

February 2017

King Alfred site Re-development

As a user of the King Alfred Leisure Centre you will be aware of the long-held plans to secure the long-term replacement of the outdated facilities on offer at the current centre. The existing facilities no longer meet modern expectations and are expensive to operate.

The Council is committed to providing sport and leisure provision in the western part of the city. In 2014, the Council embarked on a new project to bring about the comprehensive redevelopment of the site, with a new sports centre at its heart and with the bulk of the cost met by enabling development in the form of much needed new housing.

A significant milestone was achieved in January 2016, when the Council appointed the Preferred Developer; Crest Nicholson in partnership with the Starr Trust, a local charity. At the time of their appointment, the Council published an indicative timetable for taking the project forward through to delivery.

The timetable was known to be ambitious but all parties were keen to maintain the real momentum achieved with the appointment of the Preferred Developer. The programme signalled a genuine desire to conclude contractual arrangements at the earliest opportunity with a view to seeing the development commence in 2017/2018

However, the redevelopment of the King Alfred site is a complex major development that involves many strands of detailed work. Since the appointment of the Preferred Developer much of the focus has been to advance the legal, contractual and financial arrangements. Once these are concluded the Developer will advance the detailed designs that will help inform the public consultation process leading to submission of a planning application.

The construction programme and closure of the existing sports centre and related facilities are very much dependent on completion of the current activities. We appreciate the uncertainty this causes and understand how difficult this can make planning for the future. The Council remains committed to delivering the project and will update you further just as soon as the programme becomes clearer.



Ian Shurrock
Head of Sport and Leisure

