

Report To:	Cabinet	Date:	19 January 2017
Heading:	LEISURE REVIEW – HUTHWAITE LEISURE CENTRE		
Portfolio Holder:	CLLR JIM ASPINALL - HEALTH & WELLBEING		
Ward/s:	HUTHWAITE AND BRIERLEY		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject To Call-In:	YES		

Purpose Of Report

To update Cabinet on the Leisure Facilities Review consultation and to seek authorisation to proceed with the recommendation.

Recommendation(s)

- 1) a) To seek approval from Cabinet to invite bids from the Community or other interested parties for a sustainable future use of the Huthwaite Leisure Centre site.
b) Whilst exploring alternative options in recommendation 1a, seek approval from Cabinet to give the operator Sport Leisure Management Ltd (SLM) six months' notice.
- 2) To seek approval from Cabinet to review the provision of swimming in Hucknall. Edgewood Leisure Centre operations will remain the same whilst the review takes place and a further report will be brought to Cabinet in due course.

Reasons For Recommendation(s)

This report is to update Cabinet on a Key Project from the Leisure Review within the Council's Corporate Plan (2016-2019)

Alternative Options Considered (With Reasons Why Not Adopted)

Do nothing: not recommended for a number of reasons. The Leisure Facilities Review has allowed the Council to understand the appropriateness of its current leisure stock and future requirements. The provision of effective facility infrastructure will be central to the successful delivery of the health and wellbeing objectives within the Corporate Plan (2016-2019).

Community provision, Council run: not recommended as there is sufficient community provision in the area and the recommended option gives the community the opportunity to come forward with proposals for it to remain as a community facility. This option would be at no cost to the Council as savings need to be made due to the Council's financial position.

Give notice to close Huthwaite as a Council run facility: recommended. The Leisure Facilities Review provided evidence of usage and cost per visit. As well as this, the budget consultation October-December 2016 gave clear public affirmation of this option.

Detailed Information

The Council's Vision

The Council vision is for local people to have access to modern leisure facilities to help lead healthier lifestyles. A clear approach to providing facilities is required, including maximizing and rationalising the use of the Council's assets alongside coordinated provision from other sources.

To help sustain leisure provision into the future, the Council's Vision is *'to secure a district-wide network of quality, affordable, accessible and sustainable Leisure Centres and services for the benefit of all residents of Ashfield'*.

In order to achieve the Council's vision there are two Key Projects identified within the Corporate Plan: firstly to carry out a Leisure Facilities Review and secondly, to explore the feasibility for a replacement for the Festival Hall Leisure Centre (informed by the Leisure Review).

Background

In order to address Corporate Plan priorities, an extensive Leisure Facilities Review was undertaken and Cabinet endorsed the findings on 14th July 2016. A further Cabinet Report endorsed the Leisure Review Consultation analysis on the 13th October 2016 and agreed to consult further on future options for Huthwaite and Edgewood Centres.

The evidence and consultation findings for the transformation programme for leisure centre provision had a clear approach to providing future facilities, including maximising and rationalising the use of Council assets, alongside coordinated provision from other sources.

The public consultation showed strong support for focusing resources on the larger leisure facilities, Lammas Leisure Centre in Sutton, Festival Hall in Kirkby and Hucknall Leisure Centre as they have 92.5% of the customer base. The Council is therefore proposing to prioritise investment and seek to sustain these sites in the long term.

Have your say, Shape your community consultation

Over a number of years, the Council has reduced its expenditure significantly to meet the financial challenge it faces, whilst at the same time seeking to improve its services. The Council held an extensive consultation with Ashfield residents through November and early December 2016 to ask them to help the Council decide how we meet these challenges.

Following the Cabinet approval on 13th October 2016, as mentioned above, the future options for the leisure centres were included in the 'Have your say' public consultation and included Huthwaite, Edgewood and a replacement leisure centre in Kirkby in Ashfield. The aim of the consultation was to assist the Council to shape future provision.

Consultation feedback showed 78 per cent of respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing with the Council's vision.

The public consultation also showed support for focusing resources on the three key leisure centres, Lammas, Hucknall and Kirkby with 56% of respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing with this proposal.

The findings have been analysed and this report is now seeking authorisation to progress the options pertaining to Huthwaite and Edgewood (the future of the Kirkby Leisure Centre will form a separate report).

Huthwaite Leisure Centre

Huthwaite Leisure Centre is sited in Huthwaite, Sutton in Ashfield and is in Council ownership. The site is operated by the Council's leisure provider SLM Ltd. The facility is a small 'community' centre with a gym, one court hall, bar and snooker room. The centre currently costs the Council £79,930 per financial year (2016/17) to be operated as a leisure centre. The management fee divided by the attendances leads to a simple calculation of costs per visit for the last complete year as £5.23 compared to 0.20p for the Lammas Leisure Centre.

