackson) and O Phillips.

**15 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

**16 Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 4 June 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2025, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**17 Implementation of Residents app**

The Head of Corporate Services provided members with an update regarding the implementation of a Residents app.

**Resolved**

**a That the report be noted; and**

**b That a Members Working Group on Simpler Recycling (Waste Collection) be formed.**

**18 Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Working Party**

The minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Working Party held on 23 June 2025, copies having been previously circulated, were noted.

**19 Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act, namely it is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.**

20 **Leisure Project**

The Interim Corporate Director – Streetscape outlined a report regarding the Leisure Project

**Resolved**

**That the recommendations, as set out in the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Streetscape, be approved.**

21 **Leisure Operator Pre-Market Engagement Responses**

The Interim Corporate Director – Streetscape outlined a report on Pre-Market Engagement Responses.

**Resolved**

**That the contents of the report be noted.**

22 **Confidential Extract of the minutes of the Community and Environment Board held on 4 June 2025.**

The confidential minutes of the Community and Environment Board held on 4 June 2025, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Margaret Bell  
Chair

**Agenda Item No 6**

**Community & Environment Board**

**29 September 2025**

**Report of the Interim Corporate Director-  
Streetscape**

**Pool Profiles in the new  
Atherstone Leisure Centre**

**1 Summary**

- 1.1 In November 2024, Members instructed officers to proceed with the design, planning and procurement of a new leisure facility at Atherstone, to replace the existing facility and the Memorial Hall.
- 1.2 At the C&E Board meeting of the 20 August 2025, Members confirmed the RIBA stage 2 (Concept Design) for the replacement leisure centre. However, at that meeting, Members asked officers to provide further options regarding the depth of the main and learner pools and the inclusion of a splash pad.
- 1.3 This report provides the further information and options requested by the C&E Board for consideration by Members.

**Recommendation to the Board**

**That Members:**

- a Consider the information provided in respect of the pool profiles as presented within the report and agree the pool depths as below:**
  - i) Main pool: 1m-1.8m**
  - ii) Learner pool: 0.9m–1.2m;**
- b Consider the Inclusion of a 35sq m slash pad to meet the needs of the local community; and**
- c To delegate the final decision on the detailed design of the preferred pool options to the Interim Corporate Director Streetscape, in consultation with The Chair of Community Environment Board, and the Corporate Director of Resources (Section 151).**

## **2 Consultation**

- 2.1 Councillors on the Leisure Working Group have been presented with the options as set out within this report, and any comments received will be reported verbally at the meeting.

## **3 Pool provision in the new Atherstone Leisure Centre**

- 3.1 Learning to swim is a life skill and once learned can support people of all ages in participating in low impact activity which improves health and wellbeing outcomes. However, whilst it is compulsory for schools to provide swimming lessons at Key Stage 2 (7–11-year-olds), only 70% of children can swim competently at age 11. Recent research also shows that one in three adults cannot swim, and others lack the confidence to enter the water.
- 3.2 Members have been clear that the new Atherstone Leisure Centre should have sufficient water space to develop water confidence at an early age, deliver learn to swim lessons, meet community need, deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes, be affordable to build, and generate sufficient income to reduce the current operating subsidy of the Leisure service.
- 3.3 Swimming pools are expensive to build and run and typically operate at a revenue loss. Consequently, whilst community need is a key driver in the provision of swimming facilities, there is also an imperative to optimise income. Swimming lessons and aquatic exercise classes are key components of revenue generation.
- 3.4 Consequently, it is desirable to have a balanced pool programme designed to meet community need over time and optimise income generation. This requires sufficient flexibility within the main and learner pools to accommodate a range of activities such as toddler water confidence, school swimming at key stage 2, development of swimming competence for children and adults, lane swimming and aquatic exercise classes. Members have also expressed that they would prefer that life-saving practice could also be accommodated.
- 3.5 Striking a balance of activities and flexibility in the pool programme is dependent on the range of facilities and pool depths. Swimming pool profiles in new leisure centres are generally derived from Sport England recommendations which vary according to the types of activity that are to be included in the pool programme.
- 3.6 The Atkins Realis Design Team has prepared a summary of pool profile options in the main and learner pools and the type of activity that can theoretically be accommodated according to Sport England Guidance. This is shown in

... **Appendix A.** It should be noted that the actual activities that can be accommodated are determined on a risk assessed basis by the operator. Consequently, there may be some variance between the Sport England recommendations and the actual pool programme which can be delivered.

