



**LEISURE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME**

**ANDERSONSTOWN LEISURE CENTRE**

**STAGE 2- FURTHER CONSULTATION REPORT - March 2017**

## 1. Executive Summary

In line with the Council's agreed three stage consultation approach for capital projects officers completed Stage 2 consultation with respect to the redevelopment of Andersonstown Leisure Centre in September 2016.

The feedback from this initial Stage 2 consultation resulted in several refinements to the original concept designs which included:

- Increase in size of family fun leisure waters;
- Removal of moveable floors from 25m and learner pools;
- Removal of sports hall;
- Removal of cover from 5 a side pitch;
- Removal of BMX track.

As a result of these refinements and following advice from the Planning Service it was decided to carry out some further Stage 2 consultation in order to give stakeholders the opportunity to comment on these revisions.

The consultation consisted of two open sessions at Andersonstown Leisure Centre (held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017) and an online consultation which was open for seven days. During this consultation respondents were presented with the updated concept designs for the new centre and asked to give their comments. An overview of these responses is as follows:

### Overview of responses

- 21 responses from the two public sessions
- 737 online responses
- 96.5% expressed support for the redevelopment
- Most popular comments were as follows:
  - Supportive of design and excited about the project (188 responses)
  - Request for a movable floor to be included in the 25m pool (172 responses)
  - Request for additional spectator seating (43 responses)
  - Request for starting blocks to be included in 25m pool (35 responses)
- Of all responses 91.5% were from individuals and 8.5% from clubs or organisations
- There was a large response from the three Water Polo clubs in the area (Cathal Brugha, Clonard and Sentanta) which is reflected in some of the comments highlighted above.

## **2. Introduction**

With much of the existing leisure estate aging and in need of major remedial works, the Council has committed to an ambitious £105 million investment in its leisure provision. Driven by need and with clear links to health and community outcomes, the investment programme offers a once in a generation opportunity to improve the health and well-being of the people of Belfast and deliver a step-change in the access residents are afforded to modern, vibrant, leisure facilities.

With major new leisure developments at Girdwood Hub and Olympia recently opened, the Council has identified the existing facilities and areas in most immediate need of investment and transformation. The next phase of the programme involves the creation of three brand new state of the art leisure developments for the city by replacing the current facilities at Andersonstown Leisure Centre, the Robinson Centre and Brook Activity Centre.

In line with the Council's consultation policy for capital projects, these developments emerging from the Leisure Programme will be informed by a three stage consultation process. This process, outlined below, is designed to engage with local communities and other key stakeholders in order that the new facilities fully reflect local need.

### **Stage 1 Consultation**

- Used to identify need, develop & test options and establish proposed focus for project;
- Consultation at this stage will help develop the concept design.

### **Stage 2 Consultation**

- Used to test the concept design with stakeholders;
- Consultation at this stage will help develop the final design.

### **Stage 3 Information Sharing**

- Used to inform stakeholders of the final design, timescales and construction impacts.

Following Stage 1 and Stage 2 consultation, which took place in November 2015 and September 2016 respectively, officers have recently completed an additional period of Stage 2 consultation with respect to Andersonstown Leisure Centre. This consultation was necessary due to several design changes which were implemented following an analysis of feedback from the original Stage 2 consultation in 2016.

