



SHAFTESBURY SPORTS CENTRE

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council have been approached by a community organisation to take over the management and operation of the Shaftesbury sports centre on a long term lease arrangement.
- 1.2 Leisure officers are working with the community organisation to ensure that it has in place a sound business plan to manage and operate the centre on a long term basis.
- 1.3 Community access and usage will be maintained by establishing an agreement between the organisation and the Council. The agreement will include measures to try and maintain the present customer base of the centre and also measures to attract new customers. The customers displaced by the new arrangement will be accommodated in the remaining Council leisure centres.
- 1.4 The 10 FTE staff at Shaftesbury sports centre has been included in the restructure of leisure centres and has been slotted or matched to new posts in this new leisure centre structure. Staff who are unsuccessful will be placed on the re deployment register.
- 1.5 Shaftesbury sports centre does not form part of the network of facilities outlined in the leisure facility strategy and therefore its transfer does not have a detrimental effect on our plans.
- 1.6 The lease agreement would provide an approximate net saving of £100,000.

RECOMMENDATION

2. To approve the transfer of the management and operation of Shaftesbury Sports Centre on a 20 year full repairing lease to a community organisation subject to the organisation;
 - (1) Submitting a satisfactory business plan
 - (2) Entering into an agreement with the Council to ensure access and community use is maintained as part of the condition of the lease agreement.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The lease agreement will ensure that the sports centre will remain open and accessible to the local community whilst reducing the financial costs to the council. In addition to maintaining community use of the Sports Centre, the potential to obtain external investment to improve the facility is much greater through the voluntary and community sector.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Back ground information on the community organisation is outlined in appendix 2 which is contained in the confidential papers. The community organisation would need to convert the sports hall to meet the needs of the organisation's activities and needs. The remaining health and fitness suite would be managed by the organisation along with the outdoor 5 a side courts.
- 4.2 The current net cost to the Council is circa £100,000 excluding the costs to maintain the park which is adjacent and would be not be included in the lease to the organisation.
- 4.3 The transfer to the community organisation is dependent upon them being able to sustain the operation of the centre through increased revenues. The organisation has met with leisure officers to discuss their future needs and the business case for them to take over the responsibility for the centre.
- 4.4 Although, the community organisation is a single sport user group the agreement will be drafted to ensure they fulfil specific obligations ensuring other sports and activities are maintained and developed.
- 4.5 The Centre comprises of a three court badminton sports hall, a 20 station fitness suite and two outdoor five-a-side synthetic football pitches. In 2009 – 2010, 54,071 attendances were recorded, while this is an increase on the 2008 – 2009; which were 47,992, it is considerably down on the 2007- 2008 of 72,001.

By December 2010 only 31,679 attendances have been recorded. This would equate to approximately 42,239 for the full year. The sports hall currently has 58 regular bookings throughout the week, 54 of these bookings can currently be accommodated at Springwood or Moorways Sports Centres. We have been unable to find slots for four groups that currently use Shaftesbury Sports Centre.

- 4.6 The health and fitness equipment will be retained at the centre and the fitness suite will be staffed by the organisation following training and induction provided by the Council.

- 4.7 The outdoor sports courts will be retained for community use and the play area and open space which is maintained by Parks is outside of the proposed agreement and will continue to be the responsibility of the Council.

Leisure Facilities management will meet and work with existing user groups to try and find suitable alternative accommodation initially within other Leisure Facility sites and then schools and other community venues. Managers have already started to identify opportunities for clubs and organisations to transfer to either Moorways Sports Complex or Springwood Leisure Centre.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Options to close the facility have been considered, however by seeking an alternative community and voluntary sector operator we can reduce the cost to the Council whilst keeping the sports centre open to the public.
- 5.2 An option to attract a private sector operator could be considered however, given the limitations of the centre and the low cost option to the council, these conditions would rule out a private sector option.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Stuart Leslie Toni Heathcote Celia Dyson Claire Davenport
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Name 01332 641230 e-mail andrew.beddow@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Back ground information on Community Organisation (Confidential)
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 Included in the budget proposals for 2011/12, is a net saving of £100,000 from the transfer of Shaftesbury Leisure Centre to the voluntary sector.
- 1.2 Any redundancy costs or pension contributions arising from staff that are not successful in finding alternative Council employment are planned to be funded Corporately as part of the ODOC review. Costs in this area will not be known until staff are appointed in to new posts, this is anticipated to be completed by March 31st 2011
- 1.3 The Health and Fitness equipment would be transferred to the community organisation to ensure the facility will still be available to the local community. Payment for the borrowing on the equipment has finished and the gym equipment will be removed from the council's fixed asset register.

Legal

- 2.1 Terms and conditions within the lease agreement will need to be agreed between both parties.

Personnel

- 3.1 Staff based at Shaftesbury Sports Centre have been included in the wider staff restructure of the Council's leisure centres, however redundancies can not be ruled out.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The Service Level Agreement will outline specific requirements of the community organisation to maintain community usage and access to the sports centre. An equalities impact assessment has also been undertaken

Health and Safety

- 5.1 Conditions will be outlined within the lease agreement on the health and safety requirements that will have to be followed in order to maintain safe systems of work and safe environment for customers.

Carbon commitment

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

Value for money

- 7.1 The option to transfer the management and operation will ensure that the centre remains open to the general public whilst providing opportunities to source new investment that can not be sourced by local authorities.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 8.1 The proposed change will contribute to the Council's budget and efficiency savings.