



TEMPLEMORE BATHS & AVONIEL SPORTS CENTRE

CONSULTATION SUMMARY

February 2018

1. Executive Summary

In line with the Council's agreed three stage consultation approach for capital projects, officers completed Stage 2 consultation in respect of the proposals for the restoration and extension of Templemore Baths and the development of a new Sports Centre at Avoniel.

The consultation was launched on 28th November 2017, closing on 14th January 2018, and consisted of 9 public information sessions and an online survey which was open for feedback throughout the consultation timeframe (47 days). During the consultation respondents were presented with the concept designs for each project and asked to give their comments. An overview of these responses is as follows:

Overview of responses – Templemore Baths

- A total of 344 responses were received during the consultation period broken down as follows:
 - 97 responses from the public information sessions
 - 186 responses via the online consultation platform
 - 61 emails to the LTP inbox
- 97% of respondents expressed support for the project
- There was a degree of co-ordination in terms of responses received through the online survey with 87 identical comments being received from a total of 234 comments. The most popular comments were as follows
 - Preserve swimming provision in east Belfast
 - Preserve the heritage of the building
 - Positive about the design and excited about the project
 - Request to keep the changing cubicles at the existing pool
- 61 emails submitted to the LTP email account focussed on the following
 - Heritage Preservation
 - Pricing/Affordability
 - Seeking to remove the spa from the design
 - Preserving the community ethos of Templemore Baths
 - Keeping poolside cubicles
 - Keeping a pool open for use during construction
- Of all responses 96% were from individuals and 3% from clubs or organisations. The groups responding included Templemore Amateur Swimming Club, Harding Memorial PS, Belfast Trust Physiotherapy Unit and Templemore Retirement Group.

Overview of responses – Avoniel Sports Centre

- A total of 50 responses were received during the consultation period, with 34 being received at the information sessions and 16 via the online survey
- 84% of respondents expressed support for the project
- 31 comments were received during the consultation, which are broken down as follows:
 - Objecting to the proposal to remove the pool from Avoniel
 - Glad of the investment in east Belfast and focus on football pitches
 - Concern about parking numbers
 - Requests for certain facilities i.e. squash courts, gym, cycle stands
- Of all responses 90% were from individuals and 10% from clubs or groups. The groups included Strandtown PS, Short Strand Community Forum and groups of users that currently use the centre.