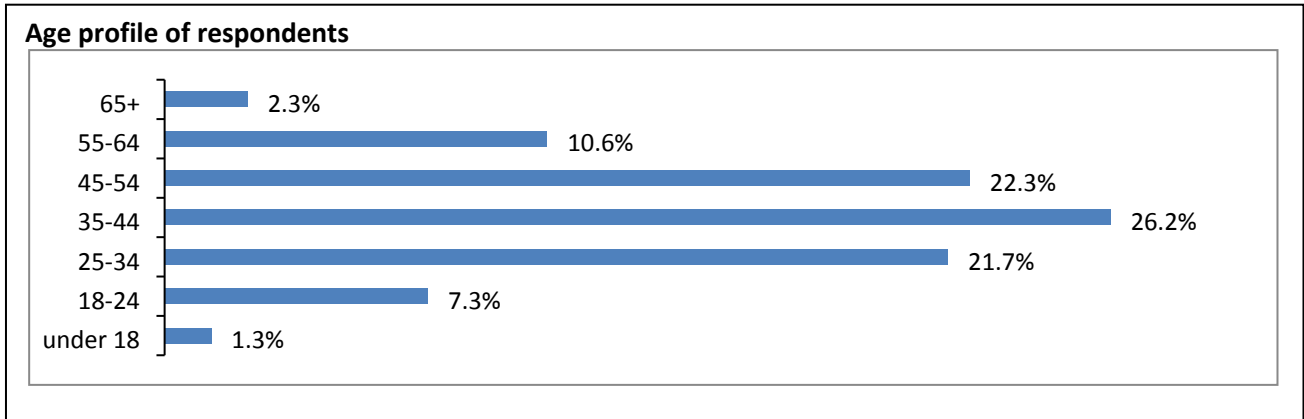
This further period of consultation involved two public consultation sessions delivered in the existing Andersonstown Leisure Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 (one afternoon session and one evening session). In addition an online survey was also designed to capture feedback from those unwilling or unable to attend the public sessions.

At this stage of consultation respondents were presented with the revised designs for the new centre and asked to give their feedback in terms of whether or not they were supportive of the overall redevelopment, which facilities in the new mixes they would be most likely to use and any other relevant comments.

This report provides a brief summary of the main findings of the consultation.

### 3. Summary of responses

A total of 758 responses were received with respect to Andersonstown across the public sessions and online survey. Of these 45.5% were from male respondents and 46.3% from female with the remainder not supplying this information.



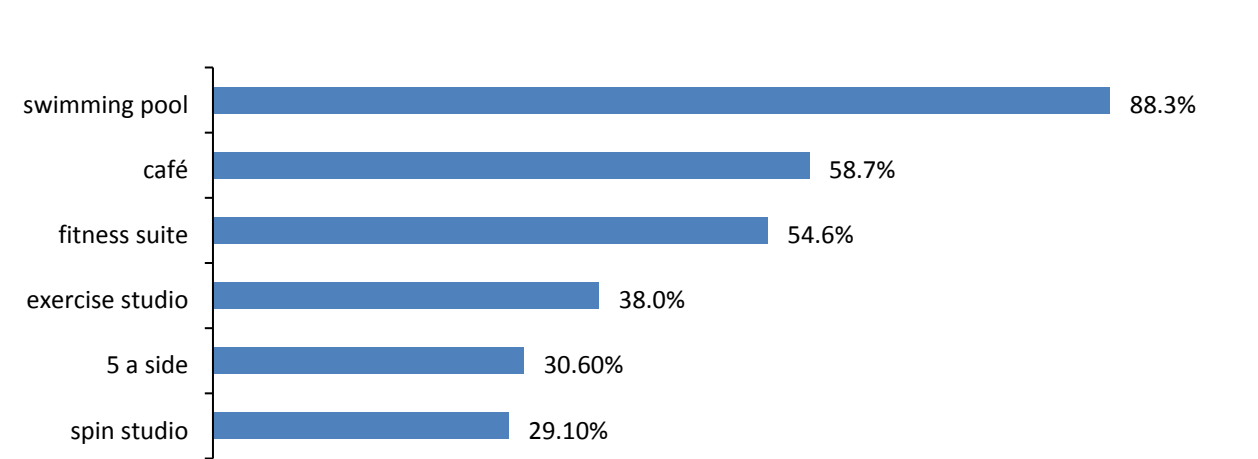
#### Q1. Do you support the redevelopment?

These responses were on the whole extremely positive and constructive with 702/758 indicating their support for the redevelopment of the centre.



#### Q2. Which of the new facilities are you most likely to use?

In terms of the facilities which respondents were most likely to use the swimming pools were most popular (88.3%), café (58.7%), fitness suite (54.6%) and exercise studios (38%). The Spin studio was least popular however 30% of respondents still indicated they would use this facility.



### Q3. General Comments

A wide range of general comments were received from respondents with the most common being positivity around the design and development in general. The next most popular comments were related to the inclusion of items such as a moveable floor (25m pool), more viewing and provision of starting blocks reflecting the large response from the three local water polo clubs.