3.7 To meet Members aspirations, there are a number of activities that should be included within the new leisure centre, these are:

- Providing water confidence for young children
- Providing swim lessons for children as part of the school curriculum
- Providing learn-to-swim lessons for children (outside of the school, curriculum) to develop water competence
- Provide adult learn to swim lessons
- Provide space and time for aqua-exercise classes
- Provide sufficient lane swimming opportunities for competent swimmers
- Provide opportunities for fun activities to develop water confidence and competence such as inflatable sessions
- Enabling the development of life-saving skills

3.8 Accommodation of these activities can be met through the following approach:

#### 3.8.1 Pool Depth Considerations

- Ensuring the main pool is available to meet demand for lane swimming most of the time. Community pools (those in which there is no competition or training for competition) can accommodate lane swimming in a depth between 0.9m-1.2m, but this depth does not provide for life-saving practice. For adults this would require the deep end of the main pool to be 1.8m (with the shallow end being 1m). A profile of 1m-1.8m can also accommodate inflatable fun sessions.
- The main pool can be used for lane swimming most of the time if learn to swim (school, non-curriculum and adults) and aqua-exercise classes can be mainly delivered in the learner pool. This would require a minimum pool depth of 0.9m with a maximum depth of 1.2m.

#### 3.8.2 Building Water Confidence

- Building water confidence amongst toddlers could not be accommodated in a water depth of 0.9m-1.2m, but the NWBC Leisure Team is satisfied that teaching young children in 0.9m-1.2m is safe and that there are significant advantages in terms of the wider provision for swimming lessons and aqua-exercise classes by having the learner pool depth of 0.9m-1.2m. To ensure that there are facilities that support the development of water confidence, a splash pad could be provided. Examples of splash pads are given in **Appendix B**. A splash pad will not create revenue directly, but it will provide an additional feature and



support secondary spend, such as food and drink in the café. Officers' advice is that a 35sq m splash pad would be sufficient for the new Atherstone Leisure Centre. Officers also advise that the learner pool should not be reduced in size to accommodate a splash pad, but rather that it should be an additional element in the pool hall which may require an increase in the building footprint.

#### **4 Report Implications**

#### **5 Finance and Value for Money Implications**

- 5.1 Any cost implications that arise from decisions made by Members in relation to this report will be included in a comprehensive report to Community & Environment Board in October.

#### **6 Safer Communities Implications**

- 6.1 The Authority's leisure facilities contribute to community safety by providing well-managed services that afford opportunities for positive activity and, therefore, a creative alternative to potential criminal and / or anti-social behaviour.

#### **7 Legal, Data Protection and Human Rights Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct Legal, Data protection or Human Rights implications as a result of the report. But there are several powers under which the Borough Council may provide leisure facilities, staff, instructors and equipment, including Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. That Act and other legislation give the Authority broad management powers for those facilities.

#### **8 Environment, Climate Change and Health Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct Environment or Climate Change impacts resulting from this report, but environmental sustainability has been identified as a consideration to be taken into account as the design of the new leisure centre is developed. The impact on health is set out below.

#### **9 Health, Wellbeing and Leisure Implications**

- 9.1 Leisure facilities have a positive impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals and the sustainability of local communities by providing opportunities for formal and informal recreation and by contributing to an improved quality of life.

## 10 Human Resources Implications

- 10.1 There are no human resources implications resulting directly from this report.

## 11 Risk Management Implications

- 11.1 Risks associated with the construction of the new leisure centre include:  
**Contractor Procurement** - It is critical that a contractor with the right experience is appointed early to assist with programme, buildability and cost, providing input into the planning application, and the build for the leisure centre. This risk is mitigated by taking advice from the Design Team on the best approach to procurement, which was reported to C&E Board in June 2025

**Construction Cost Inflation** - Changes in market conditions, such as energy costs, pandemic, world conflict, increased in demand, restrictions on labour movement, etc., increase construction costs. This could require savings to be found and/or a reduction in facilities provided. This risk is mitigated by having cost check points structured into the programme which use up to date data based on the Design Team's knowledge of the market, and by procuring the Principal Contractor via a two-stage process which enables the Contractor to engage with their supply chain as the design is developed in advance of a Planning Application without the need for the Council to commit to construction. When the construction contract is let there will be a high level of cost certainty, and most risks will have been transferred to the Contractor.

