

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health

9 April 2013

Easingwold School Sports Project

We are working in partnership with Easingwold School and Easingwold Town Football Club to bring £1/2 million investment in new sports facilities to the Town which will be shared between the School and the community.

Tour de France

This will travel through 1.7 miles of Hambleton in July 2014. We are working with Welcome to Yorkshire to ensure that the west of the District in particular benefits from both a sporting spectacle and the economic benefits.

Capital Investment in Leisure Centres

We have just completed the installation of 3 combined heat and power units in our Leisure Centres, these improve efficiency and reduce consumption of energy. In addition, 3 of our Centres have seen overnight diving teams going in to do underwater repairs of tiles and to re-grout pool tanks. The total investment in these two items is approximately £270,000.

Cinema Equipment – Northallerton

A state of the art project and sound system and new screen have been installed which provide local audiences with the same quality standard you find at the multiplex cinemas. Originally on a 9 month trial residency of the equipment, of which the project alone would cost £40,000 new, has been purchased in order that the cinema is now a permanent feature in the area. With support from Cine Yorkshire, who agreed to sell the equipment at a discounted price, the permanent residency of the equipment has also allowed a £3,200 investment to be made in the installation of a satellite dish that will allow the venue to screen National Theatre live performances and other live broadcast content.

The Council has undertaken £22,000 worth of this work as part of the package which transferred the operation of the Forum to a local community group.

Commercial Challenge

Last year we exposed ourselves to a commercial challenge in the Leisure Centres when we asked a private sector expert to examine both how we operate and the facility mix of our Centres. This was then looked at by a Scrutiny Panel which resulted in a raft of operational changes, plus has given rise to 4 capital improvement projects, one for each Leisure Centre, which are in the process of being considered by Cabinet.

Communications

The new twice monthly Bulletin for Councillors – "Council Talk" has been around for 3/4 months now, and in most quarters well received – I would just like to encourage Councillors to add items, please send directly to Aly Thompson.

Similarly, we have introduced a new twice monthly staff newsletter – Insight.

Councillor Peter Wilkinson

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health