

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Economic and Community Development Policy Development & Scrutiny
MEETING DATE:	24 January 2013
TITLE:	Leisure Strategy
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	
None	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Council require a Leisure Strategy to determine its investment and service delivery options for the next 25 years. This report is designed to clarify the realistic options available and provides recommendations to build the future Leisure platform.
- 1.2 The Strategy has two main elements Facilities: Provision of facilities and Wellbeing Programmes.
- 1.3 This report addresses the Facilities requirements and the approach to Wellbeing Programmes.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Economic and Community Development Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel is asked to note the contents of this Report:

2.1 To note the intention to sale, let and/ or transfer all assets listed below:

- (1) South Wansdyke Leisure Centre
- (2) Culverhay Sports Centre
- (3) Bath Pavilion
- (4) Entry Hill Golf Course
- (5) Approach Golf Course

- (6) Chew Valley Sports Centre
 - (7) Odd Down Playing Fields.
 - (8) Lansdown Playing Fields
- 2.2 To approve the development and delivery of the provision of leisure facilities in Bath, including any contractual/ partnering arrangements.
- 2.3 To approve the development and delivery of the provision of leisure facilities in Keynsham, including any contractual/ partnering arrangements
- 2.4 To approve the Council's Health and Wellbeing Programmes to address physical inactivity. Currently health costs within Bath and North East Somerset, due to inactivity comes to £2.8 million per year

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Council currently spends c. £1 Million (net) per annum to support the entirety of its' Sport and Active Lifestyles service. This expenditure is divided (approximately) equally between subsidies for the provision of leisure services via facilities, mainly via the contract with Aquaterra Leisure (with associated client costs), and on the wellbeing and events programme. The proposals in this paper also include playing fields at Lansdown and Odd Down that currently form part of the budget for Environmental Services.
- 3.2 Officers are now developing leisure options with the aim of reducing net expenditure on both areas of provision to zero over the next few years. This will involve reductions in the subsidy paid to operators of the Council's leisure facilities, with a view to operating all facilities on a self-funding basis, and a further increase in grant income achieved to support the Council's wellbeing programme.
- 3.3 This work is in its early stages and any savings that may be achieved will add to the reductions in expenditure that have already been reflected in the Council's Medium Term Service & Resource Plan (MTSRP) for the next three financial years.
- 3.4 A series of tendering exercises are already underway in order to ensure that each Leisure facility is operated by a suitable incorporated company. Discussions are also underway with the Public Health and other providers of grant aid in order to seek funding for the future wellbeing programme.
- 3.5 The proposals within this paper include the sale of the Entry Hill golf course and adjoining depot and the Pavilion. Subject to Cabinet and Council agreement the funds raised from these sales could be used to contribute to capital investment in new leisure facilities in Keynsham. This would reduce the on-going impact of borrowing costs.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The LSFP is the backbone of the Council's future provision; it acknowledges and fulfils its responsibilities to the local communities and National Organisations.

- 3.2 In the future Councils will need to remain very much focused on what and how it provides services, this will result in a set of bespoke solutions to meet community needs and not the one size fits all approach.
- 3.3 The Council has a number of different facilities that offer its community different levels of functionality from the single offer of Paulton Pool to the multi-faceted Bath Sports and Leisure Centre.
- 3.4 Bath Sports and Leisure Centre currently occupy land governed by the new Recreation Ground Trust Board. The future of this site is to be determined by the Trust Board.
- 3.5 Keynsham Leisure Centre is to be demolished as part of the redevelopment of Keynsham town centre and the new Riverside development and re-provision of the Centre is required in order to meet the demand of the growing population.
- 3.6 Through competitive dialogue as part of the tender process, the Council will be looking to develop a partnership to design, build and the delivery of a new facility in Keynsham which will help deliver healthy and sustainable places for the future, identified through Sport England's Facility Needs Assessment.
- 3.7 However, in the period between the end of the existing contract and potential new build, an interim contract will need to be in place, either through extension with the current provider, Aquaterra Leisure, or through emergency interim contractual arrangement, whilst we commence future procurement.
- 3.8 The major commercial operators, irrespective of their incorporated status, have different business models to match their own preferred operating environment so in respect of the large scales centre like Keynsham and Bath we will seek appropriately developed organisations to work with the Council to provide the services. The final terms of the arrangement will be subject to extensive consultation and procurement programmes.
- 3.9 The other current leisure offers are to be evaluated on an individual basis and a suitable partner found for each element. This may range from complete freehold sale or transfer under a long lease with no annual costs to the Council.
- 3.10 The final contractual arrangements will fully account for the facilities required to deliver the Wellbeing Programmes.
- 3.11 Embedded within the Sport and Active Lifestyles Team is the management and delivery of a number of successful schemes such as exercise referral schemes, worklessness agenda and Sportivate (Sport England). We will continue to work closely with the commissioners and funders through competitive dialogue, to enhance and develop funded services to meet the challenging well-being agenda, ensuring that Sport and Physical Activity remains high on their agendas for tackling health inequalities and increasing community cohesion across the authority
- 3.12 The Sport and Active Lifestyles Team has a positive and successful record on delivering events. They will look to continue delivering events on a commercial basis running quality events for the community and visitors alike at zero cost to the Council.
- 3.13 Health costs in Bath and North East Somerset due to inactivity comes to £2.8 million per year. The health and well-being agenda sets out the need to reduce

health inequalities and improve health and well-being in Bath and North East Somerset, with 7 strategic priorities. This Leisure Strategy will work with the Health and Well-being Board to Improve outcomes for:

- people who experience mental health problems
- families experiencing complex needs
- vulnerable groups
- long term conditions (including end of life)
- our aging population
- economic inequality (linked with poor health outcomes)
- healthy and sustainable places and communities

4 RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

5 EQUALITIES

6.1 *An EqIA has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.*

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 Ward Councillors; Cabinet members, Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer

6.2 Consultation will be carried out via on-line public consultation and through meetings with stakeholders.

7 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

7.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Young People; Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations

8 ADVICE SOUGHT

8.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	<i>Michael Butler, Interim Divisional Director, Tourism, Leisure & Culture</i>
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	<i>Telephone: 01225 395383</i>
Background papers	<i>List here any background papers not included with this report because they are already in the public domain</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	