Following the further public consultation on the options for Huthwaite and in order to reduce the deficit, the Council is seeking alternative options for the site with no subsidy from the Council. This report therefore seeks approval from Cabinet to invite community groups or other interested parties to submit a sustainable business plan to operate the site at no future cost to the Council. The intention is to go to the open market following Cabinet approval for a period of 6 weeks.

Once the deadline has passed the Council will evaluate any business plans submitted to see if there are any sustainable options for the future of the site. If for some reason an alternative is not found for the site there is a potential capital receipt arising from the potential disposal of the site. If this is the case a site options appraisal would need to be undertaken.

Whilst exploring alternative options for the centre, the Council is seeking approval from Cabinet to give the operator, Sport Leisure Management Ltd (SLM), six months' contract termination notice. At this point the site would either be operated by a new third party at no cost to the Council or it would close.

The Council leisure centres are operated by Sport Leisure Management Ltd (SLM) through a leisure management contract and revised agreements until April 2021. The Council pays a management fee to SLM to operate the Council leisure centres. The agreement requires the Council to give six months' notice to SLM to withdraw from the management contract for this site. If this report is approved, a full year's savings would not be realised in 2017/18 as six months' notice is required.

Edgewood/ Kirkby Feasibility study

The public consultations that have been carried out to date at Edgewood Leisure Centre (including the recent 'Have your say' consultation) suggests that there is support from the community to look at how future swimming provision in Hucknall can be maintained. Cabinet agreed through the 13th October 2016 report mentioned above to proceed with further feasibility work for a replacement leisure centre in Kirkby. Following the results of the public consultation on Edgewood, the Council's intention is to incorporate a review of swimming provision at Hucknall as part of this work.

The current operations at Edgewood Leisure Centre will therefore remain the same whilst a review of provision of swimming in Hucknall takes place. Once the study is finalised, it is the intention to bring recommendations back to Cabinet at a later date along with any credible bids for Huthwaite and the feasibility for a replacement leisure centre in Kirkby.

Targeted Wellbeing Activities Project - Update

It had been identified and evidenced within the corporate plan and in the Active Ashfield Strategy that activities and resources need to be targeted to areas of greatest need. A mapping exercise was undertaken to understand where, and who are, the districts inactive people during the Autumn of 2015, taking these results together with local health data, Sport England's Active People Survey and Everyone Active Card holder data it has been possible to map Areas of concern within the district.

The Targeted Wellbeing Activities project report was presented at Cabinet on the 24th March 2016 and an update provided on the 14th July 2016. The targeted activities project compliments leisure centre activity within the community.

The original total project costs required £31,350 of funding. A majority of the funding has now been secured through various bodies including Sport England, People Post Code Lottery Trust, Star Foundation, Everyone Active and Active Ashfield. A number of the initiatives have, and will, continue to be successfully implemented in the community and other funding opportunities will be sourced to fund this project.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Health and Wellbeing Theme

- 1) Identify and focus on the areas with the biggest health inequality in the district and increase access to leisure for non-participants
- 2) Take a targeted approach to improving health and wellbeing in the areas of greatest need

Key Projects:

- 1) Review leisure facilities
- 2) To explore the feasibility for a replacement for Festival Hall Leisure Centre

Legal:

The contractual notice period is set out in the report. The Council will need to ensure it complies with the requirements set out in the agreement for serving notice, such as format and who, where and how the notice is physically served.

Finance:

This report is effective from 30/01/17 and has the following financial implications:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	If Huthwaite Leisure Centre is operated by a third party or closed, savings in management fee of £79.9k p.a. will be achieved.
General Fund – Capital Programme	None
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None

Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None
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Human Resources / Equality and Diversity:

No direct HR implications are contained within the report

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out which considers all the equality implications within the report

Other Implications:

Communications: there is strong public interest in this issue and it is the intention to provide regular press updates and communications through the ADC website and social media

Trade union: Whilst the trade union is sad to see the facility closing we note the targeted wellbeing reports recently presented to cabinet and the funding that was approved and appreciate that the current financial situation is very difficult.

Community Safety:

Access to leisure facilities helps to ensure communities have opportunity to be proactively physically and mentally healthy and active. Health and wellbeing of our residents is a priority and intrinsically connects into Community Safety

Reason(s) for Urgency (if applicable):

N/A

Background Papers

Cabinet - 24th January 2009, Leisure Centres Review.
Cabinet - 10th April 2014, Leisure Management Contract.
Corporate Plan (2016 – 2019)
Cabinet - March 24th 2016, Targeted Activities Programme.
Cabinet - 14th July 2016, Leisure Review Transformation Programme.
Cabinet – 13th October 2016, Leisure Review Transformation Programme.

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