**Financial Viability** - The business case for the leisure centre may not be sufficient to cover any prudential borrowing. Other funding sources, such as the Council's capital reserves or offsite land sales, may need to be found and/or the scale of the leisure centre reduced to bring down the capital costs. This risk is mitigated by the preparation of Revenue Projections by Max Associates presented to C&E Board as part of the RIBA 1 report in May 2025 and the ongoing monitoring of the project's capital and revenue projections.

## 12 Equalities Implications

- 12.1 There is a general principle that Councils should exercise fairness in the exercise of their functions. There is no specific statutory duty to consult however a full and meaningful consultation is considered necessary to support the Council's public sector equality duty and is considered good practice, to ensure the local community is engaged and that consideration of local needs such as equality and accessibility is considered at this formative stage. Feedback will inform the future facility.

### **13 Links to Council's Priorities**

13.1 The proposals to develop a new leisure centre provides a positive link to the corporate priorities in respect of:

- Efficient and Sustainable organisation
- Safe, Liveable, locally focussed communities
- Prosperous, active and healthy
- Sustainable growth, protected rurality


The Contact Officer for this report is Mike Dix, Interim Assistant Director, Leisure & Communities (715314).

## Appendix A – pool options and Sport England Recommendations for pool depth and activities

## Pool Options

### Sport England Guidance

Main Pool	Learner Pool	Splash Pad	Baby & Toddler Water Confidence	Toddler Learn to Swim	Young Children Learn to Swim	Older Children Learn to Swim	Adult Learn to Swim	Aquacise	Leisure and Fitness Swim	Race Starts & Shallow Dives	Life Saving Training	Treading Water	Race Start Training	Comments
1.0m - 1.35m	17m x 10m - 0.6m - 0.9m													Older Children and Adult Learn to swim can take place in deeper end of learner pool or in main pool.
1.0m - 1.5m	17m x 10m - 0.6m - 0.9m													Race starts and Shallow dives only for certified swimmers in depths below 1.8m
1.0m - 1.8m	17m x 10m - 0.6m - 0.9m													Treading water for children in 1.5m
1.0m - 1.35m	17m x 10m - 0.9m - 1.2m			*	*									Race starts and Shallow dives only for certified swimmers in depths below 1.8m
1.0m - 1.5m	17m x 10m - 0.9m - 1.2m			*	*									Treading water for children in 1.5m
1.0m - 1.8m	17m x 10m - 0.9m - 1.2m			*	*									
1.0m - 1.35m	12m x 10m - 0.9m - 1.2m	Yes		*	*									Baby and toddler water confidence in Splash Pad.
1.0m - 1.5m	12m x 10m - 0.9m - 1.2m	Yes		*	*									Race starts and Shallow dives only for certified swimmers in depths below 1.8m
1.0m - 1.8m	12m x 10m - 0.9m - 1.2m	Yes		*	*									Treading water for children in 1.5m
														Reduced learner pool length may impact on capacity
1.0m - 1.35m	17m x 10m - 0.9m - 1.2m	Yes		*	*									Baby and toddler water confidence in Splash Pad.
1.0m - 1.5m	17m x 10m - 0.9m - 1.2m	Yes		*	*									Race starts and Shallow dives only for certified swimmers in depths below 1.8m
1.0m - 1.8m	17m x 10m - 0.9m - 1.2m	Yes		*	*									Treading water for children in 1.5m

 Limited accessibility for user group

 Possible in 0.9m depth area of pool

 Recommended by Sport England

\* Sport England recommendation is a water depth of 0.6 - 0.9m for younger children learn to swim and below 0.6m for toddler learn to swim. However, these are recommendations and leisure teams can undertake a risk assessment to determine whether they can support these activities safely in this water depth

Appendix B – splash pads



*20sqm Splash Pad*



*35sqm Splash Pad*



*50sqm Splash Pad*

**Agenda Item No 7**

**Community & Environment Board**

**29 September 2025**

**Report of the  
Chief Executive**

**Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Recommendation to the Board**

**To consider, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, whether it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.**

**Agenda Item No 8**

**Exempt Extract of the minutes of the Community and Environment Board held on 20 August 2025.**

Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

In relation to the item listed above members should only exclude the public if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, giving their reasons as to why that is the case.

The Contact Officer for this report is Marina Wallace (